



VMI General Assembly

Tuesday, 28.01.2020 17:00

Dear D-INFK members,

the scientific staff association (VMI) invites you to the next general assembly.

We meet on **Tuesday, 25th of January at 17:00** in room **CAB H 52** to present the work of the past year, discuss plans for 2020 and to elect new representatives and a new board.

During and after the meeting we will have a small apero.

Agenda

Note that this is the “2019” GA, which is actually taking place in January 2020 due to some scheduling issues.

1. Welcome by VMI president Alexander Viand
2. Election of the scrutineer and keeper of the minutes
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Adoption of the protocol of the last General Assembly

5. Reports on the activities of the VMI in 2019

A variety of one-off events, including snow-shoe hikes and escape-room puzzles, complemented our recurring events like board-game nights and random lunches. In addition, the 2019 VMI Summer Retreat to Interlaken was a great success, introducing a variety of new D-INFK members not just to each other but also to VMI. Our annual “Welcome to D-INFK” event, primarily aimed at new doctoral students, was also successful. However, due to the accelerating growth of the department and a shortage of volunteers, we were unable to maintain our personal welcome visits.

Politically, VMI maintained its representation on the committees of the department and gave feedback to a surprisingly large number of “requests for comments” on proposed new regulations from the ETH executive. Whether or not that feedback will have a meaningful impact remains to be seen, but initial indications are mostly positive. For the very first time, VMI organized – in close collaboration with Equal!@ETH – a workshop for future student and staff hiring committee representatives on topics of (gender) bias in hiring. We hope to continue to offer this, and potentially see the idea expand to other departments, too.

Finally, there was significant activity on new initiatives, e.g. surrounding mental strength in the academic setting. However, discussion of this will be deferred to “Plans for 2020”



6. Adoption of the statement of revenues and expenditures for 2019

7. Announcement of VMI plans 2020.

On a technical note: We would like to move to two annual general assemblies, one before the start of the spring term and one before the start of the autumn term. This way, we can split the workload of finishing accounting/reporting of the previous year from the workload of preparing and proposing a new budget for the following year.

In addition to maintaining the activities of the previous years, we want to introduce a significant new event series centred around Mental Strength, which is only possible thanks to the relentless work of Tobias Grosser. Further information at the meeting.

Finally, as in previous years, we hope to bring back the “Career Talks” series, but since finding speakers has been a serious challenge in the past, this might not be feasible.

8. Adoption of the budget for 2020

Financially, VMI has been under-spending quite a bit in recent years, which is why we now have a nice cash buffer. This should allow us to kick-start the Mental Strength program as well as allow us to invite more external speakers and/or organize more external events. This should in turn reduce the workload of the event organizers and lead to more and better VMI events.

In order to ensure long-term sustainability, we will accompany this by a campaign to drive the membership percentage up, and seek formal funding for certain events (Hiring committee prep, Mental Strength, etc) from departmental/ETH sources.

9. Elections

9.1. President and vice-president, secretary, treasurer

9.2. Representatives in the Department Conference

9.3. Representatives in the Studies Committee

9.4. Auditors for 2020

10. AOB