



VMI General Assembly

28.01.2020

Present:

Linard Arquint

Irene Baeza

Tobias Grosser

Julia Schulte

Reza Sefidgar

Arshavir Ter-Gabrielyan

Tomas Hruz

Karel Kubicek

Tobias Klenze

Florian Meier

Alexander Viand

Karl Wüst

Agenda

- 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) Report on the activities of the VMI in 2019
- 6) Adoption of the statement of revenues and expenditures for 2019
- 7) Announcement of VMI plans 2020
- 8) Adoption of the budget for 2020
- 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

Minutes:

1. Alexander Viand opened the proceedings with a general welcome.
2. Vote for Arshavir Ter-Gabrielyan as scrutineer and keeper of minutes: *all in favour*
3. Vote for the adoption of the agenda: *all in favour*
4. Vote for the adoption of the protocol of the last GA: *all in favour*
5. Alexander Viand summarizes 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. Vote for the adoption of the statement of revenues and expenditures for 2019: *all in favor*
7. Announcement of VMI plans 2020

Alexander Viand and Tobias Grosser proposed a novel series of events:
In addition to maintaining the activities of the previous years, we want to introduce a significant new event series centered around Mental Strength.

This event series would essentially deplete our cash reserves, so we can only run this series once. The outcome of this pilot series will determine whether VMI will continue to offer it and where funding will come from in the future (most likely ETH or D-INFK).

Tobias Grosser has organized funding for an initial workshop, the proposal is that VMI will support the rest of the series.

Reza Sefidgar has to leave early

Karl Wüst asks to conserve some VMI funds in order to avoid cash flow balances.

Karl Wüst has to leave early

A discussion about the cash flow issues follows. It is noted that VMI already experienced cash-flow issues this year due to the summer retreat expenses.

Thomas Hruz points out that VMI should get funds for covering the Summer Retreat costs in advance; VMI should negotiate this arrangement with D-INFK.

Thomas Hruz and Arshavir Ter-Gabrielyan argue that VMI must not require the employment of personal member funds to resolve cash flow issues.

Alexander Viand agrees and proposes to mark the 2020 fondue event as optional (setting its budget to zero) for now, with a change to the budget possible at the next general assembly (most likely in September).

8. Adoption of the budget for 2020 (with changes as discussed): *all in favour*
9. Elections
 - 9.1. Vote for Alexander Viand as president, Tobias Klenze as vice-president, Karel Kubíček as treasurer and Tobias Grosser as “Scientific Excellence & Well-being Coordinator” (instead of “secretary”):
all in favour
 - 9.2. Vote for Linard Arquint, Tobias Grosser, Michael Hofmann, Tomas Hruz , Tobias Klenze, Charlotte Knierim, Karel Kubíček, Simone Schaub, Julia Schulte Patrick Schnider, Pascal Su, Sverrir Thorgeirsson, Alexander Viand and Karl Wüst as representatives in the Department Conference:
all in favour
 - 9.3. Vote for Michael Hofmann, Patrick Schnider, Sverrir Thorgeirsson and Karl Wüst as representatives in the Studies Committee:
all in favour
10. No AOB.

Zürich, 28.01.2020

Arshavir Ter-Gabrielyan