



THE INTERNATIONAL FOCUSING INSTITUTE

Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979

Board of Trustees

MINUTES

November 14, 2018

Documents submitted for this meeting

- Agenda
- Executive Director report
- Form 990 for the IRS
- Letter to The Institute Board from Ibero-American Coordinators
- Draft of Possible Response to Letter from Ibero-American Coordinators
- Affiliated Organizations document previously sent

PRESENT: Paula Nowick (President), Susan Rudnick (Secretary), Hanspeter Muehlethaler (Treasurer), Dana Ganihar, Nancy Falls, Catherine Torpey, Sherrie Lynne for minute taking (present for first hour).

NOT PRESENT: Leslie Ellis (away)

PRIME MOVER: Paula Nowick

I. WELCOME TO NEW COORDINATOR

- The Board welcomed new Coordinator, Patricia Foster from Greece. Brief introductions of the Board were followed by Patricia introducing herself and sharing some of her background and experience.
- The Board affirmed how successful this new process of meeting with the new Coordinators has been.

II. FOCUSING ON BOARD TOPIC

- Catherine briefly recapped the draft document regarding “Affiliated Organizations,” in which some suggestions and issues are laid out as to how the Institute might best be in relation to local groups (such as national Focusing organizations) and affinity groups (such as those organized not around geography but interest or specialty).
- Dana led the felt sensing process by suggesting the topic: “What would be the ‘right relationship’ between local groups or affinity groups and the Institute?”
- Board members paired up and went into breakout rooms to discuss the topic for ten minutes. This was followed by a rejoining of the full group to share.

III. LETTER TO THE BOARD

- Catherine had received a letter from a group of eight Ibero-American Coordinators (half from Spain, and half from four different Latin American countries) expressing concerns about an issue affecting the Spanish Focusing Institute. They requested that Catherine direct the letter appropriately. Catherine read an English translation of the letter out loud to the Board. The letter was discussed at length along with Catherine's draft of a suggested response. The Board approved the suggested response, with some minor edits which would be detailed in e-mails from Board members. It was also affirmed that the ILC would need to approve the letter as well, because the intention is to have the response come from the Board, the ILC and the Executive Director.

IV. OCTOBER MINUTES APPROVED

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Due to time restrictions and the importance of discussing the Coordinators' letter, the financial report was tabled until the next Board meeting.
- Catherine and Hanspeter will be meeting separately to go over financials and create a draft 2019 budget.

IV. CLOSING REFLECTION AND SHARING.

Next meeting: January 9 at noon Eastern (US) time.