

Datum: 03 Dezember 2024, 19:30

Ort: Online

Minutes of the ordinary general meeting of the association "Friends of Global Change Ecology e.V."

On December 3rd at 7:30 p.m., 11 members of the association Friends of Global Change Ecology e.V. came together online for the annual general meeting.

FroG Board: Miriam Thiemann, Zachary Zeller, Gabriela Vilma, Flemming Ostermann
FroG Members: Stephanie Thomas, Sylvia Sprödhöfer, Aanu Busari, Elizaveta Shcherbinina, Zhang Hanchun, Puja Bhat, Mahshad Forghanifar
Observer: Bibek Gyawali

Agenda

1. Welcome

Zachary Zeller opens the meeting and welcomes the members. He explains that votes can be taken by simple majority and asks the participants to raise their virtual hand to signal approval or disapproval. 11 participants from the association are present, as well as one observer.

2. Opening of the assembly and designation of the note taker

Gabriela Vilma is proposed by the meeting chair as note taker and is unanimously accepted.

2. Assessment of orderly invitations

The meeting management stated that the meeting was convened in accordance with the statutes. The invitation was sent by email on November 7th in accordance with the statutes..

3. Assessment of presence of the quorum

The chair of the meeting determined that the meeting had a quorum.

4. Approval of the agenda and the protocol of last years' assembly

The items on the agenda were unanimously approved by a show of hands. Additional items could be submitted by requesting to speak, but the members declined to do so. Last year's minutes were approved.

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5. Annual report of the board members

Miriam explained the two online fireside chats with invited guest speakers that we had with a large number of student participants. It would be a good idea to hold more fireside chats in the future. Zach talked about the Summer Fete and an organized picnic the following day with many participants from different GCE generations. There was also a meeting at the Christmas market with 10 participants from four GCE generations.

6. *Financial report of the treasurer*

Flemming explained the problems with the previous bank account. This year, as usual, the course's summer party was supported. New this year is the financial support of the GCE T-shirts and sweaters on request, so that everyone can have the merchandise.

7. *Report of the cash auditors*

The cash auditors (Jasmin Basilowski and Daniel Kachelriess) cannot be present, but contacted us in advance by email. Both auditors found that the receipts and cash registers were kept in perfect order.

8. *Discharge of the board members*

Stephanie Thomas proposes to discharge the Board of Directors. The discharge of the Board of Directors is rejected unanimously

9. *Approval of the financial plan for the coming year*

The budget agenda item will be integrated into the following agenda item. Ongoing projects (support for the Summer Fete and merchandise) will be continued.

10. *Agenda-setting for the association in the upcoming year 2025*

Connection between Fireside Events and COPs: Fleming suggests inviting contacts from COPs to Fire Events to strengthen the connections between COP and students.

FroG, Study Board and Coordination:

- Miriam: Suggests appointing a member of the Study Board and a member of the Coordination Team to contact FroG for structured collaboration.
- Puja: Asks about the difference between Study Board and FroG.
- Zack: Explains that the Study Board focuses on current students, FroG on alumni, with different election cycles (1 year vs. 2 years).
- Miriam: Suggests that a member of the Coordination Team attends FroG meetings as a liaison to the university, but not as an official council member.

Workshops for new students:

- Elizaveta: Suggests workshops/counseling sessions with FroG and alumni to help international students find jobs (e.g. Hiwis) and financial support.
- Fleming: Suggests both workshop-type events and written guides.
- Sylvia: Recognizes the German language as a significant barrier for international students and suggests working with the International Office to support.
- Aanu: Agrees and suggests easing student integration in Bayreuth.

Budget and funding:

- Flemming: Questions an extension of the ENB budget.
- Stephanie: ENB funding extended until 2026, but no additional funding for GCE beyond that. Bayreuth University currently funds GCE, which impacts other programs.
- 20th anniversary of GCE in 2026 – planning should start soon.
- Guest lectures, travel and accommodation for COPs can be funded, but no food/drinks for events. Coordination can assist with transportation and lodging for fireside events.

11. *Board elections*

The election takes place via an online tool and is anonymous. The following people stood for election to the board: Zachary Zeller, Elizaveta Shcherbinina, Puja Bhat and Flemming Ostermann. Each position was voted on individually: Zachary Zeller was elected as 1st chair (accepted with 10 votes and one abstention) and Elizaveta Shcherbinina as 2nd (deputy) chair (accepted with 10 votes and one abstention). Puja Bhat was elected as secretary with 10 votes and one abstention. Flemming Ostermann will continue as treasurer (10 votes and one abstention).

The new board is therefore composed as follows:

Zachary Zeller - 1. President / Chair

Elizaveta Shcherbinina - 2. President / Co-Chair

Puja Bhat - Secretary

Flemming Ostermann- Treasurer

12. *Cash auditor elections*

Gabriela Vielma and Miriam Thiemann stood for election as auditors for the next two years. The general meeting voted unanimously in favor of them.

13. *Miscellaneous*

Silvia: We want to update Instagram, LinkedIn and the blog. FroG should be more visible on GCE's radar.

Mahshad Forghanifar is elected as an advisory board member. The position is not included in the statutes and will unofficially support the board.

We would like to thank the old board for their work over the last two years and wish the new board all the best.

The meeting was closed at 8:40 p.m. by the chairperson.

Secretary [Gabriela Vielmes]

Chairperson [Zachary Zeller]