
Protocol of the first board meeting

First board meeting on the 18th of June 2001 at the Institute of Sociology, Unitobler, Bern
Beginning: 17'30 h
End: 20'30 h

Present:

Marc Audétat, Christoph Müller, Martin Lengwiler, Monika Dormann, Martina Merz, Bruno Strasser, Beate Wilhelm

Manager of the meeting:

Martin Lengwiler

Manager of the protocol:

Beate Wilhelm (in substitution for Marc)

Before starting the discussion as listed on the agenda which was sent by Martina via email on June, 14th.2001, two issues were discussed:

(a) the decision was made to choose one person responsible for the protocol for one year, i.e. until the end of year 2001. Marc offered himself to do so exceptionally for the 18th of June, therefore Beate stood in for him.

(b) Beate informed that no further comments, or wishes for changes did come in regarding the statutes. So the statutes in version 1.4, as already published on the homepage of STS-CH, are now accepted and valid without any further changes! They now have to be translated in french and english. Therefore Martina and Bruno will be responsible: Martina for the english version (only section „2« of the statutes: „purpose«) and Patrice Hof for the french version (complete; until the beginning of November 2001 latest or as soon as possible).

Discussion following the agenda

1 Board

1.1 Responsibilities and board constitution

Treasurer: the main tasks of the treasurer are to set up the budget for the forthcoming year as well as being responsible for the incoming membership fees, to controll the current income and expenses (for example every three months), and being responsible for the final calucation at he end of the year.

For nobody was willing to take these tasks, Martin L. volunteered. But as he is also co-president, he will be able to fulfill this task only until somebody else form the board volunteers! (→ *so, dear all, please make up your mind!*)

Secretary: the main tasks for the secretary are to keep administrative and organisational issues rolling and to cooperate with members, sponsors and the whole board. Beate was asked by Martin to take these tasks already weeks before. She was voted for secretary and also accepted the vote. As there are some professional changes on the way for Beate, there is actually no postal adress of an affiliation of her. This is why the adress of

the STS-CH secretary still remains c/o „University of Zürich, Forschungsstelle für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte« until Beate has a new institutional affiliation.

!Decision: The basic agreement is that the secretary is organised by self-regulation which means, that the secretary is able to ask for help among the members and is also able to delegate tasks to other members - after mutually agreed of course!

Protocolist: Marc volunteered for the task as protocolist of board meetings (!) and he was heartily welcome to do this job!

!Decision: The board meeting protocol will be sent by email to all board members for reading and eventually making any remarks or corrections. Therefore a time limit has to be fixed, which could be about 3 weeks. After this limit the protocol will either be accepted or not. If it is not accepted, i.e. if there remain some unsolvable remarks or veto, the protocol has to be discussed and then accepted on the following board meeting. After the protocol has been accepted, it will be sent by email or snail-mail to all STS-CH members (either directly or only via link to the relevant STS-CH homepage).

Open:

- (a) Decision about which version of dissemination (email/snail-mail, directly/indirectly via link).
- (b) What is still not fixed yet is „who is writing the protocol of the general assemblies«. (*Remark: This could be solved individually in the very beginning of each assembly!*)

More about the internal board constitution

Open:

- (a) What was not discussed very intensely were questions of „how the board meetings are organised« (who sets up the agenda?), and „how the board itself is organised«.
- (b) Who has the power of signature for which documents? (except the bank account)
- (c) How does the board account for its activities against the general assembly? - By sending protocols to each member? (and) by bearing in mind the common good of all members, whatever the board does and decides?

1.2 Principal purpose of the board activities next year

(see discussion point 5!)

1.3 Miscellaneous

The question arised, whether the board should or could be financially compensated for its activities. As the main activity of the board is actively participating at the board meeting, theoretically there could be payed an attendance fee (dt. „Sitzungsgeld«) and a compensation for the train tickets. But the actual financial situation allows us only to compensate the train tickets restrictively but, if necessary, up to their full amount (only 2nd class).

!Decision: The compensation for train tickets is handled restrictively which means: everybody who is able to get full compensation from his/her employer (or another institution) shell ask them. (This is now the case for Marc and Bruno.) All the others can receive compensation from STS-CH to the full amount. So if someone has paid a SBB ½-

Abo out of his/her own pocket, the full cost will be compensated (i.e. double cost of a ½-Abo train ticket).

2 Summer School

Marc informed the board about the high number of incoming abstracts and suggestions for workshops as response to the call of papers. Further, all keynote speakers confirmed their participation. So far, the summer school seems to be a well accepted event. At the moment the budget is sufficient for about 40 people to pay for their contributions, i.e. persons who do presentations as well as session chair persons and discussants. What now has to be done is to select the contributions and to eventually find some more money or sponsors for the summer school. Marc emphasized that all contributions from STS-CH members are accepted!

An unexpected problem arised for the draft of the summer school programm: What is the role of our STS-CH association in the summer school: how much and to what extend was and is STS-CH involved in organising the summer school? Marc informed the board that several institutions in Lausanne (OSPS-EPFL, IMedia-UNIL, ESST-EPFL, LESS-UNIL, IEPI-UNIL) proclaimed to have made relevant contributions to this summer school. This is why the question arised, what role STS-CH has among this group of organizers, sponsors etc.? And what is the role of all the other organizers?

Under all circumstances and in any case it is clear, that STS-CH was initiating and organising this event. It is also clear, that several institutions from Lausanne are sponsoring the summer school, financially (?? by SNF?) as well as bearing relevant organisational tasks. Of course, several other Universities in Switzerland are supporting STS-CH and the event too by releasing the (board) members from work but financing them (exceptions exist!). The board developed two possibilities (Var. A and B) of how all the main organisers and sponsors etc. should be listed in the summer school programm:

Var. A:

Distinction between „organizers« and „sponsors«:

Organizers: - STS-CH (1st rank! full name) all others in alphabetical order
Sponsors - EPFL
- UNIL etc.

Var. B:

Distinction between: „initiated by«, „organizers«, and „sponsors«:

Initiated by: - STS-CH (full name)
Organizers: - STS-CH (1st rank! full name)
- all others in alphabetical order or however
Sponsors - EPFL
- UNIL etc.

!Decision: Marc will inform the board about the ranking in the list of organizers etc. as soon as he talked to EPFL and UniLausanne, who are the main sponsors of the summer school.

(*Remark:* the actual draft of the summer school which is published on the STS-CH homepage and which Marc sent to all participants, does either notice Var. A nor Var. B.

Instead the organizers are even not listed in alphabetical order, OSPS-EPFL is first ranked, and the category „funding« is listed additionally.)

Another question which was discussed intensively was how our association STS-CH should be represented at the summer school.

!Decision: At the end of the first day of the summer school we will have a „reception event«. This event is open for the press and also for external people (not participating at the conference). Therefore Monika will contribute an explanation about STS-CH, which will be a piece of her own presentation. Martina & Monika & Bruno are responsible for preparing this event.

3 Members and how to solicit them

For attracting new and old members, Martina suggests that STS-CH should promise at least three events per year.

!Decision: Yes ok, we try to do so! (see also discussion point 5)

4 Webpage and mailing list

To get a more attractive webpage and to improve the networking among the members, all members are pleased to send a list of their research interests as well as up to three relevant publications regarding the field of STS to Bruno.

!Decision: Yes ok!

Open: Will there be a „call of research interests and publications« via email to all members? If yes, who is responsible for that?

5 Further activities

Flyer for new members: The existing flyer is not very helpful in winning new members. Therefore a new design with new contents will be developed. Bruno & Monika will be responsible for the first draft.

!Decision: The new flyer has to contain a short statement about the STS-CH association. Therefore Monika will prepare the main text until Juli 01.

Until we have the new flyer at our disposal, we use the old one with two additions: 1) Martin and Martina will sign it and 2) the names of the board members and their affiliation will be listed. Until further notice, the flyer has to be sent to Martin Lengwiler; Univ. of Zurich (see discussion point 1.1). The fee which has to be payed now until the beginning of summer school in September is 50,- CHF and 25,- CHF for students which provides membership until the end of the year 2001. Membership fees paid after this date provides membership until the end of year 2002. This regulation has to be seen as a „unique welcome-gift«!

(Remark: The board could discuss about fees paid from 1st of November on providing membership until the end of the following year.)

Further:

As a consequence or follow-up of the summer school, Marc wants to publish a conference binder. Monika plans to organise an event in spring 2002, which will be addressed to STS-CH members.

At the end of the meeting Martina passed a list where each board member was pleased to list up to three persons we should contact and invite to become a STS-CH member by ourselves.

!Decision: No date was fixed for the next board meeting!

St. Gallen, 21.08.2001 (rev. version)

gez. Beate Wilhelm