

2012 swissSIER Annual General Meeting Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2012 – Stechelberg, Switzerland

Participants:	1 Arndt, Felix	UNIL
	2 Cabello, Alan	EPFL
	3 Ferreira, Paul	University of Geneva
	4 Lomborg, Carina	Uni Bern
	5 Peters, Tilo	EPFL
	6 Ratinho, Tiago	University of Twente
	7 Thiel, Jana	EPFL
	8 van de Vrande, Vareska	RSM
	9 von Vangerow, Andreas	EPFL

Chairman: Tilo Peters

Protocol: Jana Thiel

Agenda

- Summary of past year's activities by members of the Board
- Approval of the minutes of prior year's general meeting
- Approval of the annual financial report
- Vote to discharge the board of its duties relative to the previous year
- Nomination and election of members the board of swissSIER
- Selection of auditing committee for the next year's financial report
- Approval of revision of swissSIER Statutes
 - Addition of Institutional and Corporate membership categories.
- Plans for 2012-2013 going forward
 - Membership fee
 - Interest in 2012 Summer Event
 - 2013 Winter Event

Meeting Notes

1. Tilo Peters welcomes all attendees, who are all members of swissSIER. It is noted that the invitation and agenda notification for the annual general meeting occurred in compliance with the association's statutes and no objections are raised, so that it will be possible to constitute a quorum.
2. Tilo Peters and Jana Thiel provide account of swissSIER activities of 2011
 - Winter Meeting 2011 in Gstaad
 - Summer Meeting had been planned to take place in Bern but due to financial restrictions and lack of interest has not taken place
 - Application for a larger cross-disciplinary Summer Conference 2012 had been denied and further initiative is currently stalled
 - Organization of Winter event 2012 and first-time opening up to international guests and speakers
 - A continued concern of swissSIER is the involvement of new and younger members to continue the organization and its activities
3. Tilo Peters then provides account of the swissSIER annual financial report of 2011
 - A main occupation of the swissSIER board has been the fundraising: In 2011 swissSIER was supported by University of Bern (notably Carina Lomberg freed funds to support the Winter event) and by EPFL's Doctoral School of Management of Technology and the Chair of Strategy and Innovation Management
 - Obtaining sufficient funds is hampered by the fact that many institutions prefer funding per event and not per global annual budget. This complicates annual planning of activities
 - Goal for 2012 should be to put the organization on a stronger financial footing so that main energies can be redirected into the organization of events
4. The assembly discusses new funding options and strategies. Suggestions are to collaborate more with international organizations, such as ECSB and look for private institutions that would fund the organizations activities. Attempts to further involve more institutions across Switzerland seem difficult due to differences in doctoral programs and corresponding interest in the organization's activities. Generally it is agreed that internationalization seems warranted to increase participation base and reach of swissSIER It is also generally agreed that institutional funding is preferred over individual membership fees..
5. With 8 yes votes and 1 abstention, the assembly approves both the meeting minutes of the general assembly in Saanen, Gstaad in February 2011 and the annual financial report 2011.
6. The assembly also votes unanimously to discharge the board of its duties.

7. After a discussion about the responsibilities of board members and the intended direction going forward, nominations for the board 2012 are gathered:
- Tilo Peters, EPFL – for the position of the President
 - Alan Cabello, EPFL – for the position of the Treasurer
 - Jana Thiel, EPFL – for the position of Secretary/Vice President
 - Carina Lomborg, Uni Bern – responsible for external relations
 - Vareska van de Vrande, RSM – responsible for external relations
 - Paulo Ferreira, Uni Gemeva – corporate relations, esp. fund raising

Each nominee is unanimously accepted.

8. Felix Arndt is nominated and unanimously approved for the position of auditor of the 2012 operations.
9. Andreas von Vangerow suggests that bi-monthly board meetings or calls will help facilitate the cohesion and work of the newly elected board members. It is generally agreed that the board shall more regularly convene to discuss and track progress on the institution's activities.
10. The assembly goes through the association's statutes and discusses the suggested revisions with respect to add another membership category for institutions and organizations. The modified statutes receive approval by 8 attendees and 1 abstention.
11. With respect to strengthening swissSIER, the assembly discusses possible changes to the program annual Winter Event in order to increase outreach. It is agreed to focus on the invitation of high-level speakers, and with inscription, participants will have to submit academic work that will be reviewed and feedbacked during the event. Vareska van de Vrande suggests that swissSIER should focus on filling an unmet need in Western Europe to provide mentoring for early-stage PhD students and offer them a platform to meet potential peers. After lively discussion the assembly and new board agree that the mentoring of new PhD students is one core feature of swissSIER. Activities that go beyond those concerns would generally be welcome but seem to be beyond the current resources of the organization.
12. With respect to the ongoing concerns re the funding situation for swissSIER it is discussed to improve the measurement of tangible outcomes of swissSIER activities, such as: return rate of participants to events, collaborations emerging from swissSIER activities, collection of feedback from participants. It is agreed that the first board meeting after the AGM elaborates on the further strategy.

13. The assembly discusses and assigns coordinators for the following swissSIER activities for 2012:

- Summer event focused on more group work amongst participants, possibly at the same location as Winter event: responsible V. van de Vrande, C. Lomberg
- Next Winter Event shall be organized in similar fashion as 2012, preferably with less operational requirements during the event (operational tasks such as cooking, cleaning, shopping need to be split more evenly)
- Funding levels are envisioned to be broadened, such that several member institutions contribute to swissSIER operations: responsible A. Cabello, T. Peters, P. Ferreira, C. Lomberg
- It is further discussed that AOM provides an excellent platform to organize a small reception to build up the public profile of swissSIER

Stechelberg, March 24, 2012

Tilo Peters
-Chairman-

Jana Thiel
-Recording secretary-

Enclosures

1. Invitation to the 2012 swissSIER General Assembly from March 9, 2012
2. Minutes of AGM 2011 in Saanen, Gstaad
3. Revised Statutes as of March 24, 2012