

**Minutes of the BOT meeting
March 4 - 8, 2015
Hotel Principe Lisboa, Av Duque de Ávila 201, Lisboa**

Present:

Garry Cockburn, Michael Brennan, John Conger, James Elniski, Ana Lúcia Faria, Rosaria Filoni, Patrizia Moselli, Cristina Piauhy, Eulina Ribeiro, Claudia Ucros, Josette Van Luytelaar

Also present: Pilar Llobregat, (Administrator)

Beginning Thursday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.

1. Opening of meeting and check in

The president welcomes the members, the schedule is decided (see below), a facilitator and a time-keeper are chosen and the members proceed to check in.

9:00 – 11:00

11.00 – 11.30. Coffee break

11.30 – 13:00

13 :00- 15 :30 Lunch break

15.30 – 17:00

17:00 – 17:15 Coffee break

17:15 – 18:15

2. Committee reports

2.1/2.2 Elections. The report is read and a discussion ensues about the possible reasons for the scant participation of members:

- There was no opposition, no two candidates (except for South America), so why vote?
- There is no feedback from the BOT to the membership, people do not feel involved, or interested.

- People do not trust on line voting so much, it is a cultural thing (Italy)

- People do not know the candidates

- The timing is not good. December is a bad time

Solutions proposed:

- Intensify communication, use the Internet more to relate and translate more

- Give more information on the election process. Spread the candidates bios widely

- Trainers are important, they have to stimulate participation

- There is a proposal to lower to two years permission for students to vote, another proposal is that they are allowed to vote from the beginning. A discussion takes place. Arguments against the proposals:

- Trainees have to obtain maturity and knowledge of the association, our identity as professionals must be protected

- It is also a question of fees. CBTs pay much higher dues than students

- It is suggested that the question of trainees voting be discussed at the conference membership meeting, but this suggestion is discarded on the grounds that this decision is the responsibility of the BOT

Conclusions:

- The periodicity and the timing have to be clarified in the next meeting

- A lot more information about the process, the committee, the actual candidates and the functions of the BOT must be given.

2.3 Journal

The report is read.

Maê Nascimento's request that the formatting of the Portuguese translation - quoted at €600 by the publishing house- be accepted, is approved.

After some discussion concerning the number of Portuguese copies to be printed, it is decided that 100 extra copies be printed and sent to Libertas, in Brazil. They will take a certain number to be sold at the conference and the rest will be shared by the Brazilian societies. The next translation of the Journal will be into Italian and the following one will depend on where the conference is held.

2.4 Reader

The French version is almost ready and the contract with the publisher has to be signed.

Concerning translations into other languages:

- The Spanish translation that was to be negotiated with Argentina has not advanced. It is important that any edition produced in Argentina is in universal Spanish.
- There has been a request that the Reader be translated into Russian. This would only be financially possible if a volunteer did the translation. It was suggested it would be better to translate Lowen's books first, to awaken interest in BA.

2.5 Communication

The report is read.

Communication by means of the website and Facebook is more efficient than sending emails. Translations are a problem, asking volunteers is hard... We have to decide frequency and design a communication plan.

A Facebook page for every country is proposed, aiming at monitoring what happens in the different regions. Those pages should be interlinked and the person responsible for each one would have to take care of translating the contents. Volunteers could be motivated by incentives (reduction in conference fees e.g.)

Probably involving younger people, who are native to new technologies, would be the best.

It is suggested that communication between the BOT members is also very important. A WhatsApp group is discussed, but what seems better is a BOT only Facebook page. Michael Brennan accepts to create it. Patrizia Moselli expresses the right each person has not to be on Facebook for reasons of confidentiality. A trial of a BOT Facebook page, not compulsory for all members, is voted and approved unanimously. Its usefulness will be evaluated after some time. The proposal of networking of societies on Facebook is approved unanimously.

The Communication Committee will be formed by Michael Brennan, James Elniski and Claudia Ucros.

2.6 Newsletter

The report is read and the editor, Michael Brennan, thanked for his dedication. He considers he can continue to be the NL editor, notwithstanding his involvement in the BOT.

2.7 Website

The report is read and Rosaria Filoni explains how the task developed.

It would be good to have an article on research on the site, for example, Margit's.

Josette van Luytelaar informs that an article by Guy Tonella has been translated into Dutch, and could be posted on the website.

2.8 Annual Project Fund

The report is read.

It is considered necessary that IIBA produces a letter informing the societies about this Project, apart from advertising it in the NL. Probably the best option would be a letter from the President.

2.9 Teaching

The report is read. John Conger (chair of the committee) explains why he was not aware that he had to step in for the 2014 PDW, and how Maryse Doess and the administrator took charge of it. He proposes to produce some kind of a "guide/template" for the PDW, so that it does not have to start from scratch every time.

- Another opinion is voiced that everything should be filed, so that we do not have to invent every time.
- Patrizia Moselli expresses her opinion that there should be rotation, not the same people always organizing the PDW or the TC. Times of serving have to be structured and limited as a policy.

- It is suggested that the same criteria for becoming an International Trainer or any other post be used everywhere.
- Claudia Ucross informs that the European Federation is beginning to establish a support network to help members to become Local Trainers and get the necessary skills.
- John Conger asks the BOT members to send him their views so that they can be discussed and promoted by the TC.

2.10 Selection

The report is accepted.

3. Budgets

3.1 Closing balance for 2014.

The payment of USABP fees is discussed. There is a feeling that, in the future, they should be paid by Nanziba.

The balance is unanimously approved.

3.2 Revision of budget 2015

Amendments: Elimination of USABP fees; budget for two BOT meetings; budget for website improvement and communication.

Budget approved unanimously.

3.3 Budget 2016

Unanimously approved with the same amendments applied to 2015.

4. Conference 2015

4.1 Budget revision.

No changes from the budget originally presented, except for payments to Viviane Correia, FLAAB's assistant. It is considered that she should receive the same amount that SIAB's assistant received for the Palermo conference, though finally it is fixed in US\$ 1.000, and her duties will be reduced.

4.2 State of affairs

- Eulina Ribeiro, chair of the SC, presents and comments on the keynote speakers. They were chosen among other things, because they did not mean a big expense, in spite of being interesting.

The collaboration of some IIBA Trainers had to be declined because there was no more space left.

Couple therapy will be included in some workshops.

A request is made that a panel about cultural differences in IIBA associations be planned.

The closing ceremony has been envisaged as a healing celebration of life, which might encourage people to stay till the end.

- There have been problems with hotel reservations, with Luck Viagens, and some confusion because too many people were involved in the management.

- Registrations are not so high as expected for different reasons: August is a bad month for Europeans and, on the other hand, the Biosynthesis conference in Brazil in May has obliged people to choose one or the other, because of money problems. The positive side of the Biosynthesis conference is that it is a great opportunity to advertise ours.

Conclusions:

Narrow the number of people involved in management. Communications have to go exclusively through the Administrator, who will have someone in Recife as contact.

5. Review of Strategic Plan

A mind map is produced.

Structure: Boundaries. Maintaining the life of the organism. Room for expansion and change.

Procedures have to be elaborated to be presented in Recife.

Committees generated:

- Research: Josette Van Luytelaar (she can contact Margit Koemeda)
Patrizia Moselli (will contact people in Italy)

- Claudia Ucros will join after the conference
 - Communication:
 - Claudia Ucros (replaced by Patrizia Moselli after the conference)
 - Promoting initiatives/Social applications of BA:
 - Eulina Ribeiro
 - Cristina Piauhy
- Garry Cockburn will produce a draft of the revised Strategic Plan and send it to everyone for amendments.

6. Regional structures. What is happening

6.1 EFBA-P.

The Federation has money difficulties because of the scarcity of members. There is not much energy to promote things.

Patrizia Moselli explains why SIAB does not belong to the Federation: they do not want to charge their students with more dues, and EFBA-P does not accept a fixed amount, independent of the number of members a society has. Besides, the European Federation does not take part in general psychological meetings; they do not make themselves visible. Claudia Ucros states that, on the contrary, Francisco García attends general meetings, at least once a year.

6.2 South America

It is different from Europe. There are very poor countries that have no structures, so they have to be supportive and do not depend on numbers only, speaking of general psychological meetings.

As for Brazil itself, the differences FLAAB previously had with some other Brazilian societies has ceased and there is cooperation..

6.3 Nanziba

Nanziba has not been considered as a resource by societies, and it has not worked as a regional organization. Several directors are now trying to focus on reorganizing the situation. There was a conference call with society directors, but it was not very successful for technical reasons. Apparently, a face to face meeting is needed, according to the people present at the conference call. Nanziba has some money they want to use to promote regional conferences with a view to become more united and define a mission.

Michigan, Toronto and Chicago will work together to prepare the next conference and that might help to revitalize Nanziba.

Feedback from BOT members

- Some time should be used in Recife for regions to get together and discuss common problems.
- Explanations about the Florida society are given
- More publicity has to be made about IIBA being the only one able to certify people, and make it known that BA is psychotherapy, not an alternative thing. We have to claim the ground.
- Create some sort of Wikipedia on the website with monographs, e.g. how to deal with trauma...
- The Faculty could produce something each year, not very long, to be put together and made public.
- In the USA, societies were formed as spaces for training. This has evolved; societies must be more than just training.

7. Alternative training programs in Argentina and Germany

7.1 Argentina

The Argentinian society wanted the BOT to write a letter saying that only their society can grant certification. But as time passed and contact with Susana Yasan was established, the situation changed; they are not concerned any more, and Susana Yasan has changed the wording of her site. Garry will reply to her letter to the President in which she expressed her concerns.

Clear information about the history of IIBA and how the training program was set by Lowen himself should be posted on IIBA website. Maybe Garry Cockburn as president would do it very well.

Claudia Ucros explains that she is teaching in another place because she has not succeeded in becoming a Local Trainer. Patrizia Moselli considers that is different, teaching is not the same as creating a training program. We must protect our field and respect the rules we have given ourselves.

7.2 Germany

NIBA has written, concerned that a private company has advertised the launch of a bioenergetic training program in association with two faculty members. NIBA's concern is that the clinical phase of a training programme can only be implemented under the guidance of an IIBA affiliated society, not a private institution. Garry will reply to NIBA's concerns. Belgium has created a parallel society in collaboration with Guy Tonella.

8. BOT Committees

Three committees are formed (discussed in point 5):

- Communication: James Elniski; Michael Brennan; Claudia Ucros; Patrizia Moselli
- Research: Josette Van Luytelaar; Rosaria Filoni
- Promoting initiatives/Social applications of BA: Eulina Ribeiro; Cristina Piauhy, Ana Lúcia Faria, James Elniski

9. Administrative issues

9.1 Financial situation

IIBA's accountant has warned of the danger of being deprived of the status of nonprofit association, due to the fact that the amount of money we have exceeds the regular limits for that kind of organization. He recommended investment funds –which yield no interest- instead of fixed term deposits. The accountant has experience in international investments.

9.2 Measures that could be taken

A number of ideas are discussed:

- Find a way to use money to make BA grow in membership in China and Russia. There are more ways to grow; we'd better invest in research in our own countries. We lower the standards when we go to those other countries. We have to maintain a good standard where we are, and spend money on revitalizing societies
- Our priorities should go towards strengthening the feeling of belonging in the membership, stimulating participation.
- Research is paramount. What can we offer to make students choose BA? Why not pay International Trainers to go spread BA in other conferences?
- We could negotiate with the Faculty an amount that could be used to promote BA, exposing more, spreading the message.
- Find a team of researchers; pay them to research on the spreading of BA. Margit Koemeda might accept chairing research if she were offered payment.
- The BOT spends time working. How can IIBA compensate for that? Why not pay them to attend conferences and the like?
- Spending money on social projects e.g micro credits
- Scholarships to students could be given, but on condition they present a project (cultural, social) related to BA.
- Have a contest: the best paper written by students in each region would be given certain amount of money. We could ask the Faculty to create a committee to select papers, and they could be paid something for that task.
- We have to focus on the Strategic Plan, incorporating those wonderful ideas.
- The President poses a question: Would the BOT members agree to invest as the accountant has advised?

It is agreed on principle, and approved unanimously. The administrator will investigate options.

10. Review of bylaws

There is an agreement that the bylaws have to be revised and updated.

11, Next BOT meeting

A discussion is held about the inconveniences of having a meeting at the Conference: not many people are available for they are involved with the Faculty meeting or engaged in the management of the conference, but, on the other hand, the Faculty have invited us to have a joint meeting.

- There is a proposal to meet the day after the Conference and 1 day before meet the Faculty. Two members cannot stay and there is another opinion that the day after we have not had time to process the conference, but meeting the Faculty is very important.

- Two days BOT meeting before the conference would be good, besides meeting the Faculty. It is very expensive and the Faculty meeting and the BOT meeting cannot overlap.

- At the moment, with a new BOT, it is important to meet twice during the year, and it is better to do it at the conference, to prepare the membership meeting. A video of the meeting could be produced for those who could not come to Recife. And it is also necessary to organize a meeting with regions during the conference, as well as a meeting with the Executive Committee.

- We should make the meeting possible transforming it into projects

- We must make sure that our meeting is going to be cost effective.

There is a proposal to have a BOT meeting at the conference, with this schedule:

The BOT members arrive on Friday 14

Saturday 15: full day BOT meeting

Sunday 16 : Committees work

Monday 17: Committees work in the morning.

Joint Faculty meeting in the afternoon

Tuesday 18: Committees work

Wednesday 19: Full day BOT meeting

The proposal is approved unanimously.

The IIBA will cover the expenses of flights and five days accommodation, as usual.

A proposal that IIBA reimburses bank fees for transfers made is approved unanimously.

After exchanging impressions about the meeting -which has been full of good feelings, good vibrations, good energy, good humour, and has given proof of the capacity to work together, aliveness, commitment and relaxation- it comes to the end.

Ending March 7, 2015, 18:30 p.m.

Barcelona, March 19, 2015

Scribe: Pilar Llobregat