

# Minutes: Board Meeting

Place: Brussels, Belgium

Date: 25-27 January 2019

Chair: Edvardas Vabuolas

Minute-taker: Rob O'Donnell

Present: Edvardas Vabuolas, Giuseppe Lipari, Sara Finnbogadottir, Rob O'Donnell (Board Members), Giuseppina Tucci and Ela Jakubek-Grootjans (Secretariat)

## AGENDA

1. Introduction
2. Mid-term Board Evaluation
3. Secretary General appointment
4. Staff updates
5. Working Group updates
6. Stronger School Student Unions
7. Events update
8. European Parliament Elections
9. Statutes review
10. Development Strategy review
11. Projects and partnerships
12. MC Reflections
13. AoB

----- The Chair opened the meeting -----

### Point of the Agenda 1: Introduction

The Chair welcomed the Board and the agenda, presenting the different items, the possible changes to the agenda and the decisions to be taken. Each Board Member shares their reflections on what happened since the last Board meeting. A revision of the assigned tasks is carried out.

### Point of the Agenda 2: Mid-Term Board Evaluation

The Board reflected on their work since the beginning of the mandate in July. They focused particularly on internal communication, relationship with the Secretariat and how to make transnational online work efficient.

### Point of the Agenda 3: Secretary General Appointment

The Board acknowledged the receipt of request of resignation by Ela, current Secretary General, and accepted her early resignation, therefore Ela will not be working for OBESSU as of 1st February. The Board understands fully the reasons behind Ela's decision and wish to ensure a smooth transition, on the other hand for the sake of accountability and transparency, the Board consulted independently with the Staff Members and the Monitoring Committee before proceeding with a final decision.

Decision: After consultation with the Monitoring Committee and the outgoing Secretary General, the Board decided to offer the job to Giuseppina, allowing a continuation of her good work at OBESSU and following a thorough and positive Staff Review with the Board Member in charge. Pina accepted the job, and therefore signed a contract for a 2 years mandate as a Secretary General and legal representative of OBESSU.

Comments: The Membership will need to ratify the decision with a vote of trust during the General Assembl

### Point of the Agenda 4: Staff Updates

A new Staff Member will join OBESSU on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February as Membership and Capacity Building Officer. The rest of the Secretariat will stay consistent.

The Secretariat had Skype interviews with the MC for their internal audit and also have Staff reviews with Sara, Staff Board Member in charge.

As the administration of OBESSU becomes more demanding, the Secretary General will look into the possibility of hiring a part-time Administrative Assistant.

### Point of the Agenda 5: Working Groups Updates

Rob gave an update on the closing of the Working Group on Global Citizenship Education, which ended its mandate in the end of 2018.

The Board discussed the new call for working groups on Quality of Teaching and Sex and Gender. They discussed composition, objectives and set the timeline.

### Point of the Agenda 6: Stronger School Student Unions

The Board met with Dasa, who will start working on the project, to set the timeline and discuss the next steps to take. During the discussion, the Board and the Secretariat discussed about the state of the Memberships and the best engagement methods.

Decision: A timeline for the project has been established: the call for Country Reports will be published in March, the Field Visits are also scheduled to kick off in March, while

the Alumni network is to kick off in February. A first Peer learning activity will happen in May in Belgrade, Serbia and will be followed by the regranting launch in July 2019.

#### Point of the Agenda 7: Event updates

Sara gave an update on the Study Session. The Prep-team will happen at the end of January. The team has been selected and is a very good team. Judit and Samira from the Secretariat will support.

Edvardas gave an update on the Peer Power Staff Seminar and School Student Expert Group happening in the beginning of March.

The Board also discussed the work to implement in the field of digitalisation. There are several options to explore and Edvardas will follow up with Judit from the Secretariat.

The next GA will happen in June in Vilnius, Lithuania.

#### Point of the Agenda 8: European Parliament Elections

The Board discussed on the need for action to reclaim the space of Education in the debate. In fact, even if education is not a direct competence of the EU, OBESSU and its members see a lot of space for debate and action, as discussed during the Council of Members in November in Rome.

Decision: The Board and the Secretariat will work to organise:

1. A campaign "I vote for school student rights"
2. A communication strategy
3. A dedicated Seeds for Integration call
4. A toolkit for actions

#### Point of the Agenda 9: Statutes review

Gathering all inputs from the Members in November during the Council of Members, the Board and the Secretary General discussed the different possibilities to carry out the revision of the statutes, because it is a legal matter and a delicate matter connected to national legislation.

Decision: The Secretary General will be in touch with a law firm to investigate possibilities and requirements and will keep the Board and the MC updated.

#### Point of the Agenda 10: Development Strategy review

The Board gathered the indicators gathered from the Members in the Council of Members. A joint discussion with the MC is scheduled to happen on this matter to evaluate the Development strategy in synergy.

Decision: The process will kick off at the GA in June 2019.

Point of the Agenda 11: Projects and partnerships

The Board received an update on the current projects:

1. Coloured Glasses in partnership with EEE-YFU was closed and the final report sent.
2. Inclusive schools with the British Institute is scheduled to start soon. Kick off meeting will happen mid-february in London.
3. The OBESSU Secretariat will discuss possible further applications and partnerships

Point of the Agenda 12: MC Reflections

The Board received the results of the first internal audit by the MC and discussed feedback and action points. The report was welcomed and its content precious for evaluation.

Point of the Agenda 13: AoB

The Board divided the upcoming external representations.

They also decided on the next Board Meeting, happening in London mid-March.

----- The Chair closed the meeting -----