



*Thursday August 26 @ 10 am EDT*

**SIL Board Meeting: Minutes**  
**August 26, 2021 @ 10am EDT**

Participants: Thomas Mehner, Tamar Zohary, Ines O'Farrell, Cecilia Barouillet, Maria de los Angeles Gonzalez Sagrario, Barbara Barta, Juan David Gonzalez Trujillo

**Agenda:**

- 1. Let's hear from the new (and Ines if she wishes) board members your goals and ideas**
- 2. Duties of the executive committee**
- 3. Board meeting schedule / Officer availability**

Thomas Presents Agenda

**1. Reactions from new Board members**

Newly elected members have expressed their hopes and how they view the challenges ahead. Lots of enthusiasm expressed.

- Cecilia, Barbara & Angeles have had quick meetings with Martin etc. and they will present a PPT
- Juan is excited for the 100<sup>th</sup> and sees it as a great opportunity for a fresh start.

**2. Tamar Present the Duties and responsibilities of the Board members:**

**Moral & legal duties:** Read the congress minutes, be familiar with the SIL website, read the SILNews, read the statutes

**Other general duties:**

- Promote SIL to your networks, countries, colleagues, promote accessibility of SIL (esp. the duty of ECRs), SIL visibility.
- Participate to Board meetings
- Be proactive to formalute SIL strategy for the future
- Reply to emails in a timely fashion
- Be proactive and engaged in implementing our decisions
- Participate in SIL congresses!

**Duties of individuals:** Be in charge of the committees that you chair. Take leadership. Communication channels: be in contact with Giovanna for SILNews content and adverts. Announce open positions and opportunities.

**Benefits to SIL Board Members:** Student board members and Dev country VPs are exempt from congress registration fees. You have an opportunity to take part in active change through

leadership. Gain experience in an international organization and the society. All of this is only if you are willing to put in the work.

**The BASIC and LEGAL responsibilities of a non-profit board:** Determine the mission & purpose (there is a new one), help in the selection of board members and support the chief executive (Thomas). Ensure adequate planning. Monitor and strengthen programs and services. Ensure financial resources and protect assets and ethical, legal, and financial integrity. Build a competent organization and enhance the organization's public standing.

- **Duty of Care:** The duty of care describes the level of competence that is expected of a board member when making decisions.
- **Duty of Loyalty:** The duty of loyalty is a standard of faithfulness; a board member must give undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting the organization.
- **Duty of Obedience:** The duty of obedience requires board members to be faithful to the organization's mission. They are not permitted to act in a way that is inconsistent with the central goals of the organization.
- Expectation from a non-profit board (know what SIL is about): Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization's annual financial statements.
  - Attend all board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
  - Be informed about the organization's mission, services, policies, and programs.
  - Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
  - Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments.
  - Inform others about the organization and act as ambassador in all professional activities via emails (inform your colleagues about opportunities at SIL)
  - Keep up-to-date on developments in the organization's field.
  - Follow conflict-of-interest and confidentiality policies.
- Questions?

### **3. Statutes:** Michelle reads Statutes Approval

There were 6 motions

Motion 1. 89 approval, 2 abstains – *Motion has passed*

Motion 2. 89 approval, 1 objection, 1 abstain – *Motion has passed*

Motion 3. 90 approval, 1 abstain – *Motion has passed*

Motion 4. 91 approval – *Motion has passed*

Motion 5. 90 approval, 1 objection – *Motion has passed*

Motion 6. 90 approval, 1 abstain – *Motion has passed*

Link [to new statutes \(August 2021\)](#)

Thomas asks that a communication campaign be drafted around the motion replacing National representatives by SIL Ambassadors.

#### 4. Goals and ideas from new Board members

##### SIL Communication & Publications:

Short Term (*Cécilia*): SIL100 is a new opportunity for a new face, starting with the website. Often the first step to the public about SIL. While there are not a lot of informations missing, the website needs to be updated.

- Ask the board for 5 key words to tailor the first page to this.
- Make a video: meet with Genevieve + Michelle + Veronica
  - CECILIA proposed a video that used a software called **Videoscribe**
- New logo
- SIL100:
  - UN SDG Global Goals: Project Everyone
  - We could seek assistance as part of this campaign to develop some media content around the Goals
- Mission: contribute to addressing global environmental and societal issues globally

Long Term (*Juan*): How to increase income + interest of the society

- Create a network of member by surveying their research interests
- Adopt a Wetland: SIL may act as a crowdfunding platform where donations serve to protect and do research on a particular set of ecosystems. Once the crowd funding has enough money, you may send SIL ECRs request for proposals
- Contacts with other NGOs: expand our servitude beyond science towards to public (this would also include industry)
- Using the WG to engage students and ECRs because these platforms already exist it will be easiest to implement this. Collaboration with education VP & ECR.
- Revise membership rates

Open discussion about SIL Communication & Publications:

*Thomas: might need to scale back and thinks next board meeting we should have a proposal with a clear draft of priority. Website is key.*

*Genevieve and Michelle have already discussed many of these strategies and will circulate the work that has been previously done (SIL100, communication strategy, and SDG strategy draft).*

*Cecilia: Believes that reaching out to NGOs is key because they have many diverse skills, especially in communications.*

*Genevieve: Financing and devising a budget for the various committees needs a clear goal*

*Tamar (Thomas supports): communications and education committees are already in place since the Beijing2018. They are motivated people who may just be lacking leadership – they should be included. This is where the executive board comes in. Develop strategies alongside the committees and lead them to success.*

*Cecilia: unsure how to manage all the social media. Who is doing it now, how do they access it.*

- *Genevieve: you are taking over and the responsibility of these communication channels is now your charge. Role: each committee has already written their own mandates. They*

*are already clear on what they believe they are doing and you may modify it if you wish, but you need to consult with your committee and return to the board, you are not working alone (you have a full team behind you (committees + Michelle & Genevieve)*

- *Thomas: suggests new board members send their questions via email to cut the meeting short.*

### SIL Education:

*Angeles:* Provide a platform for young enthusiastic scientists to develop their skills and careers:

- Develop educational content
- Promote scientific careers
- Generate social awareness

**Develop visual or other types of material** explaining different methodologies (standard and/or novel ones). To recognize topics of interest, SIL's Ambassadors will be consulted. The website could be used as the main platform for this.

Open access courses teaching:

1. free software in different fields like statistics (*e.g.*, R courses) or reference managing,
2. statistical models in aquatic ecology,
3. techniques or technologies (*e.g.*, eDNA, data loggers and probes),
4. writing skills for submitting manuscripts or proposals.
  - Journal publication and submission process
  - Mental health: improve the relationships between supervisors & colleagues (*e.g.* imposter syndrome, etc) and integrate students into the scientific communities

**Scientific career:** monthly/bi-monthly webinars given by senior scientists of SIL. At the end of the talks, students can stay and have an honest discussion with the senior scientists about career goals, development of science, etc. This could also work alongside the mentorship program in place with Ines.

- SIL network of collaborators. build our own SIL network of collaborators (Martin Kainz' idea), identify global problems/threats/issues for inland waters and write several review or perspective papers, where students, ECRs and established limnologists will participate.
  - Coordination: Communication and Education, with potential participation of SIL Working Groups and Mentoring Program. This will build long term interaction and aid in career promotion in young students who find it difficult to build a network internationally.

**Social Awareness:** develop freely available educational material (videos, podcasts, texts) for primary and/or secondary students or a general audience highlighting the relevance of biodiversity conservation, inland water integrity and restoration, ecosystem services provided by wetland and different types of aquatic ecosystems.

- Proposed network through Working groups.

*Barbara:* Create a safe space for young researchers that are not directly science related. Perhaps creating a student network where students can simply come in and chat. Seminars about mental

health. English classes, working on their English together in a safe space and promoting getting to know each other ahead of the congress.

Open discussion about SIL Education:

*Thomas: thank you! I appreciate all the investments and ideas. The education committees conceptual vision needs to be taken into consideration and can be further developed within this framework. Next Board meeting come up with your proposal. Will we require a budget, or new volunteers, etc. We need to fuse old and new missions!*

*Genevieve: will send Angeles and Barbara the emails of the education committee chairs. Communication is Michelle because they do not currently have leadership in this committee and it needs to be taken over.*

*- Tamar suggests involving Veronica for the website communications*

## **5. Functioning of the SIL Board**

Next meeting early October. Michelle will send doodle once Thomas and Tamar schedule is worked out.

These times are ok for everyone.

- Geneviève & Michelle: Montreal (GMT -4) 08h00
- Ines & Maria de los Angeles: Argentina (GMT-3) 09h00
- Juan: Spain (GMT+2) 14h00
- Cécilia: France (GMT +2) 14h00 – Friday not good
- Thomas: Germany (GMT+2) 14h00
- Barbara: Hungary (GMT+2) 14h00
- Tamar: Israel (GMT+3) 15h00 – Friday is Weekend