



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Members of the NIAS Fellows' Association (NFA)

7 June, 2024, 3-4 p.m.
NIAS, Amsterdam, and online

List of attendees:

Philip Spinhoven
Emmanuel Berger
Alec Badenoch

Maria van Daalen

Dora
Aysenur Korkmaz

Marlous Willemsen
Jan Willem Duyvendak

Via Teams:

John Bauman

List of Proxies:

None

Meeting proper

Part 1: towards an independent legal entity for the NFA

1. Appointment of Chair and Secretary

Philip Spinhoven is appointed Chairperson of the meeting; Marlous Willemsen acts as its Secretary and will take minutes.

2. Opening of the meeting

The Chair welcomes all present in person, online and by proxy. The Chairperson refers those present in any way to the convocation-cum-agenda to this meeting, in which details and lists are given, and to which documents are attached, that are the object of voting under points 4-6.

3. Establishment of attendees present or represented at the meeting

The Chairperson requests all those attending in person to sign in by registering their names on the circulating list of attendees. The registration list is attached to these minutes. The Chairperson also explicitly requests those attending via Teams to state their names. Their names are listed above. The Chairperson finally gives and repeats the names of those attending by proxy. All proxies are given above.



- 4. Establishment of the Articles according to the draft of the Deed that was drawn up by Schut Notarissen BV in NL-Amsterdam, with reference number 2018S14542HD.OMZ, and that was submitted to all members of the NFA as per convocation to this meeting; approval of the contents of the Deed including the Articles of Association**

The Chairperson requests votes:

- against: none
- abstentions: none; thus:
- for: all

The Chairperson concludes: the Articles of Association as referred to in the caption to the current point on the agenda, are established.

- 5. Authorization of each Director of the Association and each civil law notary, junior civil law notary and notarial employee working at Schut Notarissen BV to execute the Deed**

The Chairperson requests such authorization:

- against: none
- abstentions: none; thus:
- for: all

The Chairperson concludes: the authorization referred to in the caption to the current point on the agenda, is given -- insofar as they are authorizations by Association Directors.

- 6. Confirmation of the current Board members and their titles**

The Chairperson requests such confirmation:

- confirmations: all; thus:
- abstentions: none
- denials: none

The Chairperson concludes: the confirmation referred to in the caption to the current point on the agenda, is given.

- 7. Dismissal of Philip Spinhoven as Board member of the Association with immediate effect**

Philip introduces his stepping down: he has been Chair to the NFA for the last seven years, during which NIAS moved to Amsterdam, and the world faced COVID. Due to the turbulence that resulted from both blows, Philip served for one additional year on top of his two terms. It is time to make room now for the next Chairperson and fresh impetus in the NFA. For one last time Philip invites votes:

- acceptance: all, with many thanks and applause; thus:
- abstentions: none
- denials: none

Philip Spinhoven has stepped down as the NFA Chair, but remains the Chair of the ongoing meeting.

- 8. Granting of discharge to Philip Spinhoven from liability in respect of the performance of his duties as Board member of the NFA. The scope of the discharge is limited to the facts that are apparent from the Association's annual account or are otherwise known to the general meeting**

Philip requests votes concerning the discharge as described in the caption of this point on the agenda:

- acceptance: all, with repeated thanks; thus:
- abstentions: none
- denials: none



Philip extends his thanks to all members of the NFA, his fellow Board members and the NIAS support staff for his time as Chair of the associated NIAS alumni.

9. Installation of the new NFA Chair

Philip announces that very soon, the Board of the NFA will send out to all members the candidacy of the prospective successor. Attached to the candidacy will be information on the formal installation procedure, which requires that we cannot now present the candidate.

Part 2: regular annual meeting of the NFA

10. Minutes of the two general meetings in 2023

All accept the draft minutes that are therefore finalized as drafted.

11. Financial report 2023; report of the Audit Committee

The Treasurer talks the attendees through the disseminated financial report of 2023. He requests the attention of all for the sky high banking costs. We will be able to reduce these as soon as we can apply our independent legal entity to open our own account with a cheaper bank. The Treasurer will do so as soon as this becomes legally possible. He also requests attention for the findings of the Audit Committee. This Committee has accepted the financial report as drawn up by the Board and disseminated to the members for this meeting. All attendees accept the 2023 financial report.

12. Appointment of a new Auditing Committee

The members of the 2023 Audit Committee have offered to stay on the Committee for another year. The members gratefully accept.

13. NFA Work Plan 2025-2028

The attendees are in agreement that the NFA should invest in more members and more revenues, both for the undertaking of the NFA itself and for the realization of an NFA Fellowship at NIAS. All present hope that the next Chairperson and Board, together with NIAS will find ways to increase income and support the opportunities for untied research that NFA members themselves once enjoyed at NIAS. It is noted that two different numbers are given for the membership increase ambition. The Board will make sure that all numbers add up. All present confirm that the Work Plan presents the way to move for the NFA.

14. Nature of NFA membership and determination of fee

Those present discuss the advantages and disadvantages of opting-in and opting-out strategies towards increasing membership. Opting-out is practical, but possibly also uncomfortable. In addition there are legal contraindications to a rigid opting-out strategy, and in particular to a default deduction of the membership fee from the stipend. The attendees agree on a polite as well as light version of an opting-out policy. The Board will produce such a policy at short notice, in order for NIAS to propose an updated NFA membership to the next cohort. All present also discuss the membership fee and decide that:

- as per 2024-2025 it is € 100,- for life and for all
- those who cannot afford, should be allowed to become a member for less or for free. This option should be generously communicated. The NFA is hesitant to work with set lists of income levels per country towards (partial) waivers, and should rather look into individual requests and circumstances



- to cover costs of (partial) waivers the NFA will request all (new) members to pledge funds to the amount of a second (third, ...) membership in addition to their own. The NFA should annually report on the balance between pledged adoptive memberships and actual memberships realized by this strategy of solidarity

Additional advice is given: invite fellows to become NFA members at the beginning of their time at NIAS. Taken! The Board will design an introduction of new fellows to the NFA as effective as possible.

15. Report by the Golestan Foundation (GF)

Luc Coffeng reports that, after a period of COVID and reorganisation, the GF has granted two Golestan Fellowships for 2024-2025, and is in the course of granting the 2025-2026 Golestan Fellowship. The Foundation's default mode is to fund one one-semester fellow at NIAS; the two fellowships of the coming academic year are an exception. The Foundation invites help towards recruiting candidates for the fellowships, as the thematic conditions made by the founder are, although topical, rather specific. They request projects at the crossroads of life sciences and SSH. Golestan has furthermore worked towards a caption to go with the garden that was transferred from the Wassenaar grounds to the courtyard of the current Fellows' House at Kloveniersburgwal.

16. This year at the NFA

Philip guides us through 2023:

- a. There was truly a great deal of work involved in the realization of the deed. Today was our fourth attempt to make it happen. So we are experienced; may that bear fruit.
- b. Follow-up to alumna Maria van Daalen's inquiries into the fate of the plaque that was applied to one of the Wassenaar buildings and presented a poem by her. The NFA will, in cooperation with NIAS staff, reprint the poem and permanently exhibit it in the NIAS office building. Maria thanks the NFA.
- c. The development of the idea of a buddy-system by NIAS alumni for NIAS fellows. Philip requests NFA members based in and around Amsterdam, to offer their support to colleagues who might be lonely or lost in the metropole or in bureaucracy.
- d. The development of a new Working Plan. Philip expresses his happiness about this plan having been adopted today.

17. This year at NIAS

Jan Willem guides us through 2023.

18. Questions and answers

Jan Willem takes the opportunity of this point in the agenda to materialize our thanks to Philip. He praises Philip's constructive and tenacious style, which were both crucial in order to get the deed done. The establishment of the NFA as a separate legal entity was surely slapstick-like! Jan Willem also realizes that Philip has accompanied us from Wassenaar to Amsterdam, and has been a steady factor all through the bumpy ride and landing that this move entailed. Philip is offered a big bouquet of organic and sustainably grown flowers.

One attendee enquires after the solidarity fund that was announced at the beginning of their current fellowship, and asks if this is the same as the solidarity strategy for NFA membership increase. NIAS staff answers that they are two separate things. Towards establishing a transparent solidarity plan for current fellows by current fellows, we face the same pace and problems from the part of the Academy, as the NFA has faced from the notary. So, there is not yet a sufficiently solid structure for solidarity among current fellows. But if speaker wishes to donate, we will find certainly a way!



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19. Any other matters

There are no other matters. It is thus in a spirit of solidarity and commitment to the NFA and NIAS that the meeting is closed.

Amsterdam, date:

Signed: