

**Approved Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SIGL Board, held on Sunday 7 April 2019  
18:00, Frederick Hendrikplein 2, The Hague, Netherlands.**

**Members present:** Glòria Pérez-Salmerón (SIGL Chair), Deborah Jacobs, Inga Lunden, Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General.

**Member absent:** Christine Mackenzie (excused)

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The Chair welcomed the Board and Secretary General. The Chair informed the Board that Christine Mackenzie won't be attending the SIGL or IFLA GB meetings due to a family emergency. The Board and Secretary General sent Christine their warm thoughts.

### **2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting on 9 December 2018**

The minutes were amended to include the decision that was made at the 9 December SIGL meeting that for flights that are four hours or more the SIGL Board, IFLA President and the Secretary General will be allowed to fly business class. That decision was approved unanimously. With this amendment the minutes were approved.

### **4. Resolutions agreed since the last meeting**

SIGL members reviewed the one resolution that was agreed upon via electronic communication since the last meeting. The resolution was:

- 17 December 2018: approval to add the position for Finance Director into the Joint-Account Agreement between IFLA and SIGL

### **5. Update SIGL Statutes**

The Secretary General and SIGL board member Jacobs are still working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's attorney and the Dutch attorney that the foundation hired to finalize all the changes that were talked about in the December SIGL meeting.

There are some minor changes being recommended by the Dutch attorneys in order to remain aligned with Dutch law that were discussed and agreed upon.

It is expected that SIGL board members will receive the final version for their adoption in May for their final approval.

### **6. Finances**

#### **6.1 Financial statements and management letter 2018**

The Board discussed the financial statement and the management letter. They appreciated the clarity of the documents and staff's continued high standard of financial reporting.

The SIGL Board accepted the Annual Financial report and the auditor's Management Letter. Members of SIGL requested that we take more time with the Management Letter and add it to the agenda for the SIGL board retreat that will be in the fall. With Global Libraries exit, SIGL members take seriously their responsibility for oversight and due diligence.

The Board also agreed that the surplus EUR 70,000 be added to Earmarked reserves.

## **6.2 Bank Accounts**

As discussed at the April 2018 and December 2018 SIGL meetings, in response to a recommendation from SIGL's 2017 audit, that IFLA and SIGL investigate the potential for using more than one bank, staff has continued investigating the situation.

The Secretary General shared that the IFLA Governing Board rejected the auditor's recommendation. The SIGL Board voted to follow IFLA and not follow this recommendation due to the reliability of the current bank.

## **6.3 Currency change**

In December the SIGL board approved allowing the Secretary General to exchange up to USD 6,000,000 from the Legacy Grant into EUR if the conversion rate is at least 1.13 (budget rate) and up to USD 900,000 from the Data Grant into EUR if the conversion rate is at least 1.191.

In February 2019 staff instructed the ABN-AMRO Bank to convert USD 1,000,000 when the exchange rate dropped to 1.0762, leading to a profit of 5%, or \$50,000.

The SIGL Board requested that in the future this item be moved in the agenda to "resolutions agreed upon since the last meeting.

## **6.4 Reduction of the duration of the 30% ruling from eight to five years**

There are SIGL staff members who were hired prior to the the unexpected Dutch government policy change. This sudden policy change of the Dutch Government will negatively impact SIGL staff members with contracts signed before June 2018. These staff members signed contracts and began their employment with a clear promise from the government as to the term length of the 30% tax rule. SIGL staff members who are recipient of this benefit have government documentation with a clear end date. Implementing his would greatly impact the financial situation for these staff.

For this reason the SIGL Board unanimously voted to approve the recommendation for additional compensation for the impacted staff.

## **7. Planning 2019**

The Secretary General opened the conversation with a reminder that the work plan for 2017-2019 was detailed in the grant agreement with BMGF. This roadmap guided SIGL's work.

In 2019, having gained considerable experience from the work undertaken, IFLA and SIGL will take this experience and knowledge and move IFLA from vision to strategy and then to implementation. This is in keeping with the three phases of the original agreement: Discover and Launch 2017-2018, Implement and Amplify 2019-2024 to Grow and Thrive 2024 - 2026.

SIGL members then discussed the potential for the future, in keeping with what has been learned from the Global Vision and the more thorough engagement of the professional units,

Governing Board and membership. The upcoming work to be undertaken by the GB to draft a Strategic Framework which will go to the Professional Units.

#### **8. Any other business**

The Board discussed a fall retreat to have the time to go more deeply into the planning for 2019 as well as discuss what SIGL should be focusing on for the next two years. The Board and Secretary General are tentatively holding September 28<sup>th</sup> until October 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be discussed further electronically and finalized as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 19:45.