

AFICS/NY GB 472

Minutes from the 472nd meeting of the Governing Board on Tuesday, 30 April at 10 am.

Present: Nicholas Alipui, Steve Avedon, Gail Bindley-Taylor, Suzanne Bishopric, Marianne Brzak-Metzler, Mac Chiulli, John Dietz, Nancy Hurtz-Soyka, Deborah Landey, Sudershan Narula, Andrew Nye, Edward Omotoso, Jay Pozenel, Linda Saputelli, Darshak Shah, Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Michael Zilberg.

Absent with notice: Alejandro Caruso, Andres Castellanos, Robin Dellarocca, Furio DeTomassi, Pilar Fuentes Conte, Jayant Karia, Judith Karl and Michelle Rockcliffe.

Agenda

- 1. Temporary Move**
- 2. Nominations for FAFICS elected positions**
- 3. Annual Assembly planning**
- 4. Any Other Business**

Adoption of Agenda

1. After several members joined, the meeting was confirmed as having a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection.

Temporary Move [1]

UNICEF House vs. UNITAR

2. President Darshak Shah explained that AFICS/NY has been offered rent-free space in UNICEF House, negotiated by USG Atul Karia. He noted that the move must occur by the end of May. In this connection several logistical issues remain unresolved which included the UN LAN connectivity in UNICEF House, furniture availability, conference room access, storage needs and Wi-Fi and phone forwarding.
3. Despite this uncertainty a packing day was scheduled for 12 May, with some 30 boxes estimated to be packed and moved to the DH Library.

4. Some members strongly questioned moving to UNICEF House, citing the longstanding UN Secretariat support, the better liaison with OHRM and the feeling that AFICS/NY was being pushed into moving to the UNICEF House when it really had not been fully discussed at the Governing Board. One member suggested leaving the final decision to the Bureau and Move Task Force, given their knowledge of operational needs.

Decision: The **Move Task Force** (Andy and Jay P.) will assess all options and return with a recommendation.

FAFICS (Federation) Elections – Nominations [2]

5. Darshak Shah announced that for the FAFICS Bureau there would be three positions open for election. They included the position of President, three Vice-Presidents, and one Treasurer. The deadline for receipt of nominations was 1 June 2026

FAFICS Vice President Nomination

- **Nancy Hurtz-Soyka** was unanimously supported for re-election as Vice President.

FAFICS President Nomination

6. Multiple members proposed Darshak Shah for President of FAFICS. It was felt that his deep UN system experience (Controller, UNDP leadership, ACABQ negotiations, strong pension and ASHI knowledge), as well as his leadership and political skills made him a strong candidate. It was also noted that he had already been selected as alternate for the Pension Plan Design Review Working Group.

7. However, there were some concerns raised as to the fact that the process felt rushed and there was a need to need to consider AFICS/NY 's workload if both President and VP came from NY.

Decision: There was consensus to nominate Darshak Shah for the position of President and Nancy Hurtz-Soyka for the position of Vice Pre

Annual Assembly Planning [3]

8. Nancy reported that there were a number of confirmed speakers including USGs Catherine Pollard (SG representative), Atul Kare as well as the President of FAFICS, Mr. Jerry Barton and Ms. Kirsi Madi of UNWOMEN and Ms. Pamela Agnone, CEO and President of UNFCU.

9. A separate Health Insurance Webinar was to be held on 21 May (10:30–12:30) sponsored by AFICS/NY and the Health and Life Insurance Section. By holding this webinar in advance of AFICS/NY's Annual Assembly many questions and answers would have been asked and answered, thus reducing the pressure of allowing sufficient time at the Annual Assembly to respond to questions.

10. It was also noted that UNFCU had requested a mid-programme slot to avoid last year's issues of insufficient time for UNFCU's presentation.

Any Other Business [4]

11. The Membership Committee was planning an Open House on 13 May which would coincide with the pre-retirement seminar that was being held by the Staff Associations of UN, UNICEF, UNDP, and UNFPA. The goal for the Open House was to recruit new members, especially younger staff. The Governing Board was requested to make all attempts to attend. There would also be a membership incentive for those that joined AFICS/NY if they joined during the Open House. The discount would be a 10% discount for anyone who became a life member during the Open House.

12. The AFICS/NY's Spring Luncheon was scheduled for 14 May to be held at Tony's Di Napoli and was being organized by Barbara Linardo. The late date for the Spring luncheon was due to the earlier winter weather and the uncertainty of the move.

13. It was acknowledged that several Board members would be completing their term, namely Nancy, Gail, Steve and Mac. A farewell lunch would be organized in June.

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