Science for Peace

Board of Directors Zoom Meeting

May 14, 2020

Minutes

Present: Rob Acheson, Janis Alton, Phyllis Creighton, Margrit Eichler (minute taker), Jim Deutsch, Judy Deutsch, Jorge Filmus, Paul Hamel, Ellie Kirzner, Melisa Kuc (EO), Bob Matthews, Sorpong Peou, Richard Sandbrook, Vladimir Zhagora,

Absent: Lyn Adamson, Bill Browett, Lloyd Helferty (due to technical problems), Jack Poulson, Venilla Rajaguru, Sergey Smolnikov, Adnan Zuberi

1. The agenda was approved.

2. The minutes were approved

3. Budget for 2020:
Rob reported that we are in a stable financial situation. However, the immediate concern is that we experience a monthly revenue shortfall of about $750. We need to expand our membership to make up for this. We have a list of 280 people who were, at some point, involved in Science for Peace and will send them a renewal letter. Our major expense is our Administrative Officer. Since at present we are not holding external events in person, there are no expenditures of this type (room rent, etc.). Rob will send the entire list of the 280 people to all Board members, if anyone knows someone personally or has updated contact information, please let Rob now. Members who are paid up will not receive a renewal letter.

4. Update on website:
Richard reported that our website is finally in good shape, but we do need more graphics to make it visually more appealing. He is asking that members who are also members of other organizations, such as Pugwash, send announcements to their lists. He suggested that we supply links of closely allied organizations and wondered whether this must be a mutual arrangement. He also plans to provide links to good articles.

5. Discussion of yearly forum:
Most of the meeting was dedicated to discussing our yearly forum. So far, we have had two fora, but we want to make it an annual tradition. We assume that the next one will be on Zoom. This will allow us to invite speakers from across the world. Possible topics: Richard suggested peacekeeping in a time of pandemics, Sorpong peacebuilding and peacekeeping, Judy the UN, Janis abolition of war. Janis will send us the reference to a new book on this topic – we might invite one
of the authors. Vladimir suggested the topic of how the pandemic affects peace building, given that all meetings are electronic and some actions are suspended due to lack of resources. Sorpong made the point that the impact of Covid 19 on peacebuilding is not an international, but an interstate phenomenon. Bob thought it might be good to look at the World Health Organization.

6. Writing blogs/position papers:
   Richard encouraged all Board members to submit a blog or position paper.

7. AGM:
   The meeting will be electronic. After considerable discussion we decided that our planned panel on peacebuilding will take place at the AGM, preceding the administrative part. We will invite everyone, but at the AGM only members can vote. The date is June 26, from 6-8. Following this will be a short Board meeting to elect the new Officers – comment from Minute taker.

8. Other business:
   Richard stated that most Working Groups do not work. Instead, we should have commissions dealing with specific issues. Sorpong suggested that all future meetings be held via Zoom.