



NFOG General Assembly August 29, 2023 minutes

Date: August 29

Place: Trondheim

Present:

NFOG board: Oskari Heikinheimo (President), Kristina Renault (Treasurer), Sebastian Gidlöf (Secretary General), Lise Lotte Torvin Andersen (DSOG), Aðalbjörg Björgvinsdóttir (FÍFK), Christer Borgfeldt (SFOG), Hannele Laivuori (SGY), Ragnar Sande (NGF), Terhi Piltonen (Scientific Committee), Lars Ladfors (Webmaster), Ganesh Acharya (AOGS), Arushma Imran Naqash (NFYOG), Marjo Tuppurainen, Niels Uldbjerg (NFOG Textbook), Pepe Salvesen (Congress President, NFOG Trondheim 2023), and Inger Sundström-Poromaa (Congress President, NFOG Uppsala 2023).

Delegates: DSOG, Denmark (4 votes): Mette Fabricius (2 votes), Marie Sjøgaard (2 votes). SFOG, Sweden (7 votes): Marion Ek (7 votes). SGY, Finland (4 votes): Marit Niinimäki, Päivi Polo, Ilka Kalliala, Marjo Tuppurainen. NGF, Norway (5 votes): Yngvild Skåtun Hannestad, Kirsten Hald, Kjell Å. "Pepe" Salvesen, Agnethe Lund and Marit Halonen Christiansen. FÍFK, Iceland (1 vote): Sigurlaug Benediktsdóttir.

Internal auditors: Thea Lousen and Espen Berner.

The General assembly is open to all members of NFOG. There were 37 members (including the board) present at the meeting.

1. Opening

Oskari Heikinheimo opened the General assembly (GA).

2. Delegate call roll and agenda

Oskari Heikinheimo was proposed and elected as chair of the General Assembly. Arushma Imran Naqash and Marjo Tuppurainen were proposed and elected for checking the minutes of the General Assembly. The invitation and agenda were approved.

3. Board report from 2021 and 2022

Oskari Heikinheimo reported the most important activities of the board during 2021 and 2022. Two committees have been discharged due to low activity, the Educational Committee and the Guidelines' Committee. AOGS has made a transition into Open Access in 2022. The NFOG Textbook was completed and published in 2022. In addition, the NFOG board have been carrying out the routine activities of the federation.

4. NFOG committee reports

- 4.1. Scientific committee: Terhi Piltonen has taken over the chair in the committee after Inger Sundström Poromaa. The General Assembly was presented the work of the committee by Terhi Piltonen. The total sum of grants from the NFOG fund had increased in the last two years after a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic. The average acceptance rate of applications to the NFOG fund is 80%. The rules and priorities of the NFOG fund were emphasized to the General Assembly.
- 4.2. NFOG Textbook: Niels Uldbjerg provided the report from the NFOG Textbook committee. Since the NFOG Textbook was approved 5 years ago the book has been completed and published in 2022. The number of times chapters have been opened has increased steadily. In addition to electronic book chapter, the committee has also published 635 multiple choice questions.



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5. Financial report

Kristina Renault provided the financial report. The final accounts for 2021 and 2022 have been approved by both the external and internal auditors. The report is available at the NFOG website.

In 2021, the income from AOGS, was higher than expected whereas the income in 2022, as an expected consequence of the transition to full Open Access was considerably lower. Due to negative interest rates and value adjustment of bonds, NFOG had financial expenses both in 2021 and 2022, and the expenses in 2022 were even higher than in 2021. The operating result was DKK 1.298.619 in 2021 and DKK –323.513 in 2022, and taken together, the total result of 2021 was DKK 881.453 and in 2022 it was DKK –1.539.611. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly in 2021, the entire positive result in 2021 was transferred to the NFOG fund whereas no surplus could be transferred in 2022.

The total assets of the NFOG fund have been growing up to 2021. However, its closing balance reduced in 2022. The total sum of equity and liabilities reduced from DKK 15.677.394 in 2021 to DKK 13.753.867 in 2022.

The General Assembly approved of the financial report and that 100% of the surplus will be transferred to the NFOG fund in 2024 and 2025.

6. Auditors' report

The report from the external and internal auditors were reviewed.

7. Discharge of liability

The General Assembly granted the NFOG Board discharge of liability.

8. Budget and annual fee for 2024 and 2025

Kristina Renault presented the board proposal for the budget of 2024 and 2025 with a planned deficit of DKK –379.000 in 2024 and DKK –646.500 in 2025. The board suggest keeping the membership fees at the same level as the last decades, DKK 250 per individual member. Since two committees have been closed, the proposed budget includes decreased expenses accordingly. Further major changes from the budget of 2022 and 2023 to the budget of 2024 and 2025 includes (i) reducing the budget for activities related to FIGO and EBCOG activities from DKK 100.000 per year to DKK 0 in both 2024 and 2025, (ii) reducing the budgeted cost for NFOG board meetings from DKK 330.000 to DKK 300.000 per year, and (iii) reducing the budgeted cost for NFOG board initiative from DKK 300.000 to DKK 200.000 DKK.

The proposed budget was approved by the General Assembly and the annual membership fees.

9. Elections

9.1. Alexander Smárason was elected chairman for a period of two years.

9.2. Vasilis Sitras was elected treasurer for a period of four years, starting from January 1, 2024.

9.3. Kristina Renault and Espen Berner were elected internal auditors for the next period of administration

9.4. Aaen & co accountant firm in Copenhagen was elected to continue as authorized public accountant.

10. Next NFOG congress

Inger Sundström-Poromaa presented Uppsala as the host for the upcoming NFOG 2025 meeting.



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11. NFOG congress 2027

The congress in 2027 will be held in Finland. The General Assembly approved that Finland will suggest host city and local president at the NFOG board meeting in the spring of 2024 and allows the NFOG board to finally decide to approve the upcoming suggestion.

12. AOGS

Ganesh Acharya gave the AOGS report. Both Sweden and Denmark will have to appoint one new associate editor each in 2024 through advertisement. There has been a slight reduction of submissions from about 100 to 80 per month after the flip to Open Access. The impact factor for 2022 is 4.3. All abstracts from the NFOG 2023 congress will be published in a supplementary issue of AOGS.

13. Website

Lars Ladfors gave the report of the website and informed that he will be sending out information through emails to all eligible members. Lars will also work with summarizing the history of NFOG and publish it on the NFOG website.

14. Other business

Oskari Heikinheimo and Kristina Renault were both thanked for their time serving as chairman and Treasurer of NFOG with a round of applause.

15. Closing the meeting

Oskari Heikinheimo closed the meeting.

Trondheim August 29, 2023

In witness there of:

Sebastian Gidlöf
NFOG Secretary General

Oskari Heikinheimo
Chair of the General Assembly

Arushma Imran Naqash
Checker of the Minutes

Marjo Tuppurainen
Checkers of the Minutes