



## SFDN General Assembly 2024

The 23<sup>rd</sup> SFDN Annual General Assembly was held on June 5, 2024 at the University of Zürich and online via Zoom. Some of the online participants participated directly from the ongoing 2024 ICED conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Meeting	The 23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual General Assembly
Time and place	June 5, 2024 at 16:00 at the University of Zürich
Present	Ruth Puhr, president Karin Brown, member-at-large Marika Fenley, vice-president Ivan Istomin, auditor Sara Petchey, member UZH
Online	Iris Capdevila, general secretary Cécile Hardebolle, member EPFL Siara Isaac, treasurer Joelyn de Lima, member EPFL Laura Ziska, member EHL
Excused	Ariane Dumont, former president
Pages	4

*\*Prior to the GA, the agenda, treasurers report and Annual report were posted on the SFDN website.*

### 1. Agenda

Ruth Puhr shared the agenda, which was approved by attendees.

1. Approval of the agenda for the GA 2024
2. Minutes from the GA 2023

3. *SFDN Annual Report 2023-2024*
4. *Treasurer's Report 2023-2024*
5. *Budget 2024-2025*
6. *ICED Update*
7. *Words from SFDN President*
8. *Election of SFDN Board Members*
9. *Special Interest Groups (SIGs)*
10. *SFDN activities and events for 2024-2025*
11. *Next GA: June 2025*

## **2. Minutes of the meeting General Assembly 2023**

The minutes from the 2023 General Assembly were approved by attendees.

## **3. SFDN Annual Report**

The president summarized the SFDN Annual Report:

- a. The membership numbers as of April 30, 2024: 10 institutional members (-1 compared to 2023)
- b. Presentation of the current board and that Siara Isaac is stepping down as treasurer in September 2024.
- c. Activities of the board:
  - Ad hoc website posts throughout the year.
  - A monthly newsletter was sent to all members.
  - The board regularly met online once a month.
  - A new member, Karin Brown was integrated into the Board.
  - The SFDN Conference was held in Bern in November.
- d. A review of the 2022-23 programme of activities: 2 webinars and 2 events (189 registrations, 103 participants in total)
- e. SIG in Engineering education (6 meetings)

The annual report was approved by attendees.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

Ruth presented the treasurer's report, highlighting a discrepancy between budgeted and actual event expenses. She noted that the overall spending was less than predicted due to cancelled events. Ivan Istomin, auditor, confirmed having no issues with the treasurer's report. Ivan also suggested that we spend more of the budget. He underlined the importance of mentioning SFDN on bills and invoices.

The treasurer's report was approved by attendees.

## **5. Budget Review**

Ruth presented the current budget, highlighting that they had been spending less on website maintenance than originally budgeted and planned extra expenses for the coming year, particularly an event in Switzerland in connection with Ariane's new role as President of ICED.

The budget for 2024-2025 was approved by attendees.

## **6. ICED update**

The latest news from ICED is that Ariane Dumont, former President of SFDN has been elected President of ICED having previously served as ICED Treasurer and Vice-President.

Iris, Joelyn and Siara shared their experiences and observations at the ICED conference in Kenya. They noted that while the presentations were generally good, the workshops were often not great, and more like long presentations and, additionally, with some presenters struggling to engage with remote participants due to technology issues. Joelyn expressed sympathy for presenters struggling with technology issues, and Ruth agreed, noting that such issues can occur with large-scale events. Despite these challenges, the in-person interactions and one-on-one discussions were valuable and enjoyable. The online participants in Zürich were also enthusiastic about the paper presentations, despite some issues with timing and the problem with some presenters having to switch sessions in the middle to present in another parallel session.

## **7. Words from the president**

Ruth expresses that she is both proud and frustrated. Proud of what the current board has achieved and how well we work together. Frustrated because of difficulty to reach and engage with our members. We do not seem to be able to offer our members what they want and need at the moment. The team present in Zürich has brainstormed ideas for how we can improve this and we are determined to do better going forward.

The SFDN conference in November was a great success and a great opportunity to interact with members.

## **8. Election of board members**

Participants approved the board members via the zoom chat

### **Board position and candidates:**

President: Ruth Puhr (Les Roches)

Vice President: Marika Fenley (UniNE)

General Secretary: Iris Capdevila (EPFL)

Treasurer: Sara Petchey (UZH) – *new member to replace Siara Isaac who is stepping down*

Member-at-Large: Karin Brown (ETHZ)

Ariane Dumont (HES-SO & ICED President)

### **Officer candidate:**

Auditor: Ivan Istomin

## **9. Special interest groups SIG Engineering Education Group Update**

Cécile reported on the active SIG engineering education group which has been organizing community sessions every two months with varying audience sizes. The next session was

announced for the 5th of July. Cécile also mentioned the need to find people to continue the group's activities, as she and Siara will be leaving for extended periods. Joelyn suggested that it would be beneficial to involve more non-EPFL members and proposed a summer hiatus with activities to resume in the fall. Ruth pointed out that currently, only the engineering education group is active, with the other groups seeming to have dissipated.

- **Shared Resource Bank and SIG Ideas**

Ruth proposed the idea of creating a shared resource bank for the community, which could potentially lead to the generation of a SIG.

- **SoTL SIG**

The idea of a SoTL SIG was discussed. Related to the conference organized by Laura Ziska each year at EHL.

- **AI Special Interest Group and Outreach**

The potential for developing an AI special interest group (SIG) was discussed in response to the growing interest and demand in the field. Karin and Ruth will pilot this initiative.

## **10. SFDN activities and events for 2024-2025**

The following points were discussed:

- New treasurer integration
- Event to mark the ICED Presidency of Ariane Dumont
- Action needed to enhance community engagement and participation
- Call for site visits / webinars / SIGs

## **11. The next General Assembly**

- a. Date and Time to be confirmed and communicated on the website and via email to all members at least a month in advance.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 16h40.

Minutes submitted by SFDN vice-president, Marika Fenley.