

The Minutes of the General Assembly 2007

September 15th, 2007, 09.00-19.20 hours

Hotel ILF – Prague – Czech Republic

Michael Kuchera DO FAO, Secretary-General

Item 1

The 41st FIMM General Assembly was opened by President von Heymann at 9:20 am to be conducted as outlined in the pre-published agenda.

a. **Attending Officers:**

President Wolfgang von Heymann; Secretary-General Michael Kuchera; Treasurer Viktor Dvorak; Health-Policy Board Director (and Vice-President) Bernard Terrier; Communication Officer Michel Dedée; Member-at-Large Sergei Nikonov; Education Board Director Glen Gorm Rasmussen; FIMM Academy Director Michael Hutson

b. **Attending National Societies and their Delegate(s):**

- *Australia – Representation by New Zealand delegate (voice but no vote)*
- Belgium: Michel Dedée
- Bulgaria: Ilija Todoroff
- Canada: Craig Appleyard
- Czech Republic: Vlasta Tosnerová
- Denmark: Alan Gravesen
- Finland: Olavi Airaksinen
- France: Marie-José Teyssandier
- *Germany: Dieter Heimann (voice but no vote)*
- Italy – Representation by French delegate (letter for both voice and vote)
- Japan: Kazuyoshi Sumita
- Kazakhstan: N. Krasnoyarova
- Netherlands: Sjef Rutte
- New Zealand: James Watt
- Poland: Jiri Stodolny
- Russian Federation: Sergei Nikonov
- *Slovak Republic: Luba Soforva (voice but no vote)*
- Spain: Victoria Sotos Borrás
- Switzerland: Marc-Henri Gauchat
- United Kingdom: Usamah Jannoun
- *United States of America: Michael Kuchera (voice but no vote)*

Article 8 of the FIMM Statutes was noted: *The right of voting is limited to the members who have paid their membership fee for the running year. Delegates with voice but no vote (because their National Societies' dues promised in 2006 have not yet been received-in-full) include: Austria (ÖÄMM President, Hans Tilscher, specifically noted by letter that they would send no dues or representative for 2007); Germany (DGMM paid only half of their fee in 2007; discussions*

may be initiated within their National Society components regarding their commitment to this debt depending upon this General Assembly); Slovak Republic (Fiscal difficulties continue); USA (Fiscal difficulties arose unexpectedly in 2007; the Americans hope to be able to make 2007 payments in 2008 in addition to their 2008 commitment).

c. **Apologies:**

Austria (by letter from Hans Tilscher)
Australia (by letter from Norman Broadhurst with report)
Estonia (by email from Leili Lepik)
Hungary (by e-mail from Gabor Ormos)
Italy (by email from Massimiliano Cossu with assignment of vote to Marie-José Teyssandier)

d. **Absents:**

(No answer to E-mail, Surface Mail or Recommended Letter in 2007): Greece; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxemburg; Portugal; South Korea

e. **Counters:**

Representatives from Denmark and Netherlands were elected to count votes for this GA.

Item 2

Presentation of the representatives of the National Societies (limited to 4 minutes):

Thanks were officially extended to the Russian League for hosting the FIMM General Assembly last year and for the Czech Society for having us in their country this year.

- a. Each country reported on their number of active members as well as a variety of educational and project activities unique to their society. Most noted the existing or evolving status of manual medicine in their countries; many noted difficulties in gaining recognition, reimbursement, or new members. A problem for several countries has been the fiscal reality of declining memberships and declining attendance numbers at their educational programs.
- b. A few selected highlights of interest from the National Society reports include:
 - In Australia, specialist recognition by the Federal Government met with repeated failure despite the evidence that musculoskeletal management can be cost effective.

New Zealand has been successful in obtaining specialist status (one criterion being the completion of a University Diploma in Musculoskeletal Medicine). A pathway increasing in popularity allows specialists in Rehabilitation Medicine to practice solely in musculoskeletal medicine.

- Czech Republic and Poland both reported their respective recognition of Karl Lewit, his contributions, and his influence on manual medicine. Finland noted the recognition of Karl August-Lindgren in his 2007 educational awards.
- Several National Societies reported on collaborative outreach with other national manual medicine societies or developing countries. Those countries working closely together include: New Zealand/Australia; Czech Republic/Slovak Republic; Finland/Estonia; Spain/Portugal; and Bulgaria/Turkey.
- Education in manual medicine extends across international boundaries: Flinders University Diploma in musculoskeletal medicine has accepted candidates from S.E. Asia. Faculty from the USA has been contracted by component societies in Germany and Austria to provide osteopathic manipulative medicine training for their manual medicine practitioners wishing additional education and diplomas in that approach.
- Denmark reported a very successful (albeit expensive) promotional activity that increased their membership by 850 members. This was achieved by inviting (with no conference fee) 4000 GPs to a Friday conference on low back pain and a Saturday hands-on session.
- France and Belgium each reported on the difficulties presented to manual medicine physicians as a consequence of growing recognition and regulation of non-physician osteopaths in their countries. This was also mentioned as a possible cause for decreased attendance in the French-language Swiss manual medicine courses. A special presentation of Resolution 1206 concerning non-conventional practitioners treating functional problems without referral | certain situations was provided by M. J. Teyssandier.
- The Swiss presented their synopsis of the rationale and need for cancelling as host of the 2007 FIMM Triennial Scientific and Educational Congress. They noted the fiscal difficulties encountered by the two prior Congresses. Their Congress organizer was predicting a loss totaling up to 50,000 Euro.
- There was some open National Society discussion of the perceived concerns of individual leaders within Austria and Germany

(following a letter from the president of the Austrian National Society and a presentation from the president of the German National Society). In particular, several FIMM officers and several National delegates related the attempts made by FIMM, FIMM officers, FIMM Academy, and involved countries to satisfy the real or perceived issues of these two countries. In response to Germany's concern that the output of FIMM in 2007 was less than promised, the Executive Board noted that their failure to provide even a portion of their dues until near the end of the year was a major reason that activities needed to be restricted and that the Executive Board was required this year to consider adjusting future dues and income options.

Item 3

Matters arising from the minutes of the last General Assembly (Moscow, Russia) 2006:

See distributed General Assembly Red Book. (The minutes of the General Assembly 2006 in Moscow as distributed to National Representatives are downloadable from the FIMM web site by going to www.fimm-online.com and then General Assemblies and then 2006. (Or see the French or German sections of the web site.) No further action arose from this agenda item. Minutes were accepted as published.

Item 4

Report from the President (W. von Heymann):

Thanks were extended to the FIMM officers by the president. The President's Report had been published in advance (FIMM-News 16(1):14-16. A hard copy was distributed to all GA delegates (see www.fimm-online.com/pub/en/data/objects/fimm_news_2007_1.pdf). A live summary was presented by the president who also remarked that the financial situation of FIMM became even tighter with information about the unexpected missing membership fees that had been promised previously by Germany and typically were paid at this time of the year by the USA. He noted that the GA would need to discuss this fiscal problem later in the meeting and will have to decide on some propositions prepared by the Executive Board.

Note that an additional letter entitled the "Future of FIMM" represents the perspective of the President as an individual. It was disseminated in advance by the president but only mentioned in his GA presentation. *FIMM and its future path – 2007* were published in English, French and German in

the FIMM NEWS vol. 16 no. 2 (see www.fimm-online.com/pub/en/data/objects/fimm_news_2007_2.pdf).

The president's report was accepted by the General Assembly.

Item 5

Report from the Secretary-General (M. Kuchera):

The Report of the Secretary-General was published in advance (www.fimm-online.com) and a hard copy was distributed to all Delegates. He noted that the *FIMM News Bulletin* was designed to provide ongoing and timely outreach from FIMM, to showcase relevant activities of the National Societies, and to provide information about books/courses to create synergy within the Federation. See: www.fimm-online.com/pub/en/index.cfm?u=4D5F040A03747E720109790709050903090579077F720F08048. In particular, he highlighted two requests to National Members to improve communication: (1) Routinely review the FIMM website for the names and addresses of your representatives and communicate changes. (2) Send a notice when wishing to publicize or summarize a meeting; when a new Manual Medicine text is published; or to write letters of concern or comment. This is especially true for items relevant to Health Policy issues in your country.

The Report of the Secretary-General was accepted.

Item 6

Report from the Treasurer (V. Dvorak):

See *FIMM News* (August 2007) for complete report; also see item #10 below.

The Treasurer began by referring to his pre-published Report and remarked that as the Report indicates, FIMM must describe a deficit for 2007. He noted that this unfortunately sends a negative message and a not fully accurate impression. In way of preface, he noted that the budget that FIMM has accepted over the years as an international group is already very low and therefore when membership dues are not paid as promised the situation becomes desperate.

- The fiscal deficit began in 2003 - 2004. Deficits resulted from several one-time costs including investing in the FIMM website, the good faith support in subsidizing the FIMM Congress loss in Bratislava, and the need for FIMM to cover costs incurred by delegates abusing charging privileges with regard to hotel rooms and incidentals and then not paying these.
- The ability for FIMM to cover some of these costs was made possible with a loan several

years ago from FIMM's Swiss National Society member. FIMM has also used bond reserves (€ 4330) and monies from the FIMM Foundation (€ 6920). Activities have also been possible in the past six years because FIMM officers have secured special sponsorship for political (Terrier) and teaching/glossary (Kuchera) activities.

- FIMM finally achieved a positive annual balance for 2006 (over € 6000 income over expenditure) by dramatically limiting expenses, but again acquired debt for 2007 due to failure of several National Societies to remit their promised membership dues. The 2007 budget (if National Societies had honored their commitments) would have finished paying back the SAMM loan and would have allowed FIMM to move forward again past its debts.
- A special meeting of the Executive Board was held in July 2007 to discuss the Federation's financial problems in detail and to suggest new fiscal structures and solutions.
- Increasing annual fees were a major consideration but in the end the Executive Board did not decide to recommend a required dues increase this year. However it emphasizes that the General Assembly needs to discuss practical solutions and/or a unique contribution to get budget in balance

The Treasurer also extrapolated from his published report and answered questions to illustrate points:

- FIMM is non-profit and depends on annual fees (national society of € 135 with € 3.50 per member (n=13,000 members). This pays for both FIMM administration and projects. In the past decade, FIMM proposed and/or initiated increased activities with respect to policy, education, and science resulting in the *FIMM Core Curriculum*, *FIMM Glossary*, printed Science Committee documents, an *Instructional Course*, as well as the requisite meetings of the boards and committees, translation costs; and establishment / maintenance of the FIMM website.
- The distribution of the budget was to be as follows: 23% Executive Board; 17% Administration; General Assembly / FIMM website; 17%; Education Board 13%; and FIMM Academy 27%. (Note that the FIMM Academy often receives delayed or reduced funding compared to that promised, and is a declining expense that resulted in savings compared to the cost of the FIMM Scientific Committee whose function the FIMM Academy replaces.)
- From a different accounting perspective:
 - FIXED EXPENSES of FIMM are € 1.50-1.60/member (40-45% of the budget)
 - VARIABLE EXPENSES of FIMM are € 1.90 – 2.10/member (55-60% of the budget for the

FIMM Academy, Education Board, and General Assembly).

Just as FIMM started to move forward a number of problems arose; if they are not addressed for the future, problems will continue to exist. The Treasurer therefore noted the following that must be addressed:

- An ongoing budgetary issue has been the fact that we have National Societies that are annual debtors (several have not paid anything to FIMM for several years) or who pay outside of the budgeted year. This amounts to an immediate and predictable budgetary difference between projected and actual dues income of about € 4000 Euro per year.
- For 2007, the major problem has been that recent fiscal problems or political posturing have simultaneously involved several National Societies as described in Agenda item #2. While in most cases these problems have different reasons and some may only result in a one-time dues payment issue, the fact is that simultaneously a major default hit the income side of the 2007 FIMM budget.
- Lastly, FIMM's use of a "fiscal year" running from January - December creates a problem for several National Societies to approve and pay FIMM dues on time in early January or to adopt any fiscal recommendations that the General Assembly might propose or adopt.

The General Assembly voted to accept the Treasurer's Report. (*Agree 15; Against 0; Abstain 0*) Budget discussions and more discussion of the financial situation and strategies follow in Agenda Item #10.

Item 7

Report from the Auditors:

Niels Jensen (Denmark) and Prof. Todor Todoroff (Bulgaria): Jensen reported on the accuracy of the financial books and Todoroff agreed. This report was accepted by the General Assembly.

Item 8

Election of the Auditors:

Re-election unanimously of Jensen (Denmark) and Todoroff (Bulgaria).

Item 9

Report from the Director of the Health Policy Board (Terrier):

Thanks were extended by the Health Policy Director to the Czech National Society and to "Prague," noting that while this was the first report of the Health Policy Board (HPB), new directions for FIMM have often been introduced in Prague. The Health Policy Board was proposed in 2005 and ratified in 2006, the elected Health Policy Director, Bernard Terrier, was given a charge to constitute the body of the Board for ratification by the GA this year. See content of the President's presentation as published in the *FIMM News* (August).

Proposed basic objectives for the HPB:

In the recently introduced "triangle of FIMM activity", Science defines Evidence-Based Medicine, Education teaches it, and the Health Science implements it into care. The specific tasks of the Health Policy Board to accomplish their role have yet to be defined. With input from the Executive Board, consideration has been extended to develop an accepted definition of Manual Medicine (MM) with the World Health Organization (WHO) and to work with the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) to try to establish MM as a specialty in Europe. The proposed basic objectives for the HPB (if passed, these will be published):

1. Defend the professional status of MM internationally
2. Encourage bonds between MM and other organizations
3. Contribute to the solidarity of MM specialists
4. Collaborate with global and national Health Policy stakeholders/leaders
5. Exchanges of medico-political information concerning Manual / Musculoskeletal Medicine

HPB Proposed Action Plan:

➤ **WHO project**

(The WHO Team would provide feedback to Executive Board and to the General Assembly prior to the WHO consultation process)

1. Help develop/shape a Consensus Document for WHO: "Basic Training and Safety on Manual Medicine"
 - It is anticipated that it will take two years to develop the content and document support needed within our FIMM/National Society group
 - In the third year, the HPB would recommend considering a Pre-WHO Consultation. The cost for this is estimated to be about 70,000 Euro.

- The above would target a 2010 WHO Consultation date. (The WHO Consult takes 2-4 years with little FIMM control concerning this).
 - At the end, feedback would be requested from FIMM (and others) to shape the 4th or final WHO version of this document.
2. The process will require that FIMM work on:
- the wording and evidence-base for guidelines on safety;
 - training guidelines (training-retraining-continuity etc);
 - indications and contraindication guidelines for MM;
 - the *FIMM Glossary* (annually updated).
3. HPB meetings and funding issues:
- Proposed HPB meetings: Meet in Prague with FIMM Academy in May 2008 → Meet in Varna with 2008 GA → Meet in Prague with FIMM Academy (Summer 2009) → Meet with the 2009 GA
 - Comments were made regarding outside funding:
 - a. National Societies will need to be involved in securing funding. At this General Assembly, Germany's DGMM, Denmark, Russia and the USA expressed potential interest in helping to find financial (and other) resources.
 - b. Other considerations included governments or a shared consultation. This was/is the status with the funding for the chiropractic and manual therapies documents.
 - c. The latter option of a shared consultation is less expensive but can significantly delay the process.
4. The proposed WHO Team needs to be discussed and approved at end of this report.

➤ **UEMS project**

(European Union of Medical Specialists): The UEMS Team would include experienced representatives and would develop over the next 3 years. It would try to "mirror" the EU map in its make-up.

1. Specialty status attempts to date have failed: This requires that 1/3 of all countries in the EU have the designated specialty. It requires exclusive practice by competent specialists with panels of examiners in that discipline and that the specialty be practiced in institutions with the capability to act as training

centres controlled by experienced directors.

2. In this regard, Germany has reached "Observer status" only.
3. High benchmarks mean that specialty status cannot be an immediate goal -- if they can ever be met.

Alternative goals:

1. Look to establish MM practitioners as unique specialists
2. Establish MM physicians as sub-specialists first and look at encouraging a possible UEMS by-laws change so that the "observer status" is recognized by these UEMS bylaws
3. 23/33 national societies are European and the non-EU societies are asked to support the process
4. Comments: Teyssandier noted that a University Diploma was also needed to be recognized
5. Comments: Kuchera noted that assistance could come from those non-EU countries that have MM Specialty Status and/or are in the process of developing same. Such could benefit the EU process by outlining pathways, successes, failures, and strategies for the future and by providing a precedent to share with health policy leaders in Europe.
6. A questionnaire from the President of FIMM was sent with scant feedback (request to RSVP when questionnaire comes back)

➤ **Archives of Health Policy Issues:**

Medico-political issues are important and will be placed in the monthly *FIMM News Bulletin* and archived in downloadable format (because the issues can be seen by public, all material will be selected by Director of HPB working with the Secretary-General). This process will start as soon as the concept and HP plan are ratified by the GA.

Team Member Appointments for the Health Policy Board

- **FULL members** will be invited to all meetings and receive all papers. They vote on everything and will serve on one or more working groups. Terrier proposed a slate for full members of HPB WHO team and a slate for HPB UEMS team to be confirmed after discussion
- **ASSOCIATE members** are welcome to all meetings but their attendance is not required nor paid by FIMM. They will get all documents and the opportunity to comment, but they have

no vote. Terrier presented a slate of ADVISORY MEMBERS and Olavi Airaksinen (Finland) was nominated from the floor.

➤ **Comments from GA members** concerning the slate, constituency, and function of the proposed members:

1. It was pointed out that the 3 groups need to have coordination and interactions with one-another.
2. Concern was expressed that many of the proposed members are from countries that have not paid their share of their dues.
3. Several voiced discontent that it might be perceived that placing some names grants legitimacy to these people's/societies' actions. This was met with reassurances from the German societal president, Dieter Heimann, that DGMM may reconsider its payment. He needed to verify what had been the source of information that DGMM acted upon.
4. Terrier noted that the HPB members were selected for their qualifications as individuals rather than which country paid or not; he noted that he would take even a person who is not a physician in a FIMM society. (This is similar to the case in which Stefan Blomberg was a strong and supportive member of the FIMM Scientific Committee even when his society discontinued their FIMM membership.)
5. Concern was expressed that the HPB does not seem "international enough" (most are German for example) and that therefore any HPB votes would not be represented so widely.
6. It was pointed out that the website was used to ask for members (but only two applications were secured in this manner).
7. It was noted too that the HPB will make extensive use of its advisory members.
8. There was a strong encouragement that delegates and others attempt to identify additional connections (past UEMS delegates, MM physicians that treat health ministers, etc)
9. **Motion to delay:** It was moved (Hutson with second) to delay the voting for the Health Policy concept and membership until after the discussion of the FIMM finances (*Passed 1:0 with rest abstaining so the President moved on with the agenda*).

Discussion and voting regarding HPB concepts and HPB members

1. After discussing Item 10 below (FIMM Finances, Structure, Function, and Strategy), the General Assembly returned to this line item.
2. **Motion to delay:** After discussing Item 10 below thoroughly, Hutson moved to vote to delay discussion and voting for the Health Policy concepts and members a second time (*Vote to delay 1; to continue to discuss 14; to abstain 1; so the President continued with HPB issues and membership*)
3. **Motion concerning the WHO Project:** It was moved that FIMM and its Health Policy Board should progress towards preparing the WHO Project as described in the published version and to ask for sponsorship (because only with sponsors can this project move fully forward). The document will be about 50 pages and it needs to consist of consensus gained over a two year process with continued communication to presidents and feedback returned from all National Societies. Unfortunately because of the need to be representative with significant National Society buy-in, even with sponsorship it probably cannot go faster than this, however without sponsorship, it could go much slower. Heimann (Germany) went on record nonetheless as wishing it to go faster. The VOTE to go forward with this part of the plan passed unanimously. (16:0:0)
4. **Motion concerning the UEMS Project:** It was moved that FIMM and its Health Policy Board work towards a European understanding of manual medicine and towards gaining the highest European status attainable. Motion passed. (12:1:3 = 12 "yes" with 3 "abstentions" and 1 "no" vote)
5. **Motions concerning Membership on the Health Policy Teams:**
 - a. **Full HPB members for the WHO Team** were confirmed unanimously: Bernard Terrier (Swiss)*, Massimiliano Cossu (Italy), Peter Skew (UK), Victorio Sotos-Borras (Spain); Kanuyoshi Sumita (Japan); Dmitri Teterin (Russian Federation); Vlasta Tosnerova (Czech Republic); James Watt (New Zealand) (VOTE: 16:0:0)
 - b. **Full members for the UEMS Team** were confirmed unanimously: Reinhard Diefelder (Germany): Group Leader; Lothar Beyer (Germany); Nadine Fouquesweiss (UEMMA); Leili Lepik (Estonia); Hans Tilscher (Austria); Wolfgang

von Heymann (Germany). (VOTE: 15:0; with 1 abstention)

- c. **Advisory members to the HPB** were confirmed unanimously: Olavi Airaksinen (Finland – Nominated from the floor); Ulrich Böhni (Switzerland); Boyd Buser (USA); Allan Gravesen (Denmark); Jean Lecocq (France); Matthias Psczolla (Germany); Marie-José Teyssandier (France/UEMMA liaison). (VOTE: 16:0:0)

Item 10

Matters concerning FIMM structure and strategy

a. **FIMM financial situation and future.**

(Note that by vote of the General Assembly during the meeting, there was thorough discussion of this item prior to voting on any part of Agenda Item #9 above.)

- Report of 2007 Income: Projected income is € 49550 with 13000 members but with the reality of only 25-26 nations who routinely pay their dues, the more likely anticipated income upon which to base a budget was € 47000. (Therefore, last year the 2006 General Assembly approved a budget of roughly € 46000 income and € 45000 expenditure with € 1,400 due to creditors.) In reality, this year only € 26234 was sent in by the National Societies (only 53% of approved incoming budget).
- Report of 2007 Expenses: With income not up to expectations and after efforts to discuss the contributing issues with these delinquent Societies, the Executive Board prioritized and minimized expenditures. See *FIMM News* August edition for 2007 budget (note that where it says “FIMM Academy fee” this amount was actually used to pay off the GA in Moscow.) Therefore the deficit is € 14563 (and even if liquidate all assets then at end of year we have a deficit).
- In reality, with regard to total expenditure we are on budget; but the promised 2007 membership fees are not coming in leaving FIMM with the deficit. The activities of the Education Board were only possible because of a one-time \$5000 Educational Grant from the Osteopathic Research Center (for a conjoint meeting of the Glossary Taskforce and the Education Board to work on the *Glossary*).
- In the report of the National Societies, the total reported membership appeared to number 16369 manual medicine physicians (as opposed to the on-record number of

13000). If this were accurate, the Treasurer reports that the FIMM bottom-line would be much better off. The majority of the difference in reporting came from Germany. The DGMM reported that in their accounting method, only those who are fully qualified in MM are reported to FIMM, so the total of the three component societies totals 5100 members rather than the 9000 noted in their National Society’s report.

b. **DISCUSSION: Possible solutions and future course regarding finances**

- FIMM dues increase (Board doesn’t recommend at this time)
- FIMM Foundation (the current one no longer exists because it did not reach the threshold for Swiss foundations; it was mentioned that the Executive Board might investigate another country wherein such baseline levels are not required)
- Sponsors for various educational and/or health policy activities; sponsors for programs
- Variable dues based upon a split expenditure budget (Operation of FIMM base [€ 1.50] approved automatically + variable [€ 2.00 minimum] for projects that the General Assembly approves annually with a vote to increase or decrease the variable amount proportionate with the interest of the GA delegates)
- A unique 2008 increased contribution to offset debts
- Change the fiscal year from January through December to September through August to match societies’ needs
- If more money does not come in then FIMM will need to:
 - Reduce/shorten meetings of the Executive Board;
 - Reduce progress of the Education Board and/or Glossary even further;
 - Discuss any future, or not, for FIMM Academy payments (this is their last contribution)
 - Other

c. **DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED BUSINESS PLAN:** Considerations to balance budget and create positive outflow (including specific estimates/predictions for 2008 – 2012)

- **Increasing Income:** If the National Societies honour their current commitment (with no increase or assessment) would be € 45775; income would rise to € 48175

using a € 0.20/member one-time assessment; and income would be € 51775 using a € 0.50 /member one-time assessment.

→ **NEGATIVE COMMENTS REGARDING A POTENTIAL INCREASE IN DUES:**

The DGMM president made it clear that Germany is not prepared to increase their contribution (even though it was explained as a one time element). The Slovak Republic noted that their Society had trouble paying this year, so that even a small amount of increase would make a difference.

→ **COMMENTS REGARDING DOING MORE THAN SUGGESTED:** Hutson commented that as things are going, a “meltdown” for FIMM activity seems likely. Many of the elements being discussed will only prop things up temporarily and that a few cents of monies only constitutes a “bandage.” He called for the FIMM Executive Board and the delegates to take an ethical look at the numbers posted to create a healthy FIMM.

→ **COMMENT REGARDING ONGOING PROCESS:** It was noted that premise was based upon National Societies “honoring” their commitments. There is still income that was committed and the FIMM Executive Board needs to develop a process to allow/encourage the debtor nations to repay their past-due or omitted annual dues payments.

▪ **Decreasing Expenditures**

→ FIMM could eliminate outside translations of our documents into three languages and cut meetings (etc) leaving a 30% Base cost and 61% for Variable Project Expenses. The low spending figure if this action were to be adopted would be € 37050.

→ An additional suggestion was made to consider is to move the function of the FIMM Education Board to the FIMM Academy.

→ The delegate from the Russian Federation noted that significant debt existed for several years primarily due to un-budgeted/over-budget needs posed by General Assemblies in Bratislava and Gatwick. These will be paid off very soon and policy changes will insure that such expenses will not fall back on FIMM.

▪ **Other Options**

→ Change of **fiscal year** (it was noted that this would increase 30% for one year only)

→ Possible **newly reformed FIMM Foundation** registered in a different country such as Netherlands (it was noted that a Foundation limits the mechanism of disbursement so it is not very flexible)

→ Politicking seems difficult – simple is to launch **communication** to all secretaries and treasurers to pay dues

→ **Concentrate on funding function:**

One observed that FIMM needs to retain its founding educational element (suggesting FIMM will die as a politics-only group) but to let the FIMM Academy produce the “scientific goods”.

d. **Evolution of Fiscal Motion for 2008**

Budget: Extensive discussion began with the initially recommended proposal to work positively on modifying internal activities/policies to move out of debt, to develop a positive cash flow and to do so preferably with no raise in fees; the discussion concentrated on decreasing activities and FIMM outcomes (less expense) versus a onetime assessment in fees. Eventually a series of motions evolved.

▪ Several representative noted that FIMM has “something to offer” and it needs to be financed “beyond the pittance” needed to “just exist.” Denmark would support the “third solution” of adding € 0.50 and moving the fiscal year starting date; Switzerland would support “solution 2-3” because of the vital need for the Health Policy piece.

▪ Hutson reiterated the potential role of the Academy as a non-political entity for the National Societies to use for both Science and Education. Others expressed concern that only richer school representatives can be represented in FIMM Academy because of costs.

▪ Regarding 2007-2008 Budget Transition to make the budget work despite the year-end deficit:

▪ Germany: von Heymann volunteered as the MWE treasurer that that portion of the DGMM would pay their share in advance and would try to talk to DGMM about fiscal realities

Denmark volunteered that they would also pay in advance

The Russian Federation noted that it will also pay in advance

e. **FINAL BUDGET MOTIONS**

▪ **MOTION #1:** The first motion was to have General Assembly representatives vote

for EITHER (1) the proposed budget for FIMM to engage in less activities but to not raise fees (treasurer's proposal I in "Blue income" and existing "Red expenditure") - OR- (2) the proposed budget with a plan to raise fees as a one time € 0.50 assessment and maintain activities as denoted in the Treasurer's "red expenditure" proposal. (VOTE PASSED TO RAISE FEES AS A ONE TIME ASSESSMENT: Breakdown - No increase but reduce activity n=0; Increase fees and maintain activities n=15; Abstention n=1)

- **MOTION #2:** It was moved by New Zealand that any increase in fees be optional rather than compulsory (VOTE: Optional n=5; Compulsory n=4; abstention n=2)

→ In a response to a comment by Spain about how to present these motions to their Society, it was explained that the potential exists for each FIMM Representative to go back to their respective society and to note that the General Assembly passed a resolution for a budget to support FIMM activities. For the 2008 budget only, that if the National Society desires FIMM to move forward then dues are best remitted at € 0.50 or more than last year for each physician member of the National Society

- **FINAL OUTCOME FOR 2008 BUDGET:** It was clarified that the 2008 budget was passed with no increase in fees and those modest activities of FIMM that the proposed budget allows. The one time assessment approved this year is desired by the vast majority of members but there are implementation realities that influenced the vote to officially designate this desired assessment as "optional."

f. **FIMM Triennial Congress**

- As noted at the onset of the General Assembly by Marc-Henri Gauchat, cancellation of the 2007 Triennial Congress by Switzerland was a fiscal necessity. The GA representatives would like the Executive Board to consider contingencies to try to prevent this in the future.
 - The Executive Board proposed to the GA that National Societies might reserve space for International activities in their respective National Society annual meetings
 - Countries could assist by creating pathways and allowing papers submitted to a FIMM Congress to be submitted through announced national research congresses

and peer-reviewed journals (similar to the USA this year)

→ The FIMM Executive Board could prepare a list of items needed in order to have the FIMM name assigned to their meeting (The FIMM Academy Board as well?)

- The question was raised as to who decides details concerning the FIMM component at such meetings? The answer is that the National Congress chooses (not FIMM) because they retain the fiscal responsibilities. Furthermore, certain FIMM-friendly recommendations may not work for some nations, such as costs for translators, etc.
- FIMM scientific activities could "piggy-back" with FIMM Academy scientific presentations. FIMM Academy has their next meeting that is associated with formal presentations at the end of May (5/ 29-31/ 2008).
- New Zealand is the next National Society slated to host a FIMM Triennial Congress. At their request, comments were requested and they would like speaker recommendations (sent to Gary Collinson).

g. **Proposals of the Executive Board for structural and functional changes**

- No other structure-function changes (even if pre-published in the FIMM News) were formally introduced at this General Assembly. It was casually noted that there are other models: for example: where each province has equal votes in one voting house with a second house in which votes are based upon the population in a district and yet it was noted that voting for project-by-project changes would fit FIMM better as a process than attempting to change the bylaws.
- Hutson reiterated his proposal that FIMM Education Board be dissolved and moved to FIMM International Academy for focus (political and financial), but Educational Director, Glen Gorm Rasmussen, asked to make his presentation first and the General Assembly agreed by majority, uncounted vote to continue this discussion and vote on it after the reports of the Education Board and of the FIMM Academy.

Item 11

Report from the Director of the Education Board (Glen Gorm Rasmussen)

- a. FIMM was founded by educationalists and "education" is the original core unit of FIMM.

- The Director reported good and bad news with respect to the FIMM Educational Board: good news = low costs; bad news = low output with members wishing to have seen more.
 - Because of the fiscal condition, the last official meeting was in Prague on January 2006. So, in Berlin (July 2007), the Executive Board decided to conduct a 2-day workshop of the Education Board on September 12-13 (in light of the attendance at the FIMM General Assembly and pending funding for the FIMM Glossary project). The focus would be the *FIMM Glossary* which is agreed to be FIMM's highest priority (as designated by the 2006 General Assembly and by the Education Board).
 - Updates on the Glossary direction and evidence-base educational programs was also presented
- b. Several considerations relative to the two official bodies concern themselves with education: the Education Board (what to teach) and the FIMM Academy's Educational Science Committee (how best to teach).
- Two different leaders now direct the two educational bodies. The FIMM Academy met in May 2007 and elected Sergei Nikonov as the new Educational Science Committee director; a new FIMM Educational Board member will be elected at this General Assembly.
 - The list of FIMM Education Board members was compared to the list of those on the FIMM Academy Education Committee to point out the significant overlap between the two.
 - Comments and Options from his analysis of the overlap:
Do we need to use double resources to get the necessary and important educational work done? The fact is that Educational work needs to be done. The Director presented four options:
 1. Work done by FIMM Educational Board in strict cooperation with FIMM Academy scientists
 2. Two independent educational bodies each do the work as they see fit
 3. Transfer the combined educational work of FIMM and FIMM Academy to the FIMM Academy.
 4. Work the same as now, but smarter and cheaper!

Regardless of the choice of option, FIMM educationalists should join the FIMM Academy and interact during this meeting. The FIMM Academy is a success from the perspective of the educationalists.

→ The educationalists attending the FIMM Academy wanted to go to the scientific meetings in order to teach/implement the newest content into lectures in their given countries.
- c. Motion to accept the Education Board director's report. (VOTE: 16/0/0)
- d. Resignation of the EB Director: As previously announced, Glen Gorm Rasmussen offered his resignation after 10 years of exceptional service. This was accepted and a standing ovation for his work was spontaneously delivered.
- e. Election of a new EB Director:
- In accordance with process, a website application was submitted from Marie-Jose Teyssandier (France) who has served on the Education Board since its beginning. He was a fellow with Robert Maigne for 40 years and a Manual Medicine teacher (in numerous countries) for 30 years; he has written 10 books. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor.
 - Teyssandier noted his belief that the Education Board and Educational Science Committee will need to work together. He expressed his intent, if elected, to be responsible to the Executive Board and the General Assembly. The direction that he would choose to lead would be to set a comfortable plan that is consistent with FIMM and the needs of the National Societies.
 - Teyssandier feels that FIMM should have a "Basic Course" series in which basic guidelines are presented to teach manual medicine "practically".
 - Diagnosis and treatment
 - Protocol to teach the teachers how to teach
 - Different independent chapters with 1-2 chapters presented to GA each year (eg: prevention of spinal problems; practical way to explain to the students that Manual Medicine is a part of Medicine; etc.)
 - Motion to accept Marie-Jose Teyssandier as the next Director of the Education Board of FIMM. (VOTE PASSED: yes=13; no=0; abstain=2)

f. **History, Progress, and Report of the Glossary Taskforce**

- On behalf of FIMM and the FIMM Special Glossary Taskforce, Michael Kuchera acknowledged and thanked the National Osteopathic Research Center (University of North Texas Health Sciences Center) for an unrestricted educational grant for this project. The latest version of the *Glossary* with recommendations of the FIMM Education Board members was distributed to all delegates. The General Assembly was informed that the Special Glossary Taskforce would meet for their last face-to-face meeting the day after the General Assembly, with feedback from that meeting and consensus of the taskforce to be sent to the FIMM Education Board by the end of the year. This would allow version 8 of the *Glossary* to be posted on the FIMM website in 2008 with the hope of annual versions (v.9 in 2009, v.10 in 2010; etc)
- Motion to accept the report of the Special Glossary Taskforce and dissolve it after its post-GA meeting activity. Passed (VOTE 16:0:0)
- Version 7.1 will be put onto the internet for feedback and a letter of thanks will be composed to send official FIMM thanks to the national Osteopathic Research Center for their sponsorship.

Item 12

Report from the FIMM International Academy of Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine

- a. Report of the FIMM Academy Executive Board chairman, Michael Hutson
- There were 6 meetings of the FIMM Academy Executive Board in the last three years. The FIMM Academy Executive Board will meet in Oct with EFOMM (German scientists) in Berlin. The FIMM Academy has their next meeting May 29-31, 2008.
 - A new journal, *International Musculoskeletal Medicine (including Manual Therapy and Manual Medicine)* has evolved from the *J of Orthopaedic Medicine* and can be made available (as a benefit) to the National Societies at the same price as FIMM Academy members
 - Hutson recounted the evolution of the FIMM Academy from the former FIMM Scientific Committee (launched in 1997; reconstructed as the Scientific Board in 2004) and its accomplishments, publications, courses, and Scientific Conference alternating with

an Instructional Course. Currently the FIMM Academy has 60-65 members.

- He noted that over the last several years, the FIMM Academy has produced a substantial volume of material while consuming only 1/5-1/4 of the FIMM Budget. He noted that at 100 members, the FIMM Academy becomes financially self-sufficient.
 - The FIMM Academy report was accepted.
- b. FIMM Academy and the activities of the FIMM Education Board
- There had been and continued to be discussion on the relation between the FIMM Education Board and the Educational Science Committee of the FIMM Academy.
 - Motion: To support a proposal to move the FIMM Educational Board's responsibilities to the FIMM Academy. MOTION FAILED. (VOTE: yes=5; against=10; abstain=0)
- c. Confirmation of the Chairman of the Executive Board of the FIMM Academy
- Michael Hutson has one more year possible by statutes
 - Motion: It was moved that Michael Hutson be confirmed by the General Assembly as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the FIMM Academy. (Motion: VOTE yes=14; no=0; abstention=0; absent from room=1)

Item 13

Decision on membership fees for the next year – split for improved transparency

- a. Basic expenditures for administration: Demonstrated in the manner previously presented by the Treasurer
- b. Special projects of the Boards: Demonstrated in the manner previously presented by the Treasurer

Item 14

Membership (admissions / suspensions)

- a. Membership type definitions, requirements, and rules of suspension were reviewed for the delegates.
- b. Motion: It was moved and seconded that the delegates would vote sequentially on two membership issues: (1) should Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, and Portugal be suspended from their full membership status and (2) should these five countries be invited to be

come extraordinary member if they agree to be so (no payment, no vote, see yellow statutes)

- 1st part of the Motion (to exclude/suspend from Full Member status): VOTE: yes=12; no=1; abstain=2
- 2nd part of the Motion (to invite them to respond for extraordinary member status): VOTE yes =15; no=0; abstain=0
- Outcome: Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, and Portugal are no longer members of FIMM but will be invited to apply for “Extraordinary Member” status

Item 15

Date and place of the General Assembly 2008

The Treasurer asked if the FIMM Executive Board should compare costs in Varno vs Prague prior to committing to (voting for) the site of the next General Assembly? The delegates did not raise a motion to this effect and therefore the prior decision to go to Bulgaria for the General Assembly of 2008 remains in effect.

Item 16

Any other business

A motion to bestow the designation of “Honorary FIMM Member” to Glen Gorm Rasmussen was approved unanimously.

Item 17

Closing of the General Assembly by the President at 7:41PM.