

# Minutes of the General Assembly of Delegates 2021

**Topic** General assembly actionuni 2021

**Author**

**Date** 25 October 2021

**Time** 15.00-18.00

**Location** Online with Zoom

**Present:** Christian Mörtl (ACIDE), Marco Prost (ACIDUL), Elisa Lorenzo García (ACINE), Eléonore Crunchant (ACCORDER), Tobias Neef (AVETH), Timo Niepel (AVETH), Camila Plaza de Laifer (AVUBA), Philipp Blum (MOL), Magali Talos (MVUB), Ermis Mitsou (VAUZ), Elischa Link (Guest - VSS-UNES), Hannah Schoch (Guest – Petition Academia), Nino Nikolovski (guest - PostDoc project), Laia Guardiola (Candidate), Carmen Faso (actionuni), Rashmi Rai-Rawat (actionuni), Martina Von Arx (actionuni), Sophie Girardin (actionuni), Prabitha Urwyler (actionuni), Carla Duss (actionuni), Cosima Locher (actionuni).

## 1. Welcome and information

Martina von Arx (actionuni co-president) opens the assembly and welcomes the delegates and guests.

## 2. Quorum

Total of votes that can be casted by the delegates present at the meeting: 36 votes, represented by 9/15 organizations. Because at least half of the member organizations are present with at least one delegate, the quorum is met.

## 3. Election of the minute taker and vote counter

### 3.1. Minutes taker

Sophie Girardin (actionuni) volunteers as a minute taker. There are no oppositions.

### 3.2. Vote scrutinizers:

Prabitha Urwyler (actionuni) and Cosima Locher (actionuni) volunteer as vote scrutinizers. There are no oppositions.

### 3.3. Voting procedure

Sophie Girardin (actionuni) goes over the number of votes which each association is allowed to cast, which depends on their size, and presents the online voting form:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14noSPt4jFIFTsxCyOpBE\\_VnN8N3WHIc\\_3ZfnRY5LT6M/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14noSPt4jFIFTsxCyOpBE_VnN8N3WHIc_3ZfnRY5LT6M/edit?usp=sharing). Detailed voting are attached at the end of this document.

#### **4. Approval of the agenda**

**[VOTE]** Do you approve the agenda for the GA 2021?

**[VOTING Result]**

36/36 votes in favour

The agenda of the GA 2021 is approved.

#### **5. Approval of the protocol of the General Assembly 2020**

**[VOTE]** Do you approve the protocol from the GA in September 2020 and from the Extraordinary GA in November 2020?

**[VOTING Result]**

29/36 votes in favour, 7/36 abstain

The protocols of the two GA 2020 are approved.

#### **6. Annual Report 2021/21**

All delegates received the final annual report by email. This point was not further discussed.

#### **7. Financial Report 2020/21 and discharge of the board**

Carmen Faso (actionuni co-president and treasurer) announces that the auditors, Hannah Schoch (VAUZ) and Timo Niepel (AVETH) have verified and released the accounting. The Board asks the delegates to approve and to discharge the board.

CF informs the auditors that the missing membership fee for 2020 has been recovered from CSWM.

The Board of actionuni thanks the auditors and the treasurer for their work.

**[VOTE]** Do you approve the release of the Board 2020/21?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour (due to a technical problem, the delegate from AVUBA left the meeting for all the following votes)

#### **8. Election of the Board and representatives of actionuni for the year 2021/22**

##### **8.1. Election of the co-presidents:**

**[VOTE]** Do you re-elect Martina von Arx as co-president of actionuni?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Martina von Arx is re-elected as co-president of actionuni.

Laia Guardiola applies as co-president. LG introduces herself. Her application portfolio was circulated prior to the GA.

**[VOTE]** Do you elect Laia Guardiola as co-president of actionuni?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Laia Guardiola is elected as co-president of actionuni. His application portfolio was circulated prior to the GA.

Macro Prost applies as co-president. MP introduces himself.

**[VOTE]** Do you re-elect Marco Prost as co-president of actionuni?

**[VOTING Result]**

26/31 votes in favour; 5/31 abstain

Marco Prost is elected as co-president of actionuni.

## **8.2. Election of the new Board member**

Hannah Schoch applies as a regular Board member. HS introduces herself. Her application portfolio was circulated prior to the GA.

**[VOTE]** Do you elect Hannah Schoch as regular Board member?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Hannah Schoch is elected as a Board member of actionuni

## **8.3. Election of auditors**

**[VOTE]** Do you re-elect Timo Niepel and elect Ermis Mitsou as auditors of actionuni?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Timo Niepel and Ermis Mitsou are elected as auditors of actionuni

## **8.4. Election of the actionuni delegate to Open Science**

Melanie Roethlisberger applies as actionuni delegate to Open Science. She has already worked together with actionuni in the past year, for example organising the Open Science workshop that many actionuni delegates joined.

**[VOTE]** Do you elect Melanie Roethlisberger as actionuni delegate to Open Science?

**[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Melanie Roethlisberger is elected as actionuni delegate to Open Science.

## 8.6. Collective vote for other representative positions

Several representatives and one Board member would like to stay in their current position and stand for re-election.

**[VOTE]** Do you re-elect the existing actionuni representatives and Board members?

- SHK (Swiss Conference of the Higher Education Institutions): Martina von Arx
- SNF (Swiss National Foundation): Prabitha Urwyler
- ESKAS (Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships for Foreign Scholars and Artists): Sophie Girardin
- Delegation Lehre: Cosima Locher
- Treasurer: Carmen Faso

### **[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

Martina von Arx is re-elected as SHK representative. Prabitha Urwyler is re-elected as SNF representative. Sophie Girardin is re-elected as ESKAS representative. Cosima Locher is re-elected as Delegation Lehre representative. Carmen Faso is re-elected as actionuni Treasurer.

## 8.7. Accreditation Council

actionuni is represented at the Accreditation Council, the organ responsible for the accreditation process of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in Switzerland. The accreditation process ensures the quality of HEI curricula. For midlevel staff, this ensures proper structuring of doctoral schools and understanding across the different academic tiers. Actionuni strongly encourages midlevel staff members to take part in individual accreditation process when presented with the opportunity, as this is a very impactful and interesting process.

The current representatives are Florian Lippke (official actionuni representative) and Carla Duss (personal appointment, representing both actionuni and VSS/UNES). Florian Lippke's second term in the Accreditation Council will come to an end in January 2022, so actionuni will need to find a replacement for him.

Macro Prost (ACIDUL): what is the typical workload of the Accreditation Council representative?

Carmen Faso (co-president, on behalf of the Accreditation Council representatives): meetings take place four times a year during one or two days. The workload is especially concentrated before and during these meetings, as there are many documents to go through in a very short period of time. Depending on the number of HEI that are undergoing accreditation, there might be more or less work. FL and CD can best advise.

**[VOTE]** Do you allow the Board of actionuni to recruit, select and propose representatives for the Accreditation Council for 2021/22?

### **[VOTING Result]**

31/31 votes in favour

The Board of actionuni is tasked to recruit, select and propose representatives for the Accreditation Council for 2021/22.

## 9. Official goodbye and handover by the former co-presidents Carmen and Rashmi

Martina von Arx (actionuni co-president) warmly thanks Carmen Faso and Rashmi Rai-Rawat for their hard work. CF and RRR say a few words of goodbye. Both of them are proud and happy of their time spent in actionuni and wish their best to the newly elected members.

## 10. Discussion of the association's membership fees – tier system and usage of funds

**Presenters:** Hannah Schoch (VAUZ) and Carmen Faso (actionuni co-president and treasurer)

**Context:** the current membership fee system consists in charging member associations 1 CHF per paying member. However, it is complicated and does not always capture the situation well, because several associations do not charge a fee from their members. For example, VAUZ has a service level agreement with the University of Zürich, which is their main source of funding. They therefore do not charge their members and pay a membership fee of about 70 CHF, even though they represent more than 7000 members.

Hanna Schoch (VAUZ) proposes to move to a tier system for membership fees, based on the number of people that an association represents. For example, tier 1 for 0-500 members; tier 2 for 501-1000 members; tier 3 for > 1000 members.

- Carmen Faso (actionuni): from a Treasurer point-of-view, this is a complicated idea. She would like to open the discussion today to work on a more concrete proposition

CF raises the additional question of usage of funds: actionuni has around 14'000 CHF on its account. There are yearly structural costs (attending Eurodoc meeting, website, etc.), but besides these, what should actionuni do with these funds? A possible usage would be to sponsor local events from the member associations.

### Discussion

Marco Prost (ACIDUL) would be interested to get (a) concrete proposal(s) to be able to discuss it with his local Board

- CF specifies that this proposal would be voted on at the GA 2022. This first step is to gather opinions from the member associations.
- MP finds this idea sensible on a personal level. ACIDUL would not need funding from actionuni for local events. A possible use for the extra funds would be to open a solidarity fund for PhD students who struggle with low salaries. ACIDUL is running such a fund for the University of Lausanne.

Philipp Blum (MOL) thinks that giving money for local events is the responsibility of individual associations, who should almost all be able to get funding from their rectorate. He would rather lower the membership fees. A possible use of the money would be to spend it on small mandate (200-300 CHF) for people who do content work/information gathering. For example, pay someone to do a

listing of all the doctoral schools in Switzerland or a listing of what funding possibilities exist in Switzerland, to be put on actionuni website.

- CF agrees that the website needs to be updated, which is something that the Board of actionuni is currently investigated and plans on spending money for. The Board has already received offers from different service providers and will soon meet a decision. Budgeting a yearly fee for updating the content of the website (e.g. listing all PhD opportunities) would be needed.

Timo Niepel (AVETH) would like to raise visibility to the small and sometimes slightly invisible members of actionuni. The fees from actionuni could be used to pay the tickets for a study trip from actionuni Board members to check how the smaller and possibly struggling associations are doing. It would be good to gather information on the local membership fee for each association (e.g. it is 4 CHF at AVETH), because this could help do a better categorization for the tier system

- CF: study trips to association is time-consuming and would indeed need to be remunerated. Actionuni struggles with outreach and consolidation of the network, so this would be a sensible use of the extra money. She could see this be a 30% job.

Rashmi Rai-Rawat (actionuni co-president) has four propositions on how to use the money:

- Actionuni booklet: Different member associations have very different organization, structure, financing system, etc. It would be good to work on a booklet that would summarize the work and statistics of each association, including the membership fee mentioned by Timo.
- Eurodoc GA: organise the next General Assembly of Eurodoc (the internal federation of national university midlevel staff representation organisations) in Switzerland, which might be good timing to raise awareness on Switzerland leaving the Horizon agreements.
- University now: two years ago, a former actionuni Board member (Alexei Eystratov) organised a one-day conference in Lausanne dedicated to mid-level staff. A similar national event could be organised with the extra money.
- Quality workshops for the delegates: paying speakers to organise useful workshops on tools and knowledge needed to run an association

Hannah Schoch states that this discussion is interpreted as a positive reaction from the community. The Board of actionuni will work on this and come back with a concrete proposal for the next General Assembly in 2022.

## 11. Discussion on COVID related prolongation of thesis

**Presenter:** Christian Mörtl (ACIDE)

**Context:** At ACIDE in EPFL, there have been individual cases of PhD students requesting a 6-month extension for their thesis which got rejected. At EPFL, PhD thesis are four-year long. Prolongation from four to five years is automatic, but to go beyond five years, it is case-specific and has to be discussed with the professor and the doctoral school representative. For this reason, ACIDE is interested to know how prolongations are regulated in other HEIs and to know how the prolongation process was dealt with in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

CM has gathered the inputs from the other member association in this document:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I77iN-y27s00WhzoewCLW2cLdUSaKiUHYEqEZI4hlpq/edit?usp=sharing>

### Discussion:

Carmen Faso (actionuni co-president): actionuni was in touch with SNSF and SwissUniversities during the pandemics. There were no Swiss-wide agreements between the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) on how to standardize and harmonize the prolongation of thesis, which actionuni has protested against.

Camila Plaza de Laifer (AVUBA): one of the reasons why it is so difficult to get a blanket policy is because the situation varies a lot from faculty to faculty. For example, people who need to do a lot of lab work got really affected by the pandemics, whereas some people working mostly on computers could keep on working. She was working with confidential data and could not get access to them for 6 months. Because of the diversity of cases, it is very difficult to harmonize that and universities prefer to do the prolongation case-by-case.

Hannah Schoch (VAUZ): Germany did manage to come up with a blanket solution. SwissUniversities failed to find a satisfying solution and should be held accountable for that. The University of Zürich, has a "Härtefall" fund for people who are not in cantonal positions and could not get a prolongation of funding by showing that they were impacted by the pandemics. The rest of the PhD students are advised to make use of the legal possibilities and rights that midlevel staff has. For many people, that is an issue which is raising now and not one year ago, during the first wave of the pandemics.

- Camila Plaza de Laifer: last summer, there was a two-month extension that could get automatically granted for people applying. But there are no equivalent for the cases of people finishing now, which is problematic.

Christian Mörtl and ACIDE would like to give the assurance to PhD students that there is a possibility for them to finish their thesis if needed, even if they do not get along well with their professor, who is the person in charge of the financial decisions. Many PhD students don't want to extend their thesis, but the pressure of not being able to finish on time should not be added to their many existing struggles.

Philipp Blum (MOL) thinks that after collecting this information, it should be made publicly available, focusing on the most generous cases. In Luzern, MOL tried very hard to negotiate a blanket agreement for prolongations, but the university refused. It would have helped to have good examples from other institutions.

- Carmen Faso: The timing of these interventions was also very different from one institution to another and changed over time, making it really difficult to use best practice from other universities. There was a complete lack of coordination on a national level, for which midlevel staff is now paying the price. Actionuni tried to put a lot of pressure on SwissUniversities and on the SNSF. The SNSF decided to prolong the funding for projects but initially did not communicate this to the Principal Investigators, so actionuni insisted for them to do that. The strategy proposed by PB is a good one.
- PB: it is not too late. Actionuni could issue an opinion that everyone should do at least as good as the SNSF.
- CF is on an SNSF grant and was told by SNSF that she could not get any prolongation for her employees apart a few months extension for projects supposed to end in 2020. The window of opportunity is now closed, because the universities failed to work together.
- Martina von Arx (actionuni co-president): SNSF projects usually get extended in a cost-neutral fashion. It was not clear if the extensions granted in 2020 were the usual extensions, or if the Covid extension would replace the usual extensions. Delegates should get in touch

with actionuni know if they want to do something more formal out of the ideas shared in the spreadsheet

CM thanks everyone for sharing this information, which will be very useful for ACIDE.

Elischa Link (VSS-UNES) recommends to the member association to contact their local students' unions, as the students' unions managed to have a good dialogue with the HEI. They unions are most likely ready to support the midlevel staff from the different universities. They usually have a good relationship with the rectorates and might help to put political pressure on the universities.

- MvA seconds that recommendation. The collaboration between actionuni and VSS/UNES was very good this year.

## 12. Presentation and discussion of the idea of the Postdoc Academy - Nino Nikolovski

A proposal of National Action Plan to Enhance the Postdoctoral Experience is attached to the agenda.

**Context:** Nino Nikolovski proposes to find ways to get postdocs more engaged on policy making at a national level. At the University of Zürich (UZH), he worked on guidelines to improve the postdoc experience and started developing a collection of action points that would improve and strengthen the postdoc position nationally. He shared examples on the proposal spreadsheet, grouped under the name "Postdoc Academy" (working title).

NN is looking for postdocs willing to contribute and to write grants to secure funding for specific actions and projects. He thinks that actionuni member associations are the right way to reach potentially motivated postdocs. Grants could be targeted towards foundations, InnoSuisse, or any other institutions interested in supporting such a social innovation within Swiss academia.

### Discussion:

Hannah Schoch (VAUZ) thinks this is very important, but is worried about the workload that this project supposes. Have you talked to the Young Swiss Academy, as this might help mitigate some of the costs? If you already talked to them, what was their reaction?

- NN was in touch with them. They supported this idea and helped spread the word within UZH, but not more. Understanding the situation and having discussions are not enough: proactive measures need to be taken to solve some of the pressure points. The Swiss Young Academy thinks that proposing such measures is outside of the scope of their activities. This initiative can only go further by finding more postdocs prepared to contribute. He is not providing a set proposal, but engagement points to get more postdocs involved.
- HS: on all levels, it is very difficult to get postdocs involved. The Swiss Young Academy is working on addressing these pressure points
- NN: when he contacted them earlier this year, the Swiss Young Academy was not ready to provide more help than putting him in touch with UZH. Actionuni could provide more concrete help, for example by forming a working group.

Carmen Faso (actionuni co-president) suggests considering other stakeholders outside of actionuni, as these are very broad issues that cannot be covered extensively by only one association. SNSF could for example be a good discussion partner.



- NN has not talked to SNSF yet. He has been in touch with UZH and the University of Bern
- Prabitha Urwyler (actionuni): to convince the SNSF that this is needed, you need concrete numbers. You should first do a survey to know how many postdocs in the country would support such an initiative. You could circulate this survey thanks to the local associations, through actionuni.
- NN plans on running such a survey if member associations agree
- PU suggests to make this a Master project in social sciences. She will look on the SERI side if there is anything that could be made there.

NN does not have the capacity to take this project over. He would like to propose this idea to be taken up by actionuni.

- HS, as a newly elected actionuni Board member, thinks that actionuni could take this project over.

NN adds that Switzerland is lagging behind in postdoc engagement compared to other countries. Cambridge, where he was a postdoc, is a good example of how a university can act for postdoc, as the university funded the Postdoc academy. The US has also recently established a national postdoc academy for career acceleration and training.

- HS agrees. VAUZ has been requesting the help of the Graduate Campus (cross-faculty platform of UZH for the promotion of junior researchers) for several years regarding this topic. It takes a lot of resources to activate people in this area.

NN would be happy to contribute a bit, but only has time until the end of October.

Martina von Arx (actionuni co-president) states that actionuni will take this conversation within the Board.

Rashmi Rai-Rawat (actionuni co-president) thanks NN for all the efforts that he put in this project and for his clear communication with actionuni.

### **13. Presentation and discussion on the service level agreement VAUZ negotiated – Hannah Schoch, VAUZ**

Could it be a case of best practice for mid-level staff associations?

**Presenter:** Hannah Schoch, VAUZ

**Context:** VAUZ negotiated a service level agreement with the University of Zürich (UZH), which has strengthened their position. Michael Hengartner, the previous rector of UZH and current president of the ETH Board, helped pushing for this. This is a good best practice example, which could be used to by other associations to obtain a similar agreement in their university. A helpful argument for VAUZ was the need to ensure midlevel staff representation in the university governance bodies. They worked with other representative bodies at UZH to negotiate this, notably the students' unions.

A service level agreement consists in getting a funding from the university in exchange for providing services to them. For VAUZ, the funding consists of 110'000 CHF per year and includes a 50% secretary position. In return, VAUZ is responsible for organizing the elections of the representatives in the university bodies, for ensuring the participation in these bodies and for writing opinion papers. HS shared the materials with MOL, who could successfully negotiate a service level agreement with the University of Luzern.

HS wants to circulate a questionnaire to see how many of the member associations have service level agreements, how many get funding from their universities and how much. Getting an overview of the situation in the different universities would help the associations who do not yet have a service level agreement to advocate for one towards their HEI.

### Discussion

Carmen Faso (actionuni president) asks if there are members other than UZH and MOL that have a service level agreement.

- Marco Prost (ACIDUL): ACIDUL gets most of the funding from the University of Lausanne. This funds a 40% secretary position. In return, ACIDUL organizes the elections for the various midlevel representatives in the university bodies and manages the PhD solidarity funds. They meet twice per term with the rectorate to discuss ongoing affairs.
- Magali Talos (MVUB): MVUB has a service level agreement. MVUB receives money from the university for several projects and hires several employees.

CF: MOL appreciated the help and support from VAUZ. The survey is a good idea. One of the roles of actionuni is to bridge the gap between the different member associations to help each other. A service level agreement empowers the association, changing the balance of power between associations and upper university management. It stabilizes the funding and therefore the structure of the association.

HS: VAUZ will have to renegotiate the service level agreement soon, so it would be very useful to have a collection of information from the other universities.

MP would also like to know which associations have a formal agreement regarding the relation with the university. ACIDUL has a good informal relationship with the university, but it is not formalized.

## 14. Varia

### 14.1. Decision-making on discussions 9-13:

Prabitha Urwyler (actionuni) would like to clarify how to follow up on the discussions that were held during this GA, especially regarding the Postdoc Academy, and if any votes are required.

- Carmen Faso (actionuni): with the Statute change from last GA, the delegates need to vote on formal proposals only. All the discussions were at an early stage of the process, to gather inputs from delegates and get a first impression, but not advanced enough to vote on them yet. For the Postdoc Academy, the first step will be to send out the survey prepared by Nino Nikolovski. If the outcome is that there is a need, a formal proposal will be submitted to the GA.

### 14.2. Research funding opportunities

Marco Prost (ACIDUL): ACIDUL plans on listing all of the possible research funding opportunities, including private foundations. There are thousands of them. This could be a good use of actionuni's extra money.

- HS: UZH has such an overview: <https://www.research.uzh.ch/de/funding.html>, <https://www.research.uzh.ch/de/funding/instruments.html>. <https://stiftungschweiz.ch/>, <https://stiftungen.stiftungschweiz.ch/search?active=organizations&page=0>

- Ermis Mitsou (VAUZ): MP is referring to small, private foundations that you would not know about and where the information is very difficult to find.
- CF: the problem of such funding sources is that they are usually on invitation only. Even with the contact information, you might not be allowed to apply. Private foundations have a board of trustees who act as scouts to find people to invite to apply for the money.
- EM: some of them are like that and require to be nominated by a professor, but usually you can approach a professor and ask them to sponsor you. It depends on the vision behind the person who funds the position. There are different kinds of foundations, so it would be good to make a list of the ones that are accessible. They might not appreciate it, as they probably are happy not to get too much visibility. Could be maybe used in times of dire need.
- MP: several associations are not as restrictive as what CF mentioned, but just do not advertise themselves so much.

#### 14.3. Representation of the different types of universities

Marco Prost asks if there are any active members from the Teachers' Universities (Pädagogische Hochschule, PH) at the GA.

- CF: it is extremely hard to engage the members from the PHs and from the Fachhochschule/Hautes écoles spécialisées (FH).
- Carla Duss was a member of PH/FH and has observed how these institutions developed. There was a lot of development in the beginning. Several organizations were funded, but all of them died because of a lack of engagement. It is not because actionuni has not tried, but mostly because of structural differences. PH/FH do not educate their own PhDs on representation.
- CF: getting active representation from PH and FH is a huge challenge. The delegates participating in the meeting today are only representing Hochschule/Universités and ETH/EPF. All of actionuni Board members are from Hochschule and ETH. There is also a gender issue, with only women in the Board in 2020/21. Last year, two PHs were represented at the GA. Sadly, several associations died along the way. This is why actionuni needs people who act as ambassadors and raise awareness. In addition to being an issue of lack of diversity and to missing out on broader opinions, it is an issue not to represent enough realities when talking to stakeholders such as the SNSF. Same goes for the languages and the national territory representation. This weakens our representative power. If you have ties or connections to expand the network of actionuni, do so. The network has been shrinking for many years. There are no other voices on the national level.

EM: do you have to be a member of a local association to be a member of actionuni?

- MvA: no, you can become an actionuni member as an individual, without being part of a local Board or local association.

#### 14.4. Prioritizing actionuni's work

EM: Reflecting on the discussions that we had today, from the Postdoc academy to reaching out to PHs, we should decide what actionuni should aim for. Because of its limited resources and because it is already fragile, actionuni has to prioritize where to focus its efforts between connecting with more local association or being a large-scale lobbying entity. We cannot be syndicated because we have only short-term contracts. Actionuni should let the local associations do the recruiting, as it does not really have the capacity to do everything itself. EM thinks that lobbying at the top level is more important than local outreach down to individual postdoc/student level.

- MvA: we are currently working on trying to get structural funding to hire a part-time secretary. If we had that, then we would have time to do more of the lobbying.
- EM: the nature of midlevel staff is to have time-bound contracts, so it is very difficult to not lose knowledge and carry out long-term projects without a secretariat.
- CD: you can always aim for more structural stability. Service level agreements are a good step towards stabilizing the local level, which in turn helps stabilizing the national level. Actionuni can only recruit from its local members.

MP: Do we have a service level agreement with the federal bodies?

- MvA: no, we usually a representative role. We don't have a right of vote.
- MP: Could we negotiate a service level agreement?
- HS: this has been tried. If member associations got service level agreements as a standard, it would help advocating to get structural funding at the national level. Michael Hengartner, who helped push for the VAUZ agreement when he was the Rector of the University of Zürich, might use his leverage as president of the ETH Board to push Swiss Universities to get all universities to have such agreements. Actionuni should be pushing this in parallel as well.

## **Appendix: detailed voting results**

### actionuni GA 2021: Detailed voting results

Association name		ACCORDER	ACIDE	ACIDUL	ACINE	AVETH	MOL	MVUB	VAUZ	Vote outcome
Vote 1: Do you approve the 2021 GA agenda?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst									0 Abstain
Vote 2: Do you approve the minutes of the GA in September 2020 and of the Extraordinary GA in November 2020?	Yes	2	5			5	2	5	5	24 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst			5	2					7 Abstain
Vote 3: Do you approve the release of the Board 2020/21?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst									0 Abstain
Vote 4: Do you re-elect Martina Von Arx as co-president of actionuni?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst									0 Abstain
Vote 5: Do you elect Laia Guardiola as co-president of actionuni?	Yes	1	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	30 Yes
	No	1								1 No
	Abst									0 Abstain
Vote 6: Do you elect Marco Prost as co-president of actionuni?	Yes	2	5		2	5	2	5	5	26 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst			5						5 Abstain
Vote 7: Do you elect Hannah Schoch as actionuni Board member?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst									0 Abstain
Vote 8: Do you elect Timo Niepel and Ermis Mitsou as auditors?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes
	No									0 No
	Abst									0 Abstain

Vote 10: Do you elect Melanie Roethlisberger as actionuni delegate to Open Science?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
	No									
	Abst									
Vote 11: Do you re-elect the existing actionuni representatives and Board members?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
	No									
	Abst									
Vote 12: Do you allow the Board of actionuni to recruit, select and propose representatives for the Accreditation Council for 2021/22?	Yes	2	5	5	2	5	2	5	5	31 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
	No									
	Abst									