

Report on the extraordinary general meeting 2020

On 24 November 2020 the extraordinary general meeting took place as a zoom conference. The President welcomed 31 participants. As no face-to-face meeting was possible due to the current pandemic restrictions, the general meeting was held as a video conference on the basis of the Covid-19 law (§5 Abs. 2 GesRua-COVBeKG) even without authorisation in the statutes.

The president first reported on the postponement of the **131st meeting**, which could not be held in Würzburg in September 2020 as originally planned due to the corona pandemic. Almost all the speakers agreed to participate in a meeting from September 10-12, 2021, if this event can be held. Whether or not the Würzburg meeting scheduled for 2021 can be adhered to in view of the Corona situation will be discussed by the management and board in December.

The **new homepage** went online on April 2, 2020 and has been visited more than 50,000 times since then. Tiles open up access to current topics, interviews with members, food for thought, extra pages for pupils and teachers as well as to the meetings. Members of the GDNÄ are asked to indicate their willingness to participate in digital formats in their "active profile" and to enter their professional focus so that the office and the board can contact them.

The society had 2470 members as of 30.09.2020. A **new flyer** promoting the GDNÄ will be published shortly and can be ordered at the office.

There has been a change at the **office**. Ms Kerstin Grigoleit left GDNÄ on 15 July at her own request after 14 years. On 1 July 2020, Ms Sylvia Landeck was hired as a new member of staff in the office. She will manage the office together with Ms Katja Diete, who has been working for GDNÄ for 25 years.

Professor Biersack and Professor Altenbach conducted the **cash audit** on July 14, 2020. The two audited annual financial statements of the tax consulting company Decker, Schneider, Oepen & Müller were available. The cash auditors agreed with the audit certificates. They found no reason for objections. At the request of Professor Biersack, the Board of Directors was discharged for the years 2018 and 2019. Both auditors were re-elected for the years 2020 and 2021.

At the proposal of the board of directors, Professor Dr. Heribert Hofer DPhil (born in 1960) was elected as **2nd vice president** and thus **president for 2023 and 2024**. He is Professor of Interdisciplinary Wildlife Science at the Free University of Berlin in the Departments of Veterinary Medicine and Biology/Chemistry/Pharmacy and Director of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW).

Professor Dr. Michael Dröscher was appointed by the Board of Directors as **Secretary General** for another two years.

In a **postal vote**, Professor Dr. Tina Romeis, Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Halle, and Free University of Berlin, were elected as the Board of Directors for the years 2021 to 2024. Professor Dr. Wolfgang Lubitz, MPI CEC, Mülheim, was elected for the Department of Biology, Professor Dr. Wolfgang Lubitz, MPI CEC, Mülheim, for the Department of Chemistry and Professor Dr. Jürgen Floege, University Hospital of the RWTH Aachen, for the Department of Medicine.

The long-time **archivist** Dr. Füßl of the Deutsches Museum in Munich will retire at the end of April and asked the board to release him from his duties at that time. The board has therefore appointed Dr. Matthias Röschner, Dr. Füßl's current deputy, as archivist with effect from 1 May 2021.

In 2022 **GDNÄ will be 200 years** old. At the suggestion of the board, it was decided to hold the meeting in September 2022 at the place of foundation in Leipzig.

Our statutes, which were last amended in 2014, do not provide for the use of electronic correspondence or the possibility of holding video conferences. On the basis of the wording proposed by a specialist lawyer, the general meeting unanimously approved the proposed **amendment to the articles of association**. If the tax office has no objections and the amendment is registered with the association court, the then valid statutes will be published on this website.

Professor Dr. Michael Dröscher, Treasurer and Secretary General