

Minutes of the TASSA Transition Team Meeting

Date: 23 October 2011

Time: 11:00 – 13.00 pm

Place: Potomac, MD

Attendees

Haluk Unal

Huseyin Abut

Bulent Basol

Orhan Gurbuz

Ozgur Kocaturk

Daver Kahvecioglu

Levent Guntay

TASSA Transition Team Board Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of the May 21, 2011 meeting minutes
2. Annual Conference

Date: March 10, 2012, George Washington University

Program Committee:

Chair: **Murat Tarimcilar**

Representatives from:

Engineering and Applied Sciences (**Alkan Donmez**)

Health and Biomedical Sciences (**Cem Elbi?**)

Natural Sciences

Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities (**Murat Tarimcilar**)

Organizing Committee:

General Coordinator: **Tugba Guntay**

Treasurer: **Pinar Guvenir**

Logistic and Operations Coordinator: **Pinar Guvenir / Banu Yildirim**

Job-Fair Coordinator: **Banu Yildirim**

Fund raising: **Murat Tarimcilar**

2. Report on the conversations with American Embassy officials on the joint cooperation on science and technology agreement between the US and Turkey

Cem Elbi, Deniz Oncel, John Letvin, Huseyin Abut

Note from Mr. Letvin:

As Deniz mentioned, we met with new TUBITAK president Prof. Altunbasak last week. He is focused on advancing innovation in Turkey. He is of course well aware of your organization. We mentioned the idea about a panel at the TASSA conference on advancing U.S.-Turkey scientific collaboration under the S&T agreement and the need to have both Turkish participation and possible seed money for projects. Prof. Altunbasak was receptive to the idea and we will further explore ideas with him as we develop the concept with you. One suggestion was to look at how existing NSF international programs can be better utilized to promote cooperation with Turkey as well as better promotion of TUBITAK-financed opportunities for foreign scientists to come to Turkey to perform research on TUBITAK-funded projects.

3. Possibility of securing an office space for TASSA
Gokhan Coskun
Executive Director
BUEI, LLC
Bahcesehir Ugur Educational Institutions
Harriet Fulbright College, Executive Director

4. Possibility of hiring professional help for TASSA.
Managing Director, on a part-time basis

5. A second gathering of Friends of TASSA.

6. ByLaws

amend Article II: Membership with the following

"Section 1. Membership shall consist only of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board shall have the authority to establish and define nonvoting categories of membership.

The nonvoting membership of TASSA shall be referred to as "TASSA Associates." "

Haluk Unal provided web connection with on-line members who are Huseyin Abut, Bulent Basol, Daver Kahvecioglu and Orhan Gurbuz. Haluk Unal opened the meeting.

Previous meeting minutes was reviewed and approved.

A motion was moved by Haluk Unal to postpone TASSA biannual conference to Spring 2012 and seconded by Huseyin Abut. The motion was accepted announmously.

Haluk Unal and Huseyin Abut informed transition team members about the skype conversations with Cem Elbi, Deniz Oncel and John Letvin about organizing a panel that focus on the joint cooperation on science and technology agreement between the US and Turkey within the biannual conference. Huseyin Abut informed that TUBITAK president is willing to attend such a panel and also he offered Dr. Sirin Tekinay who has worked for NSF in past and Kemal Madenoglu from DPT in Turkey as possible panel attendees.

Haluk Unal informed the members that Murat Tarimcilar reminded his offer about the possible office space for TASSA within Virginia campus of Bahcesehir Ugur Educational Institutions. After discussion, all members decided to reject the offer. Bulent Basol offered to talk with the president of ATA DC to have a room in "Turk House". However, members agreed on to postpone the discussion.

Haluk Unal offered to hire a part-time professional managing director (\$15,000.00 annual salary) to manage the required tasks for TASSA and members agreed on the idea.

The Transition team members also agreed on a second gathering of Friends of TASSA in Washington DC to get feedback about the revised TASSA bylaws.

Members reviewed the new version of TASSA bylaws and it was decided that Bulent Basol and Orhan Gurbuz will implement members' comments and revise the bylaws again.

Meeting adjourned.