



International Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Kassel, 10 April 2010

FOLLOW-UP SUMMARY

Each Campus (coordinators to bottom-line):

- Draft outreach plan to increase application rates. **Deadline: Friday, May 30.**
- Send list of contacts to hobden@ilo.org to add to listservs.
- Send links to GLU working papers to TU research centers.
- Draft proposal for local fundraising.
- Discuss ILO library proposal with respective university libraries
- Send to Frank or Nicolas a number of names that are willing to write a column. **Deadline: May 30th.**

Claire:

- Provide list of a few bullet points for alumni to include in their articles.
- Discuss alumni programme outreach with Harald for summer school.

Devan:

- Reach out to Neva to discuss probability of IBSA funding.
- Will support research project proposal „alternatives to capitalism“

Mariano:

- Will coordinate Lygia's research proposal on flexibilization

Mariano and Kjeld:

- Draft proposal for IBSA funding –circulate to SC members. **Deadline: May 31st**

Sharit and Indira:

- Develop timeframe for 2011 GLU Conference

Lygia:

- Prepare one-page research project proposal for alumni summer school.

Eddy:

- will contact the South African Minister of Higher Education who may be interested in supporting an IBSA project.

Frank:

- Send out ILO library questionnaire to be completed by coordinators.
- Circulate another email with the information on how to connect to library resources via the FES websites

1. Application, Selection and Retention of Candidates

Report/Problem: Applications are stagnating or decreasing rather than increasing.

- **Germany:** Problem getting German and western/northern European applicants. Perhaps target audience already have masters degrees.
- **South Africa:** Difficulty attracting locals. There has been some problems in involvement of and communication with COSATU. Main challenge is that people don't have basic degrees.

- **India:** Very few applicants from India. Trade union federations are not sensitized enough. One option would be a joint workshop between the trade unions and TISS to strengthen the TU involvement.
- **Brazil:** CUT is taking an active ownership of the GLU and despite language problems there are always application from the Brazil to the international programmes. However, applicants for Brazil come largely from outside Latin America. Outreach has improved but hasn't helped increase applications. Possibility that the pool of possible applicants is smaller than anticipated (lack of language skills and of university degrees).
- **Engage:** We have not gotten the 4 applications from India, Brazil and Southern Africa. We need to make contacts to a wider range of trade unions in the countries beyond the umbrella organisations.

Proposals:

- Dialogue with sectoral, local unions and TU members rather than just federations.
- Coordinators should follow-up with the unions students are associated with to assess what the value was to the unions.
- South Africa: start an honors programme as a stepping stone. Fast track senior trade unionists through undergrad courses over a year, then do the MA.
- India: do more outreach and sensitization to trade union federations so that they put it on the agenda of smaller unions.
- Engage: GUFs will be asked to identify people who could then work on a specific campaign they have in the pipeline.
- Get more students to their internships abroad to increase interest among TUs. This will in particular be tested in Latin America.
- Go to more TU events to talk about the programme.

DECISION:

- Each campus will come up with a brief strategic plan and activities to increase application rates.
- Send plan to hoffer@ilo.org with a copy to hobden@ilo.org by **Friday, April 30, 2010**.
- Discuss programme and outreach with alumni during GLU alumni summer school.
- Report back on these activities at next SC meeting in September.

2. Visibility of the GLU

Report: So far, we have started a Facebook fan page, started an email list for the GLU and the Column, and posted application deadlines on union blogs. The Column has also significantly raised visibility, and we will publish a Global Labour Column yearbook in June 2010.

Problem: We must increase visibility of the GLU both to increase applications and as a means to mobilise sources of funding.

DECISION:

- Distribute GLU Working Papers to Tus – send link to TU research offices. (Frank & Claire)
- Alumni to place one brief article about their experience in their TU newspaper. Could take the form of a brief interview. (Frank)
- The local programme coordinators could prepare an interview and publish it on the web-site
- All campuses will look at the web-site of their programme and provide additional information there
- Build up Column emailing list. (Claire)
- Produce a brief annual report for distribution. (Frank & Claire)

3. Funding for GLU Activities

Report/Problem: Additional funding is necessary for 2012 and beyond. Fundraising need to be increasingly decentralized.

Proposals:

India –

- Can get funding from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Would not provide for international students though. Need to be explored whether they may be able to support Indian students going abroad
- TISS can also may be leverage funds from Corporate Social Responsibility...
- Ministry of Labour might be a possibility

South Africa –

- Did raise funds for SA students together with COSATU through the SETA. However it did not work for 2010.
- MoL promised to beef up SETA funding. Requires an additional effort from COSATU and Wits
- Funding int'l students is more problematic.
- There is a need to get COSATU more strongly involved and to broaden the contacts and access to trade unions.
- Possible cooperation and support by the Development bank for Souther Africa Eddy Webster could as a non executive director of the DBSA Development Fund explore possibilities)
- Eddy mentioned that IBSA were key players in opening up a policy space for the South, as seen in Copenhagen. But it hasn't been seen so much as a knowledge transfer or educational activities. However it might be an opportunity to generate interest among policy makers. The South Africa Minister of Higher Education is probably very interested and could be approached by Eddie.

Brazil

- May be funding from the CUT
- May be in combination with the ILO local office
- Limited funding from university to cover the deficit.
- Working on South –South to get a grant
- The ministries of education and science and technology are the ones that provide funding for scholarships. Difficult because it is an election year.
- IBSA – Since the GLU is a project supported by many important partners, there could be possibilities to make governments consider the option of funding. Perhaps they could fund two or three conferences (one in each country) and scholarships for students from the South to study at partner universities.

DECISION:

- Mariano and Kjeld will elaborate a funding proposal for IBSA and will circulate it to the rest of the SC **by May 31st**. The ICDD proposal could be used as a “template”
- Proposal will be translated and brought to respective governments by the national patners. IBSA cooperation is still under development and it might be a good opportunity to use this framework to initiate real South-South educational cooperation.
- The German partners or the ILO can prepare letter of support when needed. Eddy will contact the South African Minister of Higher Education who may be interested.

4. GLU Conference

Report:

- UNICAMP is hosting the annual ICDD conference on migration. Call for papers has been sent out.
- The HWR is host for GLU Conference in Berlin in September. Deadline for submitting papers is 1st of May. Topics are:
 - o Immediate crisis response
 - o Economic paradigm restructuring in medium term
 - o Ideas beyond repairing capitalism
- Parallel working groups on one hand, plenary sessions on the other. President of Germany TU will be keynote speaker. He will also become the President of ITUC.

Urgent task: All colleagues will circulate the Call for papers. It was also decided to target some key-note speakers for the plenary panels. It would in particular be important to target also speaker from the South and people who we want to link with the GLU network.

Proposals:

- John Bellamy Foster (DEVAN)
- Renana Jhabvala (tbc)
- Amit Bhaburi (confirmed)
- Jose Antonio Ocampo (MARIANO)
- Robert Wade (confirmed)
- Beverly Silvers

DECISION: GLU conference 2011 to be held in India around November.

5. GLU Column

Report: GLU SC members and others from the network should contribute articles to the column if they have not done so already. Articles should be 1000-1500 words and consist of three elements: 1) description of the problem; 2) author's analysis; 3) policy ideas about it. All the ones we have now are being published as a yearbook (joint ILO and GLU publication.) There has been very positive feedback from TUs. Labour focus separates it from other columns. There is currently a contribution from Ana Rosa (on public banks) that's in the review process.

Problem: We need more contributions. We also need to build up distribution list.

Decision:

- Send column proposals directly to Nicolas, the Column editor in South Africa.
- Send new contacts to add to the listserv to Claire at hobden@ilo.org.
- If no time to write a column, please make comments on the blog.

Note: Language should not be too much of a concern because there is a language editor who can polish the language. GLU alumni can also contribute, but the aim to maintain a high quality standard.

6. GLU Summer School/Research Projects

Report: Current projects include:

- Christoph – Trade research.
- Sue (Ruskin) – women trade union leadership
- Hansjorg – Minimum wage
- Steve Davis – sports TUs
- Helen – migrant domestic workers

New projects:

- Melissa (Philippines) and Elvira(?) (Albania) (alumnae): Have proposed to do research on alternatives to capitalism. They received money to start a literature review to start with and might lead a group on this topic. Devan expressed interest to contribute to the work of this group. Field research would have to be limited to someone who is already on location. This should be an alumni.
- Lygia: proposed a comparative research project on flexibilization of contracts, wages and working time. Write a one-page summary of the research proposal and circulate it around alumni who might be interested. No need for it to pass through the SC. Mariano has agreed to be the academic advisor/supervisor for the group.
- Experience has shown that Alumni need a substantial amount of support. It has been a successful way to apply hands-on methods and to strengthen networks. But this all means guidance and commitments from supervisors.

GLU Summer School

- The plan is to hold conference first, then a week for discussing ideas around specific campaigns, and holding a discussion about the research that was presented. New elements in the summer school include:
 - o Panel discussions among alumni focused around specific labour challenges.
 - o One or two groups can think about these campaigns (IUF Nestle) and discuss how to support this campaign.
 - o Also leave room for alumni to give feedback and think about the future.
 - o Set up a small solidarity fund. Professors are invited to contribute as well.

Problem: We don't have money for everyone to come. Chosen participants should meet three (four) criteria:

- Still active in the labour movement or research
- Involved in research groups
- Give turns to new people.
- (Overall commitment/leadership)

Decisions:

- a. Lygia will write a one page proposal for research on flexibilization of labour.
- b. Mariano will advise/supervise this new group
- c. Each campus will review list of applicants and prioritize chosen participants.
- d. Everyone can submit ideas for new research projects.

7. Alternative Economic Paradigm

Report: A working group on building an alternative to the current neoliberal economic model has been formed. The idea is to gather trade union economics experts to write policy papers about what the labour movement should do. A lot of TUs could pick this up and support. After a meeting in Washington DC, a group of 4 people (including Frank) act as a coordinating group for this. We can use some of the GLU events to contribute to the debate about an alternative economic paradigm. Not just in September but maybe also at a first little workshop in Brussels. Maybe some of the GLU network members from Germany could join in. Issues like a financial transaction tax, wage and income led recovery strategies, solidarity economy; green jobs; economic democracy, etc raise interesting research questions in this respect. .

DECISION: Frank will share some ideas how the network could contribute to this.

8. Assessment of Visiting Professorship

Report: Currently, Eddy is half-way through his visiting professorship. The experience so far has been both challenging and fulfilling. Currently starting together with Sharit research on work livelihoods and security (India v South Africa). Just spent 10 days in Mumbai and met students there to prepare for the project. A first research workshop started last week.

Challenges:

- The teaching load is very heavy, equivalent to any other German professor. This seriously limits the amount of time that can be spent coming up with innovative and exciting new research on work and economic development.

Positives:

- There are good social science professors that use Global production chain analysis. Since most of the decent work deficit in the developing world is in the agricultural sector, this is a great opportunity.
- There is wonderful admin support that has emerged in the center.

Proposals:

- The library facility must be improved to support research. This should have its own budget line if it does not already.
- There is also a programme for younger profs on the European level to come to Germany that require less teaching.
- Humbolt programme for senior researchers– some profs could come to Germany to spend some time teaching (PhD) but more time on thinking. For this we would have to develop a grant proposal.

9. GLU/ILO virtual library

Report: The purpose is to provide access to ILO databases that are not public. The group that has access has to be a closed group because of copyright issues, but it can be a GLU group. The ILO library has agreed to create a resource guide on subjects of our choosing, such as “Informal work.”

Problem: There is a pending issue – what is the best way to create this access? The library has proposed one way is to give everyone a user ID and password. This is administratively heavy though. Alternatively, the university is provided an IP address that links to these resources. GLU members then send a request for a source to the ILO and they get an electronic copy back. The library would then scan and digitalize books. The advantage is that the ILO library would then manage the whole. They would structure the resource guide according to our topic(s) and they would have a closed GLU group whereby we could access articles that could be sent out electronically in a short period of time.

The ILO library has also sent out a list of four questions for each University library to answer in order to set up the system.

Reminder:

FES - Titles are available via the internet with a password on the FES website.

GURN– also access to the ILO databases via password.

Decision:

- Frank will circulate an email with the FES information.
- Frank will also forward email with 4 questions from library.
- Each university should also connect with their respective libraries.

10. Publications

Report:

2009 Workshop - Routledge (Delhi and London) has agreed to publish the last set of articles. Wanted to have it edited academically, but the person in mind disappeared. Doesn't seem possible to publish it by the Conference. We will have to find another editor.

2010 Publish articles of the 2010 conference as a special edition of the IJLR.

Working Papers

There could be more of these. They should also be a tool for GLU to be more useful to labour movement.

Global Labour Column

We need a longer list of potential authors of articles.

Decision:

- a. By the end of the month – send to Frank or Nicolas a number of names that might be willing to write a column.
- b. Publish 2010 GLU conference articles as a special edition of the IJLR.

11. Mobility

Open positions:

- South Africa to Germany:
 - o One professor for 7 days
 - o One student for 3.5 months
- Brazil to Germany:
 - o One professor for 7 days
- India to Germany:
 - o 2 professors for 7 days each
 - o 1 guest teaching/graduate assistant for 21 days
- South Africa to India
 - o One guest teaching assistant or graduate for 21 days
- Brazil to South Africa
 - o One guest teaching graduate assistant for 21 days (Pedro?)

Other positions decided on independently.

List of Participants

Name	First Name	Institution
India		
Bhowmik	Sharit	TISS
Gartenberg	Indira	TISS
Venkatesh	Kumar	TISS
Subhash	Sharma	INTUC
South Africa		
Webster	Edward	WITS
Pillay	Devan	WITS
Brazil		
Laplane	Mariano	Unicamp
Sabbag	Lygia	Alumni
Jakobsen	Kjeld	CUT
Germany		
Stubbe	Lars	Uni Kassel
Scherrer	Christoph	Uni Kassel
International		
Hoffer	Frank	ILO
Rademacher	Reiner	FES

Others		
Hobden	Claire	ILO