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The FELDENKRAIS GUILD®

FUNCTIONAL INTEGRATION* AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT™

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TRAINING ACCREDITATION BOARD History, Who We Are and What We Do, and Why March 1992

What the Training Accreditation Board (TAB) is:

When: The TAB was created by the adoption of the Training Accreditation Policy at the 1985 Guild Annual Conference at Pingree Park, Colorado. It was a courageous act. It was an act not taken lightly at the time. It was, and to some extent still is, controversial. However, given the high value we in the Feldenkrais community put on learning, maturity, autonomy and the rewarding of initiative, it was inevitable.

Why: The TAB was created to empower the Feldenkrais Guild and the Feldenkrais community to determine for itself the direction of training programs, their content and the people responsible for transmitting the content. There were many different motivating forces at work at the time: discontent with the trainings being conducted at that time seemed to signal the need for a change; the Guild needed a way to make a gesture to assert its autonomy and separate itself from the Feldenkrais Foundation; the maturation of practitioners and their desire to work in, organize or educationally direct trainings; the shared perception that there was no way to control training quality or who could teach, organize or direct trainings (some people were then and are even now running trainings on their own); The consensus that measures needed to be taken or the Feldenkrais work would fragment and disappear.

Who: The TAB was constituted as a seven member board. Carl Ginsburg was appointed its first Chair. Five other members were elected in the Fall of 1985. There was at that time a position for a member of the Feldenkrais Foundation that was filled by Roger Miller in August 1986. The first members of the TAB (1986) were along with Carl and Roger, Mark Reese (Guild Rep), Sarnell Ogus (Guild Rep), Russell Delman (Guild Rep), Anat Baniel (Trainer Rep), Gaby Yaron (Trainer Rep). In 1987 the only changes were that Myriam Pfeffer replaced Gaby and Jerry Karzen replaced Roger Miller in the Fall. For 1988, Ruthi replaced Anat and Harry Contompasis was added as a European Rep. On February 15, 1988 the Feldenkrais Foundation position was removed. In 1989, Carl resigned and Marty Weiner was appointed Chair on May 7, 1989. Also in 1989, Chloe Scott became a Guild Rep replacing Russell and Anat Baniel rejoined the TAB replacing Myriam Pfeffer. Sarnell Ogus resigned and Julie Casson was appointed to fill Sarnell's term. In 1990, Marty Weiner resigned in January and Dennis Leri was appointed Chair in June of 1990. Yvan Joly joined the TAB as a Guild Rep and Mark Reese and Myriam Pfeffer became Trainer Reps replacing Ruthi and Anat. In 1991 Will Wells became a Guild Rep replacing Julie and Patrice Auquier became the Rep from the newly constituted Euro TAB. Janet Loops replaced Chloe Scott recently as a Guild Rep. Recently, Elizabeth Beringer joined the TAB and Mark Reese left. Paul Rubin has replaced me (Dennis Leri) as Chair now that the new Training policy has been adopted.

The first trainings approved by the TAB were: the (1986) Institute for Movement Studies Feldenkrais Professional Training Program (FPTP) held in Sydney, Australia with Frank Wildman as Educational Director; Ruthy Alon's FPTP (1986) held in Sydney, Australia; Anat Motion Systems FPTP (1987) Anat Baniel, Educational Director; and the Somathematics FPTP (1987), Elizabeth Beringer and Dennis Leri organizers and Educational Directors. The Anat Motion System training and the Somathematics training were the first trainings not based on viewing the Amherst videos.

Comment: Some people think that anyone having anything to do with trainings should not be on the TAB because of conflict of interest. First, we have had an internal policy about conflict of interest dating to 1986 which we are making explicit in this proposal. It has been followed with extreme diligence. There are checks and balances in place. Minutes of the meetings exist. Secondly, speaking for myself as a training organizer, some previous policy decisions of the TAB were not implementable on a practical level notwithstanding their good intentions. I believe, as an organizer and educational director, we should have representation of and by those people who take the risks and do the very difficult and arduous tasks required to form a training program. I feel it is not desirable to exclude people who can and do understand the realities of training situations. Finally, it is a shared perception that, generally speaking, the quality of trainings has improved. To me, that says, on the one hand, that the trainings are doing a good job and, on the other hand, that you out there are responsible for drawing a broad range of quality people into our work.

→ THIS IS EXACTLY (LEGALLY) CALLED
"CONFLICT OF INTEREST".

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