

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – RECORD OF DECISIONS

21 April 2026

07:00 AM Quebec City Time

Zoom Meeting Details

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86244026240?pwd=FSYOlsISA3LRZa744ydeleanVka1iY.1>

Meeting ID: 862 4402 6240

Passcode: 038627

PARTICIPANTS

| Name | Present | Regrets |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr. Kaushik Banerjee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Pamela Byrne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Junshi Chen | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Zeineb El Bouchikhi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Hadi El-Alem | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Samuel Godefroy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Ruba Goussous | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Wiem Guissouma | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Nuri Gras | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ms. Joyce Haddad | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Shrinivas Joshi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Hakim Mufumbiro | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Greg Paoli | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Pingfan Rao | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mr. Christopher Worrell | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

PROPOSED AGENDA

| Item | Participants |
|--|-------------------------------|
| A. Review of the Agenda | <i>All</i> |
| B. Opening Remarks | <i>Prof. S. Godefroy</i> |
| C. Approval of the Board meeting on 24 February 2026 Record of Discussion | <i>All</i> |
| D. Introduction of a Members Benefits Package | <i>Prof. S. Godefroy, All</i> |
| E. Proposal to change GForSS HQ from Quebec to Ontario | <i>Prof. S. Godefroy, All</i> |
| F. Confirmation of Decisions | <i>All</i> |
| G. Adjournment | <i>All</i> |

MEETING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

A- Review and Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting commenced at 7:00 AM (Quebec time), chaired by Prof. Samuel Godefroy.

The Chair confirmed that quorum was met in accordance with the GForSS By-Laws.

Prof. Godefroy proposed a streamlined agenda in view of time constraints and highlighted the key discussion items, including:

- Introduction of a Members Benefits Package,
- Consideration of a proposal to relocate GForSS headquarters from Quebec to Ontario,
- Review of future agenda management through a dynamic forward agenda process.

The agenda was approved following a motion by Prof. Samuel Godefroy and seconded by Prof. Pingfan Rao, with no objections raised

B- Opening Remarks

Prof. Samuel Godefroy delivered welcoming remarks, acknowledging the second official meeting under the new board mandate and outlining strategic priorities for the upcoming term. The Chair emphasized strengthening governance, visibility, and membership growth of GForSS.

Prof. Samuel Godefroy welcomed Board members and provided updates on recent GForSS international engagement activities, particularly participation in regional food innovation discussions in Asia.

The Chair highlighted the importance of strengthening engagement with regulatory authorities globally and noted the strategic approach of collaborating with food science and technology organizations to facilitate connections with national regulators.

The Chair also emphasized the growing visibility of GForSS and the increasing interest in participation across regions

C- Approval of the Board meeting on 24 February 2026 Record of Discussion

The Record of Discussion from the Board meeting held on 24 February 2026 was reviewed.

Prof. Godefroy summarized the key outcomes of the previous meeting, including:

- Introduction of the Board of Directors,
- Review of the Board meeting schedule,
- Nomination of officers,
- Review of proposed events and activities,
- Initiation of discussions on communication strategy,
- Establishment of Operational and Communication Working Groups.

Dr. Pamela Byrne proposed approval of the Record of Discussion, seconded by Dr. Ruba Goussous.

The Board unanimously approved the Record of Discussion with no amendments requested.

D- Introduction of a Members Benefits Package

Prof. Samuel Godefroy introduced a preliminary proposal for the development of a GForSS Members Benefits Package aimed at strengthening membership growth, engagement, and organizational sustainability.

The Chair clarified that the proposal was being introduced for initial reflection and would be discussed in greater detail at a future Board meeting.

Key concepts presented included:

- Development of thematic and regional professional networks within GForSS,
- Enhanced collaboration and peer consultation opportunities,
- Creation of members-only resources and tools through a secure online portal,
- Access to regulatory science templates, case studies, and technical materials,
- Development of a Fellowship Program recognizing contributions to food regulatory science,
- Creation of a roster of experts to support GForSS projects and technical activities,
- Potential future competency certification and learning programs,
- Exploration of revenue-generating educational activities and scholarships for professionals from developing countries.

Dr. Pamela Byrne welcomed the initiative and emphasized:

- The importance of aligning the program with GForSS values and strategic objectives,
- The need to distinguish GForSS offerings from other international organizations,
- Consideration of quality assurance mechanisms for fellowship and certification activities,
- Exploration of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for regulators,
- The importance of long-term financial sustainability and balanced transparency principles.

Board members discussed the global gap in formal regulatory science education and agreed that GForSS could play a leading role in professional development and regulatory capacity building internationally.

Dr. Ruba Goussous highlighted the significant need for structured regulatory science education within governmental authorities and supported development of scholarship and training opportunities for developing countries.

Following discussion, the Board unanimously endorsed the establishment of a new Working Group on GForSS Learning Activities and Continuing Education in Food Regulatory Science.

Dr. Pamela Byrne expressed willingness to support development of initial Terms of Reference for the Working Group, with participation from Prof. Samuel Godefroy and other interested members.

An initial Working Group meeting was tentatively scheduled for 1 May 2026 at 10:00 AM Dublin time

Industry Membership Discussion

The Chair also introduced a preliminary discussion regarding participation of food industry professionals within GForSS membership.

It was noted that:

- GForSS had initially restricted industry membership through a special resolution mechanism,
- The organization had recently received a growing number of membership requests from industry professionals,
- Consideration may be given to creating a distinct membership category for regulated industry representatives while maintaining transparency and governance safeguards.

The matter was deferred for further analysis and future Board discussion.

Membership Growth Update

The Board was informed that a recent membership promotion campaign had generated 32 new membership requests.

The Chair acknowledged the contributions of Board members, including promotional outreach activities conducted through social media and video communications.

The membership applications will be circulated electronically to Board members for review and approval in accordance with existing procedures.

E- Proposal to change GForSS HQ from Quebec to Ontario

Prof. Samuel Godefroy presented the proposal to relocate the GForSS headquarters from Quebec to Ontario.

The Chair explained that maintaining headquarters in Quebec imposed significant administrative and regulatory burdens, including:

- Dual federal and provincial filing requirements,
- Additional reporting obligations,
- Extensive documentation requirements for Board members,
- Increased operational complexity.

Dr. Pamela Byrne requested clarification regarding the implications of hosting arrangements and future flexibility should circumstances change.

The Chair confirmed that relocation to Ontario would simplify governance obligations by limiting compliance requirements primarily to federal regulations.

The proposal to relocate GForSS headquarters from Quebec to Ontario was approved unanimously following a motion by Prof. Samuel Godefroy and seconded by Prof. Pingfan Rao.

The Chair noted that final confirmation would be subject to verification of any requirements under the GForSS By-Laws regarding General Assembly approval

F- Confirmation of Decisions

All decisions and actions agreed upon during the meeting were formally approved following a motion by Prof. Samuel Godefroy, seconded by Dr. Pamela Byrne.

G- Adjournment

Before adjournment, the Chair informed members of upcoming GForSS webinar activities, including:

- A webinar on food data strategy in Africa,
- A collaborative webinar with the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology on ultra-processed foods,
- A French-language webinar in collaboration with Université Laval and the Quebec Dairy Centre.

The Board also briefly discussed ongoing AFRAF-related activities and future plans connected to innovation initiatives in Africa.

The next Board meeting was confirmed for 19 May 2026.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:15 AM (Quebec time) following a motion to adjourn proposed by Dr. Pamela Byrne and seconded by Prof. Pingfan Rao.