

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
RUST FOUNDATION  
(a Delaware non-profit corporation)**

**Date:** February 13, 2024

**Time:** 22:00 UTC

**Place:** By online videoconference

**Directors present:**

Lars Bergstrom

Jakob Degen

Eric Garcia

Peixin Hou

Ryan Levick

Seth Markle

Scott McMurray

Santiago Pastorino

Alexandru Radovici

Mark Rousskov

Nell Shamrell-Harrington

**Others present:**

Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)

Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)

Gracie Gregory (Director of Communications and Marketing)

Joel Marcey (Director of Technology)

Abi Broom (Director of Operations)

A quorum was present.

**1. Opening Remarks**

Mr. Bergstrom opened the meeting with opening remarks and a check for a quorum. He welcomed the quorum to the February 2024 Board meeting and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

There was a round of introductions for the benefit of the newly-elected Silver Member director, Alexandru Radovici.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A resolution was put forth to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, was briefly discussed, and approved by unanimous consent of the members of the Board present.

*WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Foundation has reviewed the draft minutes of its*

*regular meeting held on January 9th 2024, which were circulated to the Board (the “January 9th Minutes”).*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the January 9th Minutes are hereby approved.*

### **3. Executive Director & Management Team update**

#### **Management**

Ms. Rumbul gave an update. She had recently been collaborating with OpenSSF/Linux/OFE and others about developing a more unified approach from the open source space to EU policy monitoring and engagement. Mr. Levick asked about the likely impact of the EU Cyber Resilience Act on individual open source maintainers, and Ms. Rumbul responded that she had been pleased with the way the legislative drafters had listened to and incorporated feedback from open source advocacy on this point. She noted that she would be happy to make herself available to people from the Project to answer questions.

New funding from Google for a C++/Rust Interop initiative had been [announced](#) to an overwhelmingly positive reaction, with some good coverage online. The German Sovereign Tech Fund seemed receptive to the Foundation’s ideas for funding (and have made investments in Rust in other areas) but are not taking applications until Q2.

A Google Summer of Code application had been submitted and Ms. Rumbul noted the productive collaboration between the Foundation and the Project to make this happen.

There was a discussion about the process of managing revising the trademark policy to ensure Project and community buy-in: Project Directors and Foundation staff would discuss this in more detail. It was confirmed that no organization was currently blocked on progressing any work whilst waiting for the revised guidelines.

#### **Technology/Infrastructure**

Mr. Marcy reported that all 4 Security Initiative threat models were now complete and being used to plan pieces of work alongside Project stakeholders, for example crate signing. New tool Sandpit was running in a production environment, scanning for malicious crates and reporting them through the usual security channels. A guide was being written for crates.io administrators to ensure a consistent approach to handling malicious crates. A blog post about TypoMania and typosquatting would be released soon. The Rust specification work was ongoing, with weekly meetings, and the team was still deciding the best presentation for the spec.

Following the announcement of the C++/Rust Interop initiative Mr. Marcey was working with the Project to scope this initiative further, writing an initial job description for a new hire to lead the initiative, and discussing the possibility of creating a Working Group. Monthly infrastructure reports were now being produced about progress towards the Foundation’s infra goals for 2024, and a second Infrastructure Engineer was being recruited.

Mr. Levick noted that some people assume, when the Foundation talks about hiring, that the intent is to hire from outside the Project, and thought public messaging could be clearer that the Foundation always wants to support people already working in the Project on related endeavors. Mr. Degen suggested that more of the rationale and intent could be shared on the Rust Project blog rather than in Zulip, to reach a wider audience.

## **Finance & Grants**

Mr. Lenz presented a report on performance against budget during 2023, and a new layout financial report for the first month of 2024, reflecting feedback from the Project about wanting to see more detail on how the Foundation allocates funds.

A proposal for the 2024 Fellowship program was put forward and discussed, the key elements of which were to increase the monthly stipend, to work with the Project to develop specific Fellowship roles to ensure support will go where it is needed, and to create a new category of fellowships focused on community/outreach especially to/in underserved areas of the world. There was general support for this proposal, but also a desire to ensure the Foundation was collecting metrics (in particular, measuring the impact on the wider Project of the Fellowship program, not just the impact for individual Fellows) to ensure these were the right set of choices.

There was a discussion on Rust's continually increasing credit/bandwidth usage and how to get ahead of these costs. Mr. Marcey will discuss with the Technology committee and write a paper with recommendations for the future.

## **Communications**

Ms. Gregory gave an update on recent and in-progress communications output via the blog and newsletters. She thanked Mr. Bergstrom and his team for their collaboration around the C++/Rust Interop Initiative announcement, which had led to some excellent media coverage. There would shortly be an announcement of two 'listening sessions' to get input from Foundation members and the wider community into the Foundation's training program planning, with the opportunity for registrants to provide additional information and questions in advance via the sign-up form.

A 'save the date' announcement for RustConf 2024 was upcoming. Due to difficulties with handover from the previous organizers, the full conference website would probably not be live at the time of the announcement, but a basic version would be, with more to follow including a sponsorship prospectus. Ms. Gregory shared that Foundation member companies would be eligible for a 10% discount on all sponsorship packages, and that ticket discounts would be available for Rust Project members, students, and Montreal-area locals. A charter for the Program Committee & CFP was currently with the Leadership Council for review, with a goal of achieving more transparency around the process of selecting talks, and ensuring representation from different sectors of the community.

## **4. Project Director Update**

Mr. McMurray provided the update:

- Rust 1.76 had been released
- Update for LLVM in progress
- Leadership Council's [February update](#)
- A Project team leads meeting was being set up in the UK in March, around Rust Nation

He thanked the Foundation staff for their help with setting up the Google Summer of Code program.

The Project leadership had been having lots of conversations around what should be a priority for Foundation funding, and there was a sense that it would be helpful for the Foundation to take a more active role in shaping these discussions.

## **5. Subcommittee Updates**

The Technology Committee met in January to continue the discussion of infrastructure strategy and some OKRs around that strategy. This month, the committee will review the infrastructure threat model.

## **6. Treasurer Vacancy**

Ms. Rumbul reminded the board that Andy Wafaa, the departing Silver member representative, had also been the Treasurer. She encouraged board members to volunteer for the role if they were interested, and noted that the bylaws permit the board to select someone who is not on the board (for example, a member of staff). At the next board meeting a proposal will be put forward.

## **7. Associate Member Applications**

The board considered three applications for Associate Membership, two of which were accepted: Open UK, and the Institute of Software Chinese Academy of Sciences (ISCAS).

## **8. AOB**

Mr. Bergstrom introduced a discussion on how the Rust Foundation should respond to the growth that is highly likely to result from the increased interest in Rust from governments, corporations, etc.

The Project Directors were in agreement that there was a role for the Foundation to address existing issues within the Project in handling the current workload, in order to get ahead of the curve. They invited Foundation staff to lay out a vision for the Project in 5 years' time, for discussion with the Leadership Council. This should include investment in review capacity to keep on top of new contributions, and the possibility of hiring more staff into teams.

## **9. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 00:00 UTC.