

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

Date: January 14, 2025

Time: 22:00 UTC

Place: By online videoconference

Directors present:

Lars Bergstrom

Jakob Degen

Peixin Hou

Ryan Levick

James Munns (representing the Rust Project – alternate for Santiago Pastorino)

Scott McMurray

Carol Nichols

Alexandru Radovici

Nell Shamrell-Harrington

Matt Wilson (representing AWS – alternate for Seth Markle)

Others present:

Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)

Abi Broom (Director of Operations)

Gracie Gregory (Director of Communications and Marketing)

Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)

Joel Marcey (Director of Technology)

Apologies

Eric Garcia

Seth Markle

Santiago Pastorino

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 January 2025 Board meeting and handed the lead and logistics to Ms. Rumbul.

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 December 10th 2024, which were circulated to the Board (the “December 10th Minutes”).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the December 10th Minutes are hereby approved.

3. Election: Board Chair

Ms. Shamrell-Harrington was elected unopposed, leaving the Vice-Chair position vacant as a result. Ms. Rumbul invited board members to self-nominate for the vacancy, with the aim of holding an election at the February meeting.

4. Executive Director & Management Team update

Management

Ms. Rumbul gave the update. Numerous stakeholders had been expressing interest to her in Long Term Support for Rust so she intended to convene an exploratory conversation to allow them all to discuss the possibilities together. The Board expressed positive sentiments around this, noting that the Rust Project has intentionally not tried to take on this work, but would be happy if some company or coalition of companies picked it up with Foundation support. Ms. Rumbul said she would draft a briefing document for circulation to Foundation member companies in due course.

Talks were in progress about a potential migration of work to the Foundation, with companies that could be interested in providing financial support. A mapping exercise had been carried out of Rust in AI, producing a useful and informative picture of this space which the Foundation is now in a good place to present to others.

The Foundation had been invited to co-sign a Unified Patents amicus brief in a case against a prolific patent troll. Ms. Rumbul said she also hoped for the Foundation to join Unified Patents, to make it clear Rust is taking a strong stand against patent trolling. The board approved this.

Technology/Infrastructure

Mr. Marcey gave the update. He noted that the Foundation’s technology team had developed a short (Q1), medium (2025) and long-term (2027) technology team strategy that focuses on 5 pillars - security, infrastructure, ecosystem evolution, emerging trends, Rust software support. This will be published in due course.

CI cost reduction efforts continued, and the costs for large CI runners had been reduced by around 50% with minimal visible impact to Rust maintainers (at the expense, however, of building up technical debt that would need to be addressed). A 2025H1 Rust Project goal around crate signing had been proposed. The Trusted Publishing RFC for crates.io had been through the final comment period, was subsequently accepted by the crates.io team and implementation work was set to begin this quarter. An official OpenAPI description for the crates.io API was now being experimentally generated from the code. Jon Bauman recently presented to the OpenSSF SIG Memory Safety group on the Foundation's Rust/C++ Interop Initiative.

Finance & Grants

Mr. Lenz presented the year-end figures and gave an overview of the Foundation's financial position. The Foundation had income of \$4.289m and expenditure of \$3.793m, leaving a surplus of \$496k for the year and a balance sheet figure of \$2.3m, \$1.15m of which is restricted for specific programs such as Rust/C++ interoperability, the Security Initiative, grants, etc. Final work on the 2025 budget was being carried out off the back of the year-end, and a budget would be brought to the February board meeting for board approval.

Reports had been received from the 2024 Rust Foundation Fellows for their first three months of work, with many positive outcomes showing that Foundation support is providing a material benefit to grantees. The Foundation was continuing to work with the Leadership Council on providing support for attendees of the all-hands meeting in May 2025 via travel grants and free conference tickets for RustWeek, and was working on developing a grant round to support the H1 2025 Project Goals. Event support grants continued to be issued regularly, and it was hoped that increased outreach capacity would lead to being able to provide support for more community groups in 2025, particularly outside of Western Europe and the USA.

Communications & Events

Ms. Gregory gave a recap of recent and upcoming communications output. She thanked Ms. Nichols for initiating [a new series of blog posts from the Project Directors](#) recapping board meetings for the benefit of the Rust community.

She noted that the new Rust Foundation website would finally launch later in the week, including the publication of the revised trademark policy. Mr. Bergstrom raised the issue of potential technical difficulties with a new website launch and said that he would not wish this to affect a successful rollout of the trademark policy after all the hard work that had gone into it. It was agreed to revise the timetable for publication.

The marketing & communications team was currently working on:

- An internal strategy for mar-comms
- A roadmap for the training and certification program
- Gathering additional responses for the 2024 Rust Foundation Member Survey, and summarizing the results

all of which would be presented at a future board meeting.

5. Q1 goals

Ms. Rumbul outlined the following goals for Q1 2025:

- Agree 2025 budget & priorities
- Chair / Vice Chair election
- Tech report
- Rust Specification progress
- New website go-live

- Safety Critical Consortium in-person meeting
- Attendance/Speaking at 2 x EU policy events, ARM Open Source & AI Summit, FOSDEM, SooCon, Rust Nation, FOSS Backstage, Linux Members Summit
- RustConf Venue and CFP announcements
- Trademark policy publication

6. Project Directors update

Mr. McMurray gave the update:

- Rust 1.84 had been released, including strict provenance APIs which are likely to help improve developer tooling
- The Rust 2024 Edition was close to being finalized
- A new set of Project Goals were being proposed for H1 of 2025 – flagship goals would likely include async, Rust for Linux, and the 10-year All Hands meeting
- The Leadership Council continued to work on reorganising the Project’s sub-teams to make its ‘org chart’ more coherent
- He noted that Rust was seeing increasing amounts of trivial and/or poor quality code submissions, possibly AI-generated and likely as a result of companies making incentives available for contributions to open source projects

7. Sub-committee updates

No sub-committees had met since the last meeting although the Finance Committee would be scheduling a meeting to discuss the draft budget before bringing it to the full board.

8. Associate Membership Decision

The Board considered an application for Associate Membership from Open Atom Open Source Foundation, which was approved. There was general consensus that it would be desirable to have them reflect back some of the work that’s happening in China.

Alongside this (but separate from the decision on membership), Ms. Rumbul noted that Open Atom were interested in having the Rust Foundation’s endorsement for their Chinese-language training, and that the Foundation was in principle happy to grant this for their free course materials, subject to approval of the content.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 23:00 UTC.