

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

**Date:** January 9, 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

Sarah Novotny (representing Microsoft – alternate for Nell Shamrell-Harrington)

Santiago Pastorino

Mark Rousskov

Andy Wafaa

**Apologies:**

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 January 2024 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 12th 2023, which were circulated to the Board (the “December 12th Minutes”).*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the December 12th Minutes are hereby approved.*

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

#### **Management**

Ms. Rumbul gave the update. Due to the holiday period there had not been much progress since the last meeting, but the team was continuing to work on:

- Proposals for use of new funding (for strategy discussion later on the agenda)
- Soliciting and analyzing feedback from interested parties on the Foundation’s proposed training program, with two listening sessions (one dedicated to Foundation members and the other to the Rust Community) planned for Q1.
- The trademark policy
- Organizing RustConf

AWS’s potential continued financial support for the Security Initiative, discussed at last meeting, had not come through, but this did not represent a financial problem for the Foundation.

Mr. Wafaa’s term as Silver Member Representative was coming to an end and the Foundation had begun an election process, with nominations currently open and the successful candidate expected to join the February meeting.

Ms. Rumbul had been elected to the OpenSSF Board of Directors as a representative of its Associate Membership.

The Rust Project had expressed interest in signing up to Google Summer of Code and the Foundation will support the administrative and financial side of this if the Project decides to go ahead with it.

#### **Technology/Infrastructure**

Mr. Marcey gave an update. The first draft of an [Artifact Signing Strategy](#) had been published. [Typomania](#) continues to pay dividends, having caught another malicious crate which was yanked immediately before release. A sample chapter for the Rust specification was in progress, on arrays and slices. The Foundation had successfully met all of its 2023 goals to improve the efficiency of Rust’s infrastructure, and Mr. Marcey outlined objectives for 2024 and some potential projects the Foundation could pursue towards those.

#### **Finance & Grants**

Mr. Lenz reported that the Foundation had made a small operating surplus of \$27K for 2023. A further \$1.5m had been transferred into interest-bearing bonds, to maximize return on funds. Now that the year-end numbers were in, he would work on a full comparison review against the year’s original budget.

The Foundation had received indication from its financial adviser that its Form 1024 (application for recognition as a tax-exempt organization) had been accepted by the IRS, although a formal determination letter was still pending. The Form 990 for 2022 was still pending acceptance by the IRS, due to a database issue on the IRS side that should be resolved shortly. The financial adviser was confident that the Foundation would not be penalized for inability to file.

## **Communications**

Ms. Gregory gave an update on recent and in-progress communications output via the blog and newsletters, and shared a preview of the forthcoming new Rust Foundation website. A sponsorship prospectus for RustConf 2024 will be put together over the next few weeks, and the Foundation had been collecting interest from potential sponsors already via a signup form.

She reminded Board members to take the 2023 member survey on behalf of the organizations they represent.

## **4. Q1 goals**

Ms. Rumbul laid out the following goals for Q1 of 2024:

- Agree 2024 budget & priorities
- Silver Member Board Rep election
- Planning and launch of Interop Initiative
- Recruitment x 2 roles (Marketing Specialist & Interop engineering role)
- Publication of report on the first year of the Security Initiative
- Progress Rust specification
- Progress trademark policy
- Attendance/Speaking at EU policy events x 3, FOSDEM, SooCon, CISA Security Summit, & Rust Nation where Mr. Bergstrom will be delivering a keynote.

## **5. Project Director Update**

Mr. Levick provided the update:

- Rust 1.75 had been released – a major milestone was the stabilization of `ImplTrait`, a multi-year effort.
- The 2023 State of Rust Survey was live and collecting responses. Mr. Levick noted the positive collaboration between the Rust Foundation staff and members of the survey working group.
- 2024 will be an edition year for Rust and planning for this was in progress.
- A [blog post](#) covering the Cargo team's recent work was significant because 6-10 months ago that team was in a much more challenging position. Mr. Levick said it was exciting to see how much progress they had been able to make as a team since then.

A proposal was put forward to extend Mr. Levick and Mr. Rousskov's terms as Project Directors to September (to ensure the board always has a mix of new and experienced PDs), was briefly discussed, and approved by unanimous consent of the members of the Board present.

## 6. Sub-Committee Updates

The only sub-committee that had met since the previous meeting was the Technology Committee, which is focusing on defining the Foundation's infrastructure goals for 2024, as discussed earlier.

## 7. Strategy Discussion

Ms. Rumbul opened the discussion by outlining the 5 pillars of the Foundation's strategy (below) and asking for views on whether these were still accurate and attuned to present needs, and whether there were specific work packages that the Foundation was not currently doing but should do.

- Infrastructure and Ecosystem Management
- Community Development
- Focused Narrative
- Member Investment
- Expert Stewardship

The Board did not raise any objections to the 5 pillars as they currently stand. There was a discussion around communicating the Foundation's strategy to improve community understanding of its goals, in particular all the work it does to support the Rust Project. Mr. Rousskov noted that teams which had received direct Foundation support (whether financial or collaboration) had seen much more sustainable maintenance than teams which had not.

Mr. Markle believed there was an opportunity for the Rust Foundation to do more to normalize Rust in educational settings, specifically by providing them with teaching materials to reduce the cost of developing new curricula. Ms. Rumbul noted the relationship the Foundation already has with rust.edu, and expressed hope that the work being put into securing open source by global governments will influence universities to focus more on Rust.

Mr. Bergstrom noted that whilst a lot of companies use Rust, the developers at those companies don't necessarily participate in building Rust, and felt that the Foundation could have a role to play in encouraging them to get more directly involved in steering and contributing to the development of the language.

## 8. Budget Proposals

There were two specific proposals on the agenda for discussion.

### **a) \$750k donation from Google, restricted to support work on C++/Rust interoperability.**

The Foundation proposed to create a new "Interop Initiative". This would involve hiring a technical lead, and potentially also a junior developer, tasked with engaging stakeholders in the Rust Project and inside corporations to create a task group. The group would identify and prioritize work according to impact, and issue contracts for specific deliverables. The value of

the Foundation taking this work on is that it can ensure that interoperability works for the larger world, instead of just for particular organizations invested in their own goals.

The Board expressed support for the proposal, cautioning that many who don't work at larger organizations with a lot of legacy code might not understand the utility of this initiative, so careful explanation would be necessary.

**b) \$1m donation from Microsoft, no restrictions.**

The Foundation proposed to invest this funding over a two year period, allocated to three areas of work: supporting the hire of an additional infrastructure engineer; funding the Fellowship program; ring fencing a sum of money for priorities chosen by the Project's leadership council.

Whilst the exact split of the funds between these three areas was somewhat debated, the board approved the general direction.

**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 00:03 UTC.