

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

Date: December 10, 2024

Time: 22:00 UTC

Place: By online videoconference

Directors present:

Lars Bergstrom

Jakob Degen

Eric Garcia

Peixin Hou

Travis Cross (representing the Rust Project – alternate for Ryan Levick)

Seth Markle

Scott McMurray

Carol Nichols

Santiago Pastorino

Alexandru Radovici

Mark Rouskov

Nell Shamrell-Harrington

Others present:

Rebecca Rumbul (Executive Director)

Abi Broom (Director of Operations)

Gracie Gregory (Director of Communications and Marketing)

Joel Marcey (Director of Technology)

Apologies

Paul Lenz (Director of Finance & Funding)

Ryan Levick

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

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

3. Executive Director & Management Team update

Management

Ms. Rumbul gave the update. The AWS-funded standard library competition had been announced, and the rewards committee was being established. On DARPA’s TRACTOR program, DARPA had concluded that they would need to distribute the financial awards themselves, so that was a task that the Foundation would no longer have to be involved in. A final proposal outlining the shape of the Foundation’s role would be brought to the January or February meeting.

A trainer had been engaged to work on creating content for an initial basic online Rust learner course and the Foundation was currently working with him to figure out costs and timescales for the next phase of this project. Ms. Rumbul informed the board that the intention was for all the course materials to be freely available, with an examination and certificate at the end that the learner could choose to pay for. Eventually it was hoped that this could become a revenue stream for the Foundation (with more courses being offered) in the way that other foundations derive income from providing educational certification.

Technology/Infrastructure

Mr. Marcey gave the update. Efforts were still under way to optimize CI cost and usage, and he would present an action plan at the February meeting. In order to progress the Rust/C++ interop initiative, the Foundation had joined the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS) to participate in its committees on Programming Languages and C++. The C++/Rust Interop problem statement and strategy had generally received positive feedback since publication, including offers of help, and implementation of the strategy would begin in 2025.

The transfer of the Ferrocene Language Specification to the Rust Project was moving forward, with legal discussions in progress on transferring the copyright. The spec team had also drafted some H1 2025 Rust Goals relating to the specification, including bringing FLS in, and developing a test suite. Mr. Marcey noted that ongoing maintenance and development of the specification would come at a cost, and that securing additional dedicated funding for this project would be highly desirable.

Important updates to crates.io this month included migrating the code base to async/await, implementing crate deletions, and scripts to fight spam and name squatting. The TUF RFC was in its final comment period, so on the assumption that it would be approved and closed, the Foundation’s tech team had begun work to implement TAP-16 for utilizing TUF for crates.io index signing.

Finance & Grants

Ms. Rumbul gave the update in the absence of Mr. Lenz. The accounts continued to show a surplus, boosted by the receipt of \$59k of bank interest in the month, as the finance team continued to make the Foundation's money work in its favor. The final profit from RustConf was \$53k (with an additional \$57.5k of staff costs covered by the income from the event) and this would be put towards RustConf 2025, which is likely to cost more as a result of being held in a more expensive city.

Additional funding for the Security Initiative had been secured from Alpha-Omega, who had also indicated the possibility of other projects that they might like to work with the Rust Foundation on (and fund). However, the recent collapse of the German government meant that the Sovereign Tech Fund was not currently progressing any applications for funding, and will not do so until a new government is in place. Ms. Rumbul noted that this did not cause any immediate financial difficulties. The Foundation still feels confident of a successful application in due course, but this could now be delayed for some months.

The Foundation would also be working with the Leadership Council in the near future around the possibilities for supporting the H1 2025 Rust Goals with some grants.

Communications & Events

Ms. Gregory gave a recap of recent and upcoming communications output. She noted that the RustConf location and venue announcement was scheduled for January, and that the Foundation was planning side events alongside Rust Nation in London in February – a Safety-Critical Rust Consortium meeting with an accompanying Evening Mixer supported by AdaCore, and a Rust Global event.

She requested input from board members' companies for the "member highlights" section of the forthcoming Annual Report, and the Rust Foundation Member Survey.

4. Associate Membership Application

The Board considered an application for Associate Membership, which was not accepted.

5. Project Directors update

Mr. Cross gave the update:

- Rust 1.82 was released in October and 1.83 in November.
- The Rust 2024 Edition had been internally stabilized on nightly builds, and will be released with Rust 1.85 in February. He drew attention to the opportunity for the Foundation and Project to collaborate on communications around this.
- The Leadership Council had declared its experimental travel grant policy to have been a success and removed the experimental status from it.
- Work was ongoing to clean up the licensing of Rust and this also presented an opportunity for the Foundation to support with legal and other assistance.

6. Board Secretary election

Mr. Garcia was elected unopposed.

7. Trademark policy

Ms. Rumbul outlined for the Board the key pieces of feedback received during the public consultation period:

- The biggest community concern was that forking Rust and making changes could technically be considered distributing a modified version of Rust, and it needed to be clear that this was not subject to restrictions.
- Debian had also reached out to ensure that the needs of downstream distributions would be taken into account.

The policy had been amended to address these. The Board voted to approve the final draft for publication.

Ms Rumbul thanked board members for all their input to date, and said that details of publication date and the accompanying public messaging would be circulated to the Board in due course.

8. Forthcoming Chair election

Mr. Bergstrom reminded the Board that his 2-year term as Chair was coming to an end in January, and Ms. Shamrell-Harrington's term as Vice-Chair in February. Expressions of interest in both roles were solicited, with the intent to hold an election for the Chair position in the January meeting.

Mr Bergstrom also shared that he will be stepping down from the Rust Foundation board in early 2025 and Google will elect a new member representative in his stead.

9. People Committee discussion

This was a closed session for board members only. Mr. Bergstrom outlined the process the committee had followed to evaluate the ED's performance in 2024, shared feedback received from stakeholders, and put forward a proposal on remuneration, which was approved.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 23:40 UTC.