

Transcript of the “Any Other Business” session of the Atheist Alliance International “EGM” held on 15 January 2023

Explanatory notes

The meeting took place on Zoom.

Lawrence Krauss was the “facilitator” of the meeting.

Before the meeting, a document titled “Meeting Protocols” was sent to all attendees. The facilitator repeated the information in this document at the start of the meeting.

Each attendee was given a code that formed part of their display name on Zoom. This allowed the facilitator, and those recording the votes, and other attendees, to clearly see what role each person had at the meeting. The codes, shown in the transcript below, were as follows:

DV = Delegate with voting rights.

DN = Delegate without voting rights (including AAI Board members).

A = Advisory Council member (no voting rights).

O = Observer (no voting or speaking rights).

In the transcript below:

- Spoken words are in black.
- Chat messages are in blue.

Editors notes have been added to the transcript to provide information on some statements and claims.

Transcript

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

On 6 January the Board received an email from Michael Nugent, which clarified quotes of his that were used in the Disclosure Document. Michael asked the Board to forward his email to everyone who had been given a copy of the Disclosure Document. Why did they not do that?

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Preston - Michael Nugent is a 3rd party and not here. He is not an Affiliate. So, its not relevant to this EGM.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Its relevant to the facts in the disclosure document

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay it looks to me like we have some other business already so let's see, well Kareem has proposed a late motion and Brian has responded to everyone else about it but I think since he's proposed a late motion we have to consider it.

"The board will continue to provide answers to the questions posed by individual member Preston Jensen in his email to the Secretary on December 12 2022. These responses will be made available to all current AAI members and supporters and supplemented with relevant documentation."

Do we have a seconder of that motion?

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Here are the questions:

<https://adlington43.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Questions-about-the-AAI-Disclosure-Document.pdf>

DV56 - David Rand (Atheist Free Thinkers):

I would second it.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Who's this?

DV56 - David Rand (Atheist Free Thinkers):

This is David Rand, DV56.

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

What's the motion number?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

It's a new motion, it's a late motion proposed right now, which is allowed. Does DV82 want to speak? Kareem Muhssin, do you want to speak now?

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

Yes, I'll just take 30 seconds because I'm running quite late. Look, I don't claim to know all the ins and outs of what has happened over the past five years. I don't know if I have the capacity to grasp everything that's happened to be honest, but I do know that Preston has raised many important questions that I don't think have been satisfactorily answered, so I think if this motion was carried it would be a very strong signal to our critics that we're willing to take criticism, that we value transparency, and are not just brushing all of this under the carpet. Thanks.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

Second it,

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, thanks for ... that's your rationale. Open the floor to discussions of that. DV63, Luka.

DV63 - Luka Takoa (Humanistische Atheisten):

I don't know the ... what's his name (laugh), Preston Jensen, but as I said I get so many stupid emails, but for me this disclosure document is a very good thing, and I think if somebody has a question, you should take it in this document that we have the answer of this question. This is for me important that we have all in one document, not from 100, and it would be good to have the answer of this question of people who have these questions.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you Luka, so I understand you think that the disclosure document has this, if I understand you correctly. Randolph, you're next Randolph.

[Editors note: Lawrence did not understand correctly. Luka speaks again later.]

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Yeah, I'm wondering, like these list of questions that have just come up, like the second one it says "This quote is from a website that gives advice to 501c3 non-profit organisations", that's not a question, that's just stating something, so there seems to be a lot of questions here, I wonder is there going to be a time limit put on this, or is this something that people are willing to do until ... for the next five hours? What's happening here with this?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

I think the intent ... just a clarification, the intent was I think that, as I understand the motion, was that the board will just continue to keep providing answers over time, not during this meeting.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Oh okay, so all right, yeah. So the point of this is to just I guess accept that, acknowledge that there's a document with a bunch of questions and, okay.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

And it's saying continue to answer them and provide the answers to all members and with documentation.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Oh okay.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay just so you know. Meredith, DV52 you're next.

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

Yeah, thanks Lawrence. I'd be voting against this motion. I've read very carefully all the questions that Preston Jensen has put. They're very extensive, and they're very technical. I think the disclosure document answers most of the questions, I'm not saying all of them, but most of them. But even apart from that, let's set that aside a bit. I'd just like to remember right at the beginning of this meeting, where the people who are supporting AAI in a voluntary capacity, were saying how much it was important to them, and presumably to other atheists in other countries, who are similarly in very difficult situations. And I just encourage people to balance the requirement for AAI to support people like that - that is after all the mission of AAI - and compare that with the very technical and detailed questions that

Preston Jensen is putting forward, which are after all very backward looking rather than forward looking. So, I'm very concerned that if we tie the board up with requiring them to continue to answer ever more detailed questions, that is time and effort and frankly motivation that is not available to provide to the mission of the organisation which is helping atheists in need. So I think we need to keep those two things in balance, and to me it's much more important that the board focus on the mission of the organisation, which is outwards and forwards, rather than the sorts of questions that Preston is putting forwards which are inwards and backwards.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The investigation was 'thorough', so the answers should already be to hand.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

I second Meredith

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

I agree with Meredith too.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay thank you Meredith. So I'm gonna do Tonoy then Kareem then Kato and then Dustin.

DV94 - Andrew Rawlings (Progressive Atheists):

A general question; does AAI have a process to get rid of trolls that join as individual members?

DV61 - Rad Doherty (Atheism UK):

I agree with Meredith.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Am I being accused of being a troll?

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

What AAI is doing now and in the future is more important than dwelling on the past.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Okay, regarding hundreds of them, Preston joined AAI after the EGM was announced, a week. His membership was paid by a very known critic and you guys have received his name. So his identity is definitely questionable here. I'm not naming the critic here anywhere. We are volunteers. They're pressing hundreds of questions, for years we've been answering them and those questions that are important are already in the disclosure document. Also we have admitted several times that we are volunteers, for me myself I have a life, I'm a young man, I work, I have two jobs, and between two jobs every day I give three hours to AAI. 21 hour a week. That's itself a job, and I don't get paid for it. No one else gets paid. This is an international organisation. You guys running organisation you know how much works it takes. How like what type of dedication you, like we do it with passion. How much many hours we can put into it. Like do you have any idea like you answer 100 questions out of that hundred question they will find a little something and they'll make another question out of

that. These people have become obsessed with that, and okay for these people I have a very clear message actually. Go get a life, man.

[Editors Note: The person who paid Preston Jensen's AAI membership fee has now submitted a complaint to the authorities about AAI's misuse of their personal data.]

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

This motion seems like a mandate to spam affiliates and shackle the board to answering questions rather than doing the work of supporting atheists in need.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The Disclosure Document addresses the past. This AGM is about the disclosure document. Questions were invited from members.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

If something bad happened in the past, then correct it and move on (if it hasn't been corrected already).

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay thank you so you're speaking out against it ...

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Also I want to like you know that we have Asylum cases all across the world, we have like 18, 19 blasphemy cases right now. Those people will die okay. Here today there are two three people who are blasphemy victims [names individuals]. We are taking care of these cases all across the world. How like what type of time it consumes. Like it is very easy, you guys want us to answer.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Why not just answer the questions?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, thank you and for this ...

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Like who is going to put 100 like answering 100 questions like it is like absurdity even to ask us ...

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

tonmoy [clap emoji]

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Seconded Tonoy

DN05 - Ebuka Ikeorah (All Regional Director, Africa):

Thank you Tonoy [clap emoji]

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The investigation was 'thorough', so the answers should already be to hand.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

So you're arguing against the motion. I think you made your point eloquently Tonoy. Let me just say one thing. I'd like the chats to be respectful, please, I see some that aren't and I'd like to try and keep this respectful. Clearly there's strong emotions here. But let's just try and keep it respectful. But let's try and go through this quickly, for and against, so Kareem you're next.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

Yeah I don't think anyone is discounting the great work that AAI is doing for free thinkers worldwide, that should go without saying, I'm quite frankly appalled by the attempted character assassination here of Preston and other critics. I've also read their questions, yes some of them are quite technical maybe not as relevant as others, but many of them are very relevant and have gone unanswered, and we should be not shying away from answering those questions. In fact the unwillingness to engage with that here is precisely what has precipitated this meeting. So if we want to signal to our critics that we've actually moved on, that we're listening, then you should vote Yes to this motion, and I would urge you to do so.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

Can I recommend a Slight modification in this ?

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Certainly, yes.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay thank you Kareem. Kato, next.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

Yes. Thank you so much. I've been noting a few things in the last two or three months following the criticisms, and I've told my brother Tonoy that criticising is very fine, just like criticising any organisation, and we shouldn't shy away because I read from people's reactions - some of them - that you may not be willing to answer everything that has been raised. It is true, when I read through the document that was written by Preston and I think John Hamill, I was taken aback because there are things which I thought were not relevant anyway. But to someone who doesn't know AAI, if you don't provide these answers, or promise to provide them, they will think you are hiding something. Today I was telling Tonoy that I was a board member of AAI, and during our time we worked peacefully. We were professional, we did our best, and then we left. So what is the fuss today? Where is the problem? Now if someone says you didn't participate at the U.N, and you say you did participate, what's wrong with showing a video, if you have it, or any other evidence? When I was looking through the questions honestly some of them are malicious questions that simply meant to derail people, to annoy, to insult people, but if you have such characters within your league, [...] you must find ways, there's no way you can continue acting as if issues are not raised. I know Tonoy is very right. All of you are volunteers. There are very pressing issues. But I would request that a few things can be compiled, can be shared, especially to help those who are just learning about AAI, so that the confidence they have in

our organisation is not derailed. You may take all the time you want, but don't dismiss the idea of answering a few best questions. The malicious ones can be dismissed. But the [...] ones should be answered without [...].

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

plenty of questions have been answered over and over again, to stone walls.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

This is what we're doing today, addressing the past
Why the Affiliates do not pick questions

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay thank you. Dustin.

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

All right so I'm gonna be voting against this motion. For me personally you know I got probably hundreds of mails from this character who I don't know if they had a nervous breakdown or something, what the hell is this, but you know I have spam reports or, you know, I used, so if it was somehow in the power of this meeting here, I would try to prevent the board members from ever engaging with this character ever again because it's a waste of time. It only gets worse. Every single response will only only escalate more and more and more. This is a hobby for them. They just troll hard here, right, this is not actual questions investigating some issue here, not for a long time. This is really just messing with us, right, and personally if this is my organisation I just never would feel the need to even respond to this. But you know, here I think the mistake already starts with the board thinking that they need to respond to this, right, and I went heavily incentivize the board to not do that, even though I obviously can't forbid anyone to write email, but I would heavily incentivize them to not respond to this, and I would like for you to also vote against this.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Sorry i only sent two or three emails?
You are mistaking me for someone else.

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

LOL YOU NEED TO LOOK AT UR TWITTER PRESTON :d

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

?

[Editors Note: Preston Jensen does not have a Twitter account.]

DV92 - Randolf Richardson (Canadian atheists):

One quick interjection, when you're talking about the emails, is it just from this one individual or is it from a group of them sending them that you were talking about?

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

Well I mean, this is this one character and the alias is I guess Preston Jensen or something.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Well Preston Jensen said that ...

DN03 - Fotis Frangopoulos (AAI Treasurer):

They are one and the same actually, I mean if you can look at the various questions they are, the questions coming from the critics, so so so many months now.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Bill, Meredith and others have replied with detailed, well reasons

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I propose a committee of affiliates pick questions that need to be answered

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Preston has said he's only sent two or three emails, so maybe, it's hard to know the ...

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

No this is a lie.

[Editors note: According to the Meeting Protocols, observers like Aamir do not have the right to speak during debates on motions.]

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

That may [...]

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

[...] bullshit. His Twitter, his Twitter is filled with ...

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

... let me ...

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

... he added everybody in their spam emails and, I'm sorry, I'm cutting you off people ...

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

... let me ...

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

... but this is ...

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

... this is not ...

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

You are wrong, sorry.

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

I'm really upset. I'm really upset right now, and I can feel the pain that Tonoy, when he was talking, the pain in his voice I can completely get it. I come from a very backward country and a very backward village and a very backward district. And my grandfather used to tell me that you will never leave, you will never reach your destination if you will stop and throw stones at every dog barking at you. I think AAI needs to go and focus on more productive things instead of answering these trolls. There is this so-called Irish writer and author and I sent his tweet to Tonoy, and I will not read the name of that person but I will read his tweet, and his tweet says, "I will be okay when AAI collapses". When a person has a mission to collapse the AAI, that doesn't mean that no matter how many times you are going to answer, they are going to ...

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

ed, answers, and have only received unreasonable responses.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Please, I only asked some polite questions.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

Who is the individual? Who wrote that? What is the name of the individual? Can you please specify?

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

Michael Nugent.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

Thank you.

[Editors note: This is the tweet that is being referred to:

<https://twitter.com/micknugent/status/1612123604526702602>.

Read the whole thread.]

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

the Best ways to Handle Question is a Mail sent where the original list of Questions then a Answer documented to each A Summary Mail and Redundant Repeat Question be Ignored.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I don't understand why I am being attacked.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay. Now, so, let me just say, we're talking about the motion, not about individuals, and I don't think we're in a position to ask who is doing what. The motion has been presented and a lot of people argued for and against. I'd like people to try and restrict their comments to that. We have seven more people and I'm hoping not more after that but next, Brian.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

I refuse to spare my time to deal with Michael Nugent, John Hamill, and their proxies' egocentrism and broken feelings. They made it clear that they have no intention to build a democratic alliance, correct the wrongdoings, or fix anything to move forward. They just want

their old toy back. AAI has wasted enormous time and energy to answer these criticisms. Perhaps we should discuss a motion to officially ignore these trolls rather than responding further.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Yeah I just was, you know, again, this is stuff that happened in the past. A lot of the questions are dealing with 2017 2018. We need to work on our important work helping atheists. We need to move forward. And it seems like there's no convincing these guys. Like if it was a couple reasonable questions, not a hundred questions, I would love to have open honest conversation with Preston or whoever, like. But it doesn't seem like they're trying to help the organisation. They're trying to destroy the organisation. So if Preston wants to have a phone call with myself, Bill and whatever, like to answer, like real questions, great! Let's do that. But I don't feel like that's the aim of what they want here, so.

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

Focus on the mission.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

They are questions about the disclosure document.

Thank you for the offer Brian. I will contact you.

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

don't do a phone call with him -> it will get worse afterwards

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

this way Time can be Saved Significantly and+ Handles the Critics Sufficiently. The Motion is Fine but needs a modification

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay next is Christos.

DN51 - Christos Georgiadis (Atheist Union of Greece):

I'm concerned with the notion, it does not have a termination condition. As other people have said, every question can be answered and then the answer can raise multiple new questions. So, transparency is important but I think the ones who propose the motion need to specify a termination condition. Alternatively [...]

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Onur.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

[...] I put my thoughts into the chat module [...]

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

it's an active troll -> it only stops when they get ignored

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Sorry DV89 do you know me?

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):
trolls crave attention and the more they get the crazier they get

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):
DV57 Rakshith.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):
[...]

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):
[...] you're proposing an amendment ... Okay, what's your amendment?

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):
[Proposes to append the following words to the motion: Questions can be answered for each of the Affiliate Members but redundant and repeat ones will be ignored and will not be answered.]

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):
Does anyone want to second the amendment? ... No one wants to second the amendment so [...]

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):
I only asked a few polite questions about the disclosure document, which is the topic of this EGM.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):
Preston. It wasn't a few. it was a LOT

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):
O15 Preston: What is your definition of "a few polite questions?" There are a lot of questions in the PDF you linked.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):
OK, I can distill it down to a few questions.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):
I refuse to spare my time to deal with Michael Nugent, John Hamill, and their proxies' egocentrism and broken feelings. They made it clear that they have no intention to build a democratic alliance, correct the wrongdoings, or fix anything to move forward. They just want their old toy back. AAI has wasted enormous time and energy to answer these criticisms. Perhaps we should discuss a motion to officially ignore these trolls rather than responding further.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):
Sorry I didn't know the number of questions was a problem.
The investigation was 'thorough' so the answers should be to hand.

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

There's a long history to this, [...] and Preston Jensen I believe is a fake [...], I believe he's actually one of the critics [...]. Of course it is absolutely right that AAI should answer questions. Absolutely right. Totally right. But, after doing this for months and months and months, you begin to realise that there really is no end to this. They will continue to ask questions. [...] I've been through that. [...] every time I answered ... [I was even asked to go through] the revision history of documents on Google Drive. [...] This is the thing. It takes time. [...] It's just unbelievable how much time it takes. [...] They are doing this because they want to attack AAI.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

That's not true.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

O15 Preston: The quantity of questions isn't a problem. But, if you ask more questions, it will just take more time to get them answered. That's a fact of reality.

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

Some people just want to see the world burn. Do not make a single step towards them cause they will just take a step away.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

[...] Aamir then Tonoy then Kareem then Randolph then Celine then hopefully after that [...] we can vote.

[Editors note: According to the Meeting Protocols, observers like Aamir do not have the right to speak during debates on motions.]

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

Personally I do not think that we should waste any more time on these guys, because when we answer one question, they will find another. They are finding questions like "Why Aamir has [...] and mine doesn't". We should not waste our energies on these trolls. Because trolls, at the end of the day, they are going to troll. They don't have anything positive constructive in their lives, and we should not waste our energy. In the first two minutes when I spoke, I addressed this thing, that we should focus on strengthening AAI, and not address these trolls. Thank you.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The claims about my motivation are wrong.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

O15 Preston: What are your motivations?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you. Tonoy?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I propose an amendment, that a committee of affiliates be formed, a committee out of these hundreds of questions, select important questions, and AAI board would answer those questions.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

Agreed on trolls though

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Yeah, okay, the committee determines what questions are important and answers those, is that basically your Amendment?

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

Preston the general perception I get after reading your criticism and those of Hamill is that you duplicate questions and you keep generating questions and it appears as if the intention is not to help the organisation but attack it and make it lose its credibility, I suggest that your basic questions are answered and you stop sending more questions, AAI must move forward, we can't spend months bickering, Let only crucial questions be answered

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

These are hundreds of questions. A committee of affiliates be formed and ask AAI board to answer the selected questions of the critics.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

That sounds like it should be a motion.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

So, a committee be formed, they will go over the questions and select some and ask the board to answer them.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Some, committee can even select hundreds of them.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Yeah, okay. Does anyone want to second that motion? No. Okay. Anyone?

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

I do second what Tonoy just said, if that's what you're asking.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

Second it

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay so now that's it seconded. Now we move to another discussion, which is of that Amendment. We were almost done, but we're navigating again. It's okay. So ...

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Is that an amendment, or a motion?

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

Tonoy can you put that amendment in the chat?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Your amendment is to replace completely the original motion and to state it as “a committee of” - you should type it down - but my understanding, it's “a committee of affiliates will be formed to review questions and request the board answer them”. Basically. Is that right? A committee of affiliates will be formed, literally by the board ...

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

If there is a committee, that just allows Preston to disagree with the committee's decisions!

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Not by the board, by the EGM.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

At the AGM, okay, well let's make that clear.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Not AGM, EGM, by this meeting. By this general meeting.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

EGM.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

AGM okay.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

This general meeting.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

This meeting! The one we're in right now?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Yeah, and they review the questions and pass it to the AAI board for answers.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, and then so the next thing we'll have is an item - if this passes - there's an item of business after this to select the committee. If this passes.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

We support that.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, does anyone want to have a discussion of that amendment, or should we vote on that amendment?

DV94 - Andrew Rawlings (Progressive Atheists):

I nominate DV82 [Kareem Muhssin, Alliance of Former Muslims] to lead the committee to answer the questions.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

this Amendment Reduces Lots of Repeat, Redundant, and out of context Questions which have already been. yet Critics are Fully Allowed in the Important Areas of Questions.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

My motivation is to build AAI into a true representative of international organised atheism. I know that there are disagreements but dialog is the way to deal with them.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Agreed Meredith.

DN03 - Fotis Frangopoulos (AAI Treasurer):

I just want a word regarding the whole process. I mean, we announced an EGM. We called for motions, and the affiliates - some of the affiliates - have sent their motions. Then a known critic joins, let's say, joins AAI as a member, and then he asks questions. And we are open to this, we allow that critic to participate in the EGM, and to pose his questions. But now we are, let's say, discussing for a motion that was proposed according to that critics questions in the EGM and I don't know, I mean, I don't know how this is ... regarding governance and the EGM. I don't know. I don't know how this is ... how this complies with the whole process.

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

The question was asked by an affiliate. [...] that question can be raised as a motion.

DN03 - Fotis Frangopoulos (AAI Treasurer):

Yes, but it was asked during the EGM. I mean ... what I want to say is this is. That the people having those questions, and this criticism, they could just join AAI and have their questions and, as members, participate to the EGM. Why not?

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

Well, affiliates don't have to take the questions and pose them as motions if they don't want to, so ... I don't see a problem with that.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

For some reason this motion has been seconded. I want to restrict conversation to that motion, which is - and it hasn't been written down, but I'm going to try and repeat it again - that at this meeting, if this motion is passed, a committee of affiliates will look at the questions and direct the board to answer some of them.

DV92 - Randolf Richardson (Canadian atheists):

I've got pressing concerns I want to raise before the vote.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

We can't shy away from answering key questions, that's what transparency entails

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Yeah, okay, absolutely, absolutely, we're not gonna have a vote, but I just want to make it clear that's what we're discussing. Okay? Have I interpreted Tonoy your amendment correctly?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Yes, but I am also, after the discussion, I'm also open not to move it as well.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Are you willing to withdraw the amendment then?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I'll hear Randolph's input.

DN07 - Stella Thomas (AAI Regional Director, Australasia):

As a volunteer AAI board member myself, I joined to give my VERY limited spare time to helping atheists globally, instead I have spent months, like others, fielding tons of complex emails attacking AAI. I have learnt over time there is no reasoning with them. I absolutely support full disclosure, but the months of harassment of our board and affiliates needs to stop so that we can give our time to help people less fortunate than ourselves.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, you want to hear Randolph's input and then and then you might withdraw.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I would like to hear Randolph's and Meredith's input.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Meredith and Randolph's input, okay. Thank you. Randolph, why don't you give your input.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

First, thanks Meredith, earlier, for keeping me in line. The problem I see here is there's a serious ethical issue, because somebody from this group has expressed and confirmed that they have bad faith intentions to see AAI destroyed. That I think is a pretty obvious signal that these people should be dismissed, because they obviously don't have the best intentions for the organisation at heart. And they're not offering constructive criticism when they make statements like that. Like, why do you want to see this organisation destroyed when it's helping so many people. And then, Brian came on and provided a solution which is a phone call to, or I guess an online chat to discuss with them, I'm assuming online is another option, but a way for them to communicate and ask these questions, and get them answered. So there's even a solution been suggested by by Brian here that sounds like it would be quite reasonable to me, even though I don't think this group deserves any kind of reasonable consideration given that they want to see AAI destroyed and they've made that clear, [...] on Twitter apparently. Thank you

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Please don't tar me with the same brush as Hamill.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Preston, you reference and echo Hamill's questions

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Can I interject? I don't know if this is acceptable. Brian suggested it. I could ask Preston right now if a phone call would suffice, and then the motion could be withdrawn and we wouldn't even have to worry about the amended motion which I think is about to be withdrawn. Is a call between you and Brian sufficient?

DV89 - Dustin Altermann (Atheist Refugee Relief, plus one proxy vote):

plz no phone call ... it gets worse

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Yes a phonecall is ok

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Preston has said okay. Are you therefore willing to withdraw your motion?

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Kareem

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

I'm looking at these typed ... the phone call is okay ... yes a phone call is okay ... said something about Kareem ...

DV56 - David Rand (Atheist Free Thinkers):

The motion is from Kareem.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Oh the motion is from Kareem. I'm sorry the motion is from Kareem. Kareem, thank you. Kareem, are you willing to withdraw your motion if Preston has now said a phone call is sufficient for him with Brian, with Bill, or not. Just tell me.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

Are we sure that is exactly what he's saying?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

He said. Yes a phone call is okay. He just typed it.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

I mean he's saying, it's okay instead of the motion, is that what he said?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Yes. Do you want to confirm ...

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

It's your motion Kareem, isn't it? It's your motion. You decide.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

No, well, Preston, do you want to confirm it, it looks like you're typing messages, so, if there's a phone call you're fine with Kareem withdrawing his motion? Please answer yes or no right now.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I'd like a vote on the motion

DV86 - Kannan Sivaram (Nastik Nation):

do we have any concrete evidence that someone is trying to destroy aai. saying something is not harming, but doing is. so be specific

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

If it fails then a phonecall is ok

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

He'd like a vote on the motion. Kareem ...

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

It was worth asking for clarification on that.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Do you still want to have your motion then?

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

Yes, and I must say, because there's been so much said, ...

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, stop for a second, before we can get there, Tonoy, do you withdraw your amendment or not?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I would like to have Meredith's opinion.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Meredith. Okay. I didn't mean to cut you off Kareem but we're right now discussing Tonoy's amendment to your motion so Meredith, I'll let you speak out of turn even though your hand wasn't up, but you've been asked, and when you do that I'd like to return to Tonoy to see if he wants to withdraw his amendment.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Please just judge the questions on their merits.

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

My comment is about setting up a committee. I think that's problematic because then Preston could say, well the committee's decisions are unacceptable to him. I think that's a problem, setting up a committee, because there is no guarantee that what the committee decides are the relevant questions, would be the same as what Preston decides are the

relevant questions. So I see that that would just create more work, and more time, and more effort, with no guaranteed positive outcome.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

I agree with Meredith on the problems with setting up a committee.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

DV86 Kannan - Yes. We have concrete evidence on Twitter that some of them just want to "Destroy AAI".

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay thank you. Now, Tonoy, I'll go back to you. Do you want to withdraw your amendment or should we continue discussion on it?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

I withdraw my Amendment.

[discussion on whether the seconder also needs to agree to withdraw the amendment]

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I do read Hamill's emails and questions. He raises good questions albeit in a very confrontational way

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I don't agree with his approach

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

So, it's been withdrawn. Now we've gone back to the original discussion of Kareem's motion, and Kareem is next to talk, and then it's gonna be Kareem, Celine, DV56 Luka, and Onur, and Christos, maybe. I'm assuming that they're all talking about the original motion but you can withdraw your hand if you're not. So Kareem, next.

DV77 - Lois Edwards (Rocky Mountain Atheists):

I've been in other organizations which have had similar experiences and there is no good way to respond. No matter how much time and effort you put into trying to satisfy the person, they are never satisfied. For future reference, I would suggest that AAI create a plan for responding (or not) to trolls.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

I must say this has been very disheartening. It really is a form of intellectual cowardice to label or dismiss Michael Nugent or John Hamill or other people I've worked with in Ireland as just a bunch of trolls who want to destroy AAI. Someone read out a tweet that Michael Nugent posted before, and it needs to be understood that if he wishes for the AAI to collapse it's because he thinks it's irredeemable, that it's corrupt to the core, and that is a respectable point of view, and it's not based on nothing. It's based on the very concerns that he has raised and others have raised. As I said I've worked with these people, these are committed believers in human rights and have done tremendous work for ex-muslim refugees and other atheist refugees in Ireland. It is not the case that this is just a handful of trolls who want to

smear the AAI. There's a reason why entire groups such as Atheist Ireland and the Freedom From Religion Foundation and others have distanced themselves from the AAI. So let's get that straight. The point of this motion is to rubber stamp our commitment to transparency and to not just shying away from our critics. I take the point that many of Preston's questions perhaps have already been answered in some way or are overly technical, but many of them are not, and need to be addressed. So I would urge all members who echo those sentiments, who really believe in the reform of this organisation, to vote in favour of it. And let me just stress, I have really gone out of my way to defend AAI against what Atheist Ireland and other organisations in our country have said. Please don't have us disaffiliate. We want to stay. We believe in reform. We believe that AAI is doing good work. Don't confirm our suspicions by voting no. Thanks.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you Kareem. I will add a point of information that I had a brief conversation before this meeting by email, last few days, with Michael Nugent, who expressed some positive hope for what was happening. So I don't know what that means, but my suspicion was that after this meeting, my hope was that there may be a possibility of bringing people, at least him, together. That's a point of information. Okay, Celine.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Please just give a reference to any questions that have already been answered. I'm not trying to waste anyones time.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

Yes to addressing key questions rather than being dismissive, it doesn't build the organisation but raises more suspicion and dents credibility

DV72 - Celine Cohen (Ateizm Derneği):

Well we are talking about One. Hundred. Questions. I mean is anybody expecting us to believe that a list of ONE. HUNDRED. QUESTIONS ... is not meant to just clog our system and prevent us from working? And it's not it's not even the beginning of this process. Apparently people have been dealing with questions for months on end. And now they're coming up with a long list of exactly around one hundred questions? I'm sorry, I cannot possibly believe that the motivation is innocent and naive. And I'm very sorry but do you realise how many extra hours it's going to take, how many hours that we will not be able to spend on helping atheists. Do you know how much time it's going to take, including all the time that has already been spent. Do you realise this amount of hours is enough for the Islamic Republic to execute maybe hundreds of atheists. Hundreds of atheists. Like, during that, I've been dealing with cases of people who literally had to escape execution, in Iran in other places, and it takes a lot of time and I mean, just even in this meeting, do you realise how much time you're wasting? I'm very sorry, but I mean I implore everyone to see reason. And please I implore you to concentrate on what truly matters. Freedom and justice for all.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I can distill it down.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

They?

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The investigation was 'thorough' so the questions should already be to hand.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

*answers

DN05 - Ebuka Ikeorah (All Regional Director, Africa):

Celine [clap emoji]

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

Hear here!

DN07 - Stella Thomas (AAI Regional Director, Australasia):

Thank you Celine and others

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you Celine. Thank you. Okay Atheist Free Thinkers DV56, then Luka, then Onur, then Christos, Kato, Meredith, and Kareem, and Rad. And hopefully I'd like to try and call it after that. I think there's been a lot of discussion back and forth and I'm hearing repeats of the same thing, so I think I'm going to call - unless there's a strong feeling from the group - I'm going to say after the next one two three four five six seven eight comments, I'm going to call the question. Atheist Free Thinkers. DV56.

DV56 - David Rand (Atheist Free Thinkers):

Yes. I'm sensitive to arguments on both sides of this motion. The reason I seconded it is because I want it to go to a vote and I think that that vote will help clear the air. I know Michael Nugent personally. I have a great deal of respect for him and he's a very hard-working activist for atheism as Kareem has explained he is not a troll. Maybe there are others involved that are trolls, that's possible, but not Michael Nugent. And I find that the volume of emails sent by him and his colleagues is overwhelming, and I'm not comfortable with that either, but I seconded the motion because I think there needs to be a vote. Thank you.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Sorry please don't tar me with Hamill's brush.

DV77 - Lois Edwards (Rocky Mountain Atheists):

The way I see it, AAI has already done a lot of reforming and has demonstrated that it is their intention to continue to improve to the extent that is humanly possible. AAI has already done tremendous work for atheists who are in danger and they will continue to do so for as long as they are not seriously hindered in doing so by individuals.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Celine you've expressed the sentiment well. we're volunteering because we want to do meaningful things. People's lives are at risk and are being lost.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

Michael Nugent is a very respected person. I have a great admiration for him.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you very much. Luka.

DV63 - Luka Takoa (Humanistische Atheisten):

Yeah I have just the same thoughts about this as my speaker before. I can understand Celine very much and I think of course, we have to concentrate on the real problems, but I can read here in the chat, a phone call, if it fails, then a phone call is okay. This Preston Jensen is writing. And I think (laugh) we cannot, make it bigger then perhaps he makes it, or because you know when John Hamill what I also don't know, when he wrote me the whole time these things, I told him to stop this. Because he was very unfriendly. He was in a way I could not accept, and it's not in a constructive way. But I see, I don't know him, you know Preston, I don't know him, but he is coming to this general association and meeting, and he asked for something, and I think we should give our hands. This is my opinion, and I think it's necessary of all what happened to this organisation, because we want a strong organisation, and we want to have it, we come to one to each other. I understand you who are writing these stupid things and the writing and not only stupid things. I understand that you're afraid of all this. But please, give him a chance. To speak with him, to look at this point, if some points are okay, it's no problem to make this in this document. This takes not too long, and I'm agree, that we don't make committees and organisations, but take some of the most important questions in this document, and ring him up, or speak with each other to the phone call. I think this is the best way because it's a whole organisation.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

That was not me.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you. I will In fairness, and I don't have any evidence, but Preston Jensen has, keeps in the chat window, saying that's not me, that he's not the one who's been doing this, so I just I just want to remind people that may be irrelevant to this question. Anyway. Onur. Next, then Christos, then Kato, and then Meredith.

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

i have zero respect for such people who doesnt consider that they are destroying refugees n not AAI,

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

I personally being subject to deplatforming and cancel culture efforts led by Michael Nugent and FFRF in 2017 while I was sharing AAI board, so please excuse me if I disagree with Kareem's statements in terms of respect. But I think that AAI has been answering these questions for the past five years, and I don't think that it's gonna be any more productive if we keep doing the same thing we have been doing for the past five years and if we expect a different result doing the same thing. So maybe, I mean, also, all of us need to keep in mind that, some some of you guys call them trolls, some of them call them respectable atheist figures, well they were invited to 2020 AAI AGM they were invited to 21 AAI AGM, 22 AAI AGM, and this EGM. They are not here. They didn't show up. So maybe we should consider

officially ignoring them and their associates' criticism, because I do not see it going anywhere constructive. Thank you for your time.

[Editors note: AAI and FFRF were not invited to any of the meetings mentioned above. They were offered membership of AAI in advance of some of those meetings, which they rejected for reasons that have been made clear many times.]

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Getting invited to multiple AGMs and not showing up? That's interesting.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

The disclosure document is a welcome development. I just have questions about it.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Exactly Onur, it's unproductive and using precious time that should be used on important work for atheists at risk.

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

They were invited to this meeting as well.

[Editors note: AAI and FFRF were not invited to this meeting. If they had been, their names would be listed in the minutes, in either the "Apologies from" or the "Non-Responders" table.]

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

That shows a serious lack of commitment and conviction if they're asking so many questions but not participating in AGMs where they could ask those questions.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you Onur. Next, Christos.

DN51 - Christos Georgiadis (Atheist Union of Greece):

I think it is a reasonable compromise between just a phone call or [...]

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

[...] Kato.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

[...] but, what about the image of AAI? This issue of [...] is very dismissive. Calling them trolls and all that, is denting the image of AAI, all of us have built in one way or another. So to me, dismissing them is not the solution. Finding ways, like one of them, I think Preston was saying, they can distill the questions. If these questions can be put on paper at their feet, and a few answered, that are basic, answered, and shared with all of us on the emails, our suspicions would be settled. Why do we run away from answering questions that some of us think are important? To be answered so that we know our organisation is still on the track.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Kato, so much effort has already been put into answering questions, but all the reasonable answers are met with more questions and accusations.

DV57 - Rakshith Sridharan (Ex-Hindu Atheists):

If no Amendment Then I can't Support This Motion. Amendment Takes Care of Critics while also handling the Primary Issues.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Let me just jump in. For clarification, Kareem's motion is not to answer a few questions but it's to answer - as I remember the motion said - to answer all the questions that have been asked by Hamill or - I have to look back to your ...

DV56 - David Rand (Atheist Free Thinkers):

Preston Jensen.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

By Preston Jensen. All the questions that have been asked by Preston Jensen in the past. Preston has said he would distill those down, so are you suggesting that your motion is now, Kareem, to answer a distilled list, as of yet not described, is that what ...

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

The link of the questions is from Hamill's website.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

I would be happy to change it to that.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay. It's still not described, but okay you've changed to that, so now we know what the vote will be. We've three more people, Meredith, Kareem, and Rad, and then we'll have a vote. Meredith.

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

Thanks Lawrence. Instead of a committee, if Preston Jensen would be prepared, as I have done and I suspect others have done, to go through all the information that has already been provided by AAI, and for Preston to come up with only those questions that remain, that have not already been answered by AAI. I don't know whether that's Kareem the sort of thing that you're thinking of. If we need to get to a smaller number of questions, then Preston Jensen should take the responsibility of doing his background research, and finding out from all the information that has already gone out by AAI, which of his questions have already been answered. And then just focusing on those that have not been answered. But one more thing. Even if there are, say, 10, 20 questions that have not been answered, I think it's fair that the AAI board should answer only those questions which are substantive. That are going to make a real difference. Because my reading of a lot of those questions are, they are technicalities which may have been errors, or mistakes, but they don't make a difference to the running of the organisation, and more to the point to the mission of the organisation. That's my suggestion.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I thought I already had

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Meredith has an excellent idea here.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Other people claim that some have already been answered.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

OK, so that's an answer.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, Meredith, as a point of information, just before Kareem and Rad, your points are well taken, but I will say that when you talk about substantive and important, that's going to be in the eye of the beholder, and if the board decides something's not substantive someone could easily then write 100 emails to each of us to say that the other questions were substantive. But in any case that's just a point of information. Kareem.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Agree with Meredith. Preston, you need to give us your top couple substantive questions.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

O15 Preston: Is it your position that none of the questions you presented in your PDF have been answered?

DN06 - Tonoy Emroz Alam (AAI Regional Director, Asia):

The substantive questions are on the disclosure document.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

I just want to speak to Celine's point. Very heartfelt, and from the heart, and I appreciate her sentiment, but I don't think we should use moral blackmail to make our arguments against a motion. We shouldn't leverage the execution of Iranian political prisoners to argue for or against a motion. And also the suggestion that you can somehow separate defending the credibility of AAI, from helping refugees and freethinkers, that's just nonsense. It's disingenuous to pretend that they're mutually exclusive - they're not - so the argument that "oh, time spent responding to questions, is time that could be spent helping refugees", like no, that's one and the same thing, actually. And I would say look, if I'm putting forward one reason to vote in favour of this motion is, see it as the end of all this. The end of this process. The final set of questions that are to be asked. Okay. That's what I'm [...] for here, you know. The point is not to drag on and on and on. It's to end it, actually. To put a seal on it. That's what the whole point of this is. So. Thanks.

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

That's an appalling characterisation, Kareem!

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Yes. Apart from the two that were answered in the "Comments" document from Bill.

DV59 - Kato Mukasa (HALEA Uganda):

Meredith has a point, there are questions overtaken by events and don't need wasting time on them for example the legality of the board etc but a few well distilled questions can be answered, I can't support us to be dismissive.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

None have been answered apart from those 2

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you Kareem. I have to say that I certainly hope ...

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

What blackmail?

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

... whatever happens will end this, but I'm dubious, but let's just see.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Preston, you need to give us your important substantive questions. Not 100 questions.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

There are not 100 questions.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

And stop Spamming every Affiliate.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Sorry... not 100, but 40? I don't know... but way too many.

DV71 - Onur Romano (Centre for Inquiry Canada):

100 is a figure of speech

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I count 30 unanswered questions.

DV72 - Celine Cohen (Ateizm Dernegi):

May I give a very short answer. I wasn't saying that we shouldn't be answering any questions or refer to any criticism. But, like, these are not even the first 100 questions. So if it was just a few questions, like a few months ago, I would say yes, let's just answer the questions and and see what they're saying, you know, because, you know, hoping for constructive criticism. But it's very clear that right now this is no longer the case. It's not about like choosing between answering to critical questions or helping refugees, it's about the fact that it's been taking way too long. At this point, I'm sorry but it's very difficult for me to believe that the intentions are still pure.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay. I think it's clear that many people question the intentions, and other people want to make sure we're transparent. I think those are the two views that have been expressed here. I'll let Rad have the final word, unless, well Randolph I did say Rad was the final word ...

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

I have one quick question for Kareem but go ahead.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay, well, I'll give Rad his and then you can have your quick question which I hope - as I was gonna say - I hope to god is quick, but I won't in this group say that. Rad.

DV77 - Lois Edwards (Rocky Mountain Atheists):

People have been answering questions for several years, but the questions keep coming. When someone wants to destroy the image of any organization, they often unfortunately can. Sometimes you have to accept the damage that has been done and forge ahead in doing as much good work as possible.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Brian, if you had even acknowledged any of my emails I wouldn't be "spamming" my fellow members.

DV61 - Rad Doherty (Atheism UK):

I just want to say that I'm just new to this, I've just come into this, I've read the disclosure document, I've read some of the articles, I've read a little bit about this. I think that people need to be careful about using accusative speech because that's one of the problems, calling people liars, trolls, even "they're using emotional blackmail", and this sort of talk has to stop if we're to get anywhere. I can't find any evidence that any question that's been asked of any board member, and that board member has not honestly tried to answer it. And I think that needs to be recognised. And I would urge Kareem, and anybody else who ... I generally agree with Kato and Meredith on this, just leave what's behind. You know, whatever's happened, and whatever's been wrong, it's not been that serious. The serious problem we have now is that we're not focusing on the AAI's core work of helping atheists in trouble. And I think it's not emotional blackmail, it's a real important point, and that people need to stop asking these questions. The board's tried to answer them as best they can, and we need to put this behind us somehow and move on from here. And that's just from somebody who's just kind of walked into the situation. [...] Thank you.

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Do we need a motion about restricting an unreasonable amount of mail to affiliates on a single issue?

DV77 - Lois Edwards (Rocky Mountain Atheists):

Thank you, Rad, for an excellent perspective.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you very much. Okay, Randolph.

DV92 - Randolph Richardson (Canadian atheists):

Yeah so my question goes to both Kareem and Rad. They're talking about some blackmail. I wonder if one of them could elaborate on what they meant by that, because this seems like a new piece of information in all of this. If there's blackmail going on it shouldn't happen.

DV82 - Kareem Muhssin (Alliance of Former Muslims):

Maybe that wasn't the best phrase, but what I meant was, the suggestion that I was responding to was that it's somehow jeopardising the lives of refugees or Iranian political prisoners, [...]

DV52 - Meredith Doig (Rationalist Society of Australia, plus two proxy votes):

Yes, thank you Rad.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Yes.. thank you Rad.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

[...]

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

[...]

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

Our goals are the same. To help atheists.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

[...]

A18 - Alice Carr (Advisory Council member):

Kareem, that's exactly what's happening, these emails are unproductive and are taking precious time away from saving refugees.

O15 - Preston Jensen (individual member):

I don't know why I am having to take responsibility for Hamill's behaviour.

DV62 - Ahura Qavami (Iranian Atheists & Agnostics):

[...] helping Iranian or any other atheists who are in need, some sort of blackmail but it's not a blackmail, it's a fact that we have to do, and if there is long time we had answered these questions - I'm not really in [...] what's going on because I was really busy with other cases and on any many things that going around in Iran in last couple of years. I was not really attention to what happened in AAI, but to be honest I don't give a fuck. If you are atheist, and you want to help atheists, you have to focus on atheism. If you had answered these questions a long time ago, okay. Move on. If they don't satisfy, I don't give a fuck. You have to focus on what is important, and what is important is helping the people who are in need. [...] want to do that. What shall I say in this affiliation, to just talk about this people.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Thank you very much. I think these points have all been made, and I'm hearing emotional and heartfelt responses, but they're repeating things that I think have already been made on

both sides of this. So I'm going to call the question, and take responsibility for doing that. So let's vote on the question. Rakshith if you can stay for the vote that would be great.

[...]

DV94 - Andrew Rawlings (Progressive Atheists):

I think that it's risky to discuss a statement using emails. It may play into the hands of the trolls.

O12 - Aamir (AAI Volunteer)

5 were in favour, 17 against and 8 abstained.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Christine did you have a question now?

DV70 - Christine Shellska (Atheists for Liberty)

Yeah, Bill, have you prepared a statement that you want us to sign on to? Is that what you're asking, more than our individual commentary? Is that what you're suggesting?

DN02 - Bill Flavell (AAI Secretary):

Yes. Yes.

DV70 - Christine Shellska (Atheists for Liberty)

Okay. I concur, maybe that could be circulated and we could sign on to it rather than, if that's what you're getting at.

A10 - Lawrence Krauss (Facilitator and Advisory Council member):

Okay before I turn it over to Brian I want to thank all of you for perseverance, I understand many of you have been up as you say in the middle of the night and it's been long and gone better than I imagined, and of course I imagined the worst. Let me turn it over to Brian.

DN01 - Brian Kernick (AAI Acting President, with two proxy votes):

Okay I'll keep it really short. Just want to thank everyone for their participation. I think the EGM satisfied the main objective of dealing with the past. Let's now look towards the future and advocate for atheism and reason around the world. Thank you.