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

Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 22:00 UTC
Place: By online videoconference

Directors present:
Lars Bergstrom
Jakob Degen
Eric Garcia
Peixin Hou
Ryan Levick
Scott McMurray
Carol Nichols
Santiago Pastorino
Alexandru Radovici
Mark Rousskov
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
Seth Markle

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 November 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 October 8th 2024, which were circulated to the Board (the "October 8th Minutes").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the October 8th Minutes are hereby approved.

3. Executive Director & Management Team update

Management

Ms. Rumbul gave the update. The trademark policy draft was now in a public comment period, and it was good to see that engagement had been broadly positive. Funding bids had been submitted to the Sovereign Tech Fund and Alpha-Omega, with decisions pending.

The Foundation had noted substantial concern in the community regarding Linux withdrawing permissions from maintainers. Whilst Linux had not provided a formal statement, it was widely understood to be related to US sanctions and could hence come to affect other open source projects and foundations. The Rust Foundation has not yet had any contact from government agencies, but Ms. Rumbul noted that it would be wise to be prepared for that eventuality – the board should take advice from counsel on potential liability, and decide on the Foundation's risk tolerance if instructed to prevent someone from contributing.

Technology/Infrastructure

Mr. Marcey gave the update. The biggest concern at present was CI cost and usage, and maintaining in-kind sponsorship to support it. The Foundation's engineers were working on various optimization strategies and had so far reduced cost by 17%. Eventually, it might be necessary to have a policy on what is and isn't supported for CI testing.

An RFC for The Update Framework (TUF) had been published and was in its comment period. Comments so far had been much more positive than on the previous proposal for PKI. The C++/Rust Interop Strategy was live and public. Agreement had been reached to bring the Ferrocene Language Specification (FLS) into the Rust Project, and discussions were under way on how to do so. The Safety Critical Rust Consortium Coding Guidelines subcommittee had held two meetings, and a Tooling subcommittee had been formed and was expected to have their first meeting soon.

Finance & Grants

Mr. Lenz gave the update, focusing on the draft budget for 2025. There were still a number of unknowns, so the budget had been prepared on a 'business as usual' basis and would be revised as new information on both funding and costs became available. He noted the importance of retaining and increasing membership to provide the Foundation with unrestricted core funding, and asked board members to use all their efforts to introduce new member companies to the Foundation.

After the success of Rust's involvement in Google Summer of Code, a concept note had been created and shared for 'Rust Student Internships' – a similar initiative, but run by the Foundation. A trial was proposed at an approximate cost of $10,000. The board approved this expenditure.

Communications & Events

Ms. Gregory gave a recap of recent and upcoming communications output. She shared with the board that a venue had been secured for RustConf 2025 (a public announcement would be forthcoming) and gave a preview tour of the Foundation's new website, which was almost ready to launch. An important focus for 2025 would be creating and sharing new material on the benefits of Foundation membership, in particular stressing the reasons why companies who use open source should contribute back to the ecosystem.

4. Project Director Update

Mr. Levick gave the update:
- Project Director elections had been completed. Mr. Levick had been re-elected, and Carol Nichols was joining the board to replace Mark Rousskov.
- He noted the importance of the Project Goals Initiative in providing information and clarity on what the Rust Project is currently working on.
- The Leadership Council had decided to make financial awards to a small number of people who had narrowly missed out on Fellowships.
- Guest blog post from the gccrs project – having others build backends for Rust represents a big technical step forward.

5. Sub-Committee Updates

The **People Committee** was in the middle of arranging the annual evaluation of the Executive Director's performance. Ms. Broom reminded board members to contribute their feedback.

The **Finance Committee** had met to review the draft budget, with some useful suggestions emerging from that process.

6. Call for nominations: Board Secretary

Ms. Rumbul thanked Mr. Rousskov for his service as Secretary to date, and encouraged board members to self-nominate for the vacant role.

7. DARPA Discussion

The board discussed, again, the Foundation's potential involvement in DARPA's Translating All C To Rust (TRACTOR) program. Some Project Directors felt that there would be concerns or resistance from Rust maintainers. Key issues included the Rust Project's historical dislike of "rewrite it in Rust" initiatives, as well as secondary concerns about government (in particular defense/military) involvement, and AI.

The board recognized that this program was going to happen regardless of the Foundation's involvement. Several board members spoke about the importance of not missing the opportunity for the Foundation to contribute towards ensuring principled tools and outcomes, and of the benefits to the Foundation in taking a proactive approach to engaging with AI research, development and use. It was agreed that maintaining some distance was desirable, by (for example) being clear in public messaging that this is a DARPA initiative with the Foundation providing support and guidance; stressing the experimental nature of the project; ensuring that evidence-based evaluations are produced.

Ms. Rumbul noted that she did not believe any of this would be a blocking concern, and would continue discussions in order to bring a proposal for the board to sign off, likely in early 2025.

8. AOB

Mr. Hou asked whether anything was known about the timeline for implementation of the EU's Cyber Resilience Act. Ms. Rumbul responded that it was dependent on the working speed of the European Commission, and that open source foundations were currently collaborating to elect a representative to attend the Commission's meetings.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 23:54 UTC.