



ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LUND EST. 1935

Board Meeting 4

17:17-21:08

2020-11-05

Digital, Zoom

The Board of 20/21

Association of Foreign Affairs,
Lund

Present: Agnieszka Gryz, Anna Mizser, Carl Cotton, Clara Karlsson Schedvin, Daniel Bergdal, Demi Bylon, Emma Liljeström, Frida Lindberg, Gabriella Gut, Hedda Carlsson, Henrietta Kulleborn, Karin Mizser, Kerime van Opijnen, Lovisa Lundin Ziegler, Mara Glas, Maximilian Onkenhout, Miljaemilia Wala, Roja Moser, Soha Kadhim, Thea Sandin, Victoria Becker.

Absent: Maguette Fall.

1. Opening of the meeting

President Soha Kadhim declares the meeting opened at 17:17.

2. Election of Chair of the meeting

Soha Kadhim is elected Chair of the meeting at 17:19.

3. Election of Secretary of the meeting

Carl Cotton is elected Secretary of the meeting at 17:20.

4. Election of Attesters and Vote Counters of the meeting

Maximillian Onkenhout and Demi Bylon are elected Vote Counters and Attesters of the meeting at 17:28.

5. Approval of the electoral roll

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim proposes to set the electoral roll to 21.

Passed by acclamation at 17:28.

6. Approval of the Agenda

(Attachment 1)

Hedda Carlsson proposes to amend the agenda by adding point 15.1 Representation.

Passed by acclamation at 17:29.

Proposal to approve the amended agenda.

Passed by acclamation at 17:30.

7. Tabled points

7.1. Motion about amending Sexual Harassment Policy

(Attachment 2, 2.1)

Anna Mizser, Carl Cotton, Hedda Carlsson, Karin Mizser and Maximilian Onkenhout presents a motion about amending the existing Sexual Harassment Policy.

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim suggests an amendment to the amending motion presented by the motioneers, by changing the following phrasing:

3. Steps to follow if you experienced or witnessed sexual harassment within the association or by representatives of the association.

3.1 Reach out to the Sexual Harassment Contact Person(s).

3.2 if not comfortable with contacting the Sexual Harassment Contact Person(s):

3.2.1. Contact the President at president@upflund.se

3.2.2. Contact the Crisis Group at crisis@upflund.se

3.2.3. Contact a Board Member

3.3 if the individual does not feel heard, that their claim is not taken seriously, or that the measures taken within the association aren't enough, contact AF at verksamhetschef@af.lu.se

4. Following allegations of sexual harassment, at least the following steps must be taken.

4.1 Meet with the person who brings the allegations of sexual harassment.

4.1.1 At this meeting, the crisis group (and the president, if deemed necessary), will meet the person who has come forward, potentially together with a support person of their choice. The composition of people attending can be adjusted to what the person bringing the allegation feels comfortable with.

4.1.2 If the individual accused of the sexual harassment does not want to meet, the crisis group is to proceed in accordance with this policy based on the information provided by the person who brings the allegation

4.2 the contact person(s) should contact the crisis group, and together decide if involvement of the crisis group deemed necessary.

4.3 Preferably meet with, or at the very least communicate with the person who has been accused of discrimination

4.3.1 At the meeting the crisis group (and the president, if deemed necessary), will meet the accused individual(s), potentially with a support person of their choice. The composition of people attending can be adjusted to what the person bringing the allegation feels comfortable with.

4.3.2 If the individual accused of the sexual harassment does not want to meet, the crisis group is to proceed in accordance with this policy

based on the information provided by the person who brings the allegation

4.4 Following these meetings, the crisis group (along with the president, if deemed necessary), should try to establish what has happened, and based on this decide which of the actions outlined below should be taken.

4.5 The association, especially the crisis group and/or the President, must take action after every reported case of sexual harassment, and/or reported concern that a case of sexual harassment has occurred during, or in connection to, the association's operations and/or activities, or by the representative(s) of the association.

5. Potential sanctions following a sexual harassment incident

5.1 The crisis group, together with the presidents, have the authority to take the following measures on behalf of the board until the next board meeting.

5.1.5 The crisis group, together with the presidents, can decide for how long the above mentioned sanctions should be upheld

5.2.1 According to § 2.13 of the Association's Statutes, a member can only be excluded through a board decision

5.2.2. Exclusion from the association should be considered a last route solution and only be considered in the case of a severe incident or repeated offenses. If exclusion is not considered appropriate, the board can decide on the following sanctions:

5.2.2.1 Give a warning to the accused person(s) and point out that if this would be repeated or similar incidents would occur again more severe sanctions will be taken, with the possibility of exclusion.

5.2.2.2 Being prohibited to be active in one or several committees and events.

5.2.2.3 A temporary suspension of the amount of time the board sees fit.

The motioneers agrees to merge their motion with the suggested amendments presented by the Chairperson Soha Kadhim.

Proposal to amend the Sexual Harassment Policy and that the updated policy comes into force effective immediately.

Passed by acclamation at 17:47.

8. Presidium reporting

8.1. Presidents

- *The presidents went on an educational day in Stockholm a couple of weeks ago. In February the board will visit Skanör and this trip is now booked. Urges the board members to communicate potential plans to study abroad or in any way leave Lund during the next semester. Asks the board if the UFS Administrator Michal Gieda is allowed a key to the UPF Office.*

8.2. Treasurer

(Attachment 3)

- *Briefs the board on the budget for the first quarter of the operational year. Proposes to invest in a new printer. Urges the committee heads to use their budgets.*

8.3. Secretary

- *The secretary Carl Cotton has nothing to report to the board.*

8.4. UFS-representative

- *The forum weekend will be held digitally instead of in person, encouraging the board members to sign up. The workshop with UF Malmö will be canceled/postponed. The MUCF-grant is lowering its requirements, and will be received by the association.*

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned for a break at 18:12)

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting re-opened at 18:23)

9. Committee reporting

9.1. Magazine

- *The printed version of the magazine should soon be distributed, after a few minor delays.*

9.2. Pod&Radio

- *Weekly pods are now being uploaded. The work produced by the committee is now available on Spotify as "The Perspective Pod".*

9.3. PR

- *The editing of the promotion video is underway. A workshop is being pushed to December. Adobe will probably be bought with the PR-budget. Merch for the board is being decided on, and will hopefully be ordered soon.*

9.4. Travel

- *The Kiruna trip has been cancelled due to the current situation with the Coronapandemic. It might be pushed until a later date since the committee still wants to go.*

9.5. Webzine

- *Did live blogging during the US-election night. Exploring digital hangouts with the committee. Publishing as normal on the website. Sub-editors have now been chosen and will help out with the workload.*

9.6. Activity

- *The Zoom-sitting was a great success. A Netflix-movie night is currently being planned and will hopefully take place without any need for signing up on beforehand. Might be losing active committee members due to the digital committee meetings.*

9.7. Career

- *Looking forward to the Career Day which will be held digitally. Furthermore a few other events are being planned.*

9.8. Lecture

- *All the lectures will be held digitally for now due to the current situation with the Coronapandemic. A tripod and mic-set has been purchased.*

10. Project of the Year

- *Each year UPF allocates 10.000 SEK to a specific project which needs funding. The board is asked to think on potential projects for this operational year. Discussion moves between different projects, for example investing in app-building, investing in a new computer, charity and hosting different events.*

11. UFS Annual Assembly 4.1)

(Attachment 4,

- *The Chairperson Soha Kadhim asks the board how they feel about the initial motion from UPF Umeå, how the board feels about the verdict presented by UFS, as well as how the board thinks that UPF Lund should vote in regards to this question. The discussion mainly pertains to the phrasing of the motion. The need for a more clear cut and transparent motion is underlined by a few of the speakers. The board is somewhat split on whether UPF Umeå or UFS board should be favored. The board votes in favor of UPF Umeå, and also votes in favor of amending the motion presented by UPF Umeå.*

- *Soha Kadhim, Mara Glas, and Lovisa Lundin Ziegler nominates themselves to work on writing amendments to the motion. A PC-decision on this will be sent out to the board members as soon as possible.*

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned for a break at 19:38)

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting re-opened at 19:49)

12. Membership Recruitment

- *Hedda Carlsson informs the board that we need to improve our membership numbers, and asks the board to discuss different ways of increasing these numbers. Different suggestions revolve around merch, social media, contests and promotional videos.*

13. Working groups

The board will form three working groups in the following weeks. These working groups will get a mandate from the board to work on different long term projects in the following areas.

13.1. Senior Collegium

- *Maximilian Onkenhout, Kerime van Opijnen, Karin Mizser, Anna Mizser are all interested in joining the secretary Carl Cotton in this working group.*
- *The board decides to table the election until the next board meeting due to the large number of interested board members, as well as the need to establish the workload and ambition of this working group.*

Roja Moser leaves the meeting at 20:23.

The electoral roll is updated to 20.

13.2. Rules and Regulations

- *Henrietta Kulleborn and Anna Mizser are both interested in joining the president Soha Kadhim in this working group.*
- *The board elects Henrietta Kulleborn, Anna Mizser and Soha Kadhim as members of Rules and Regulations working group at 20:30.*

Henrietta Kulleborn abstains from voting in the election of herself.

13.3. Policies

- *Hedda Carlsson, Anna Mizser and Carl Cotton are all interested in joining this working group.*
- *The board elects Hedda Carlsson, Anna Mizser and Carl Cotton as members of Policies working group at 20:43.*

14. Motions

No other motions have been sent in for the board to decide upon.

15. Other points

15.1. Representation

- *Hedda Carlsson informs the board on the meaning of representation in the association. This is partly pertaining to members in the association, and partly to the topics the committees work with. A broad spectrum of topics and areas is vital for the association and the committee heads are encouraged to make sure that this is noticeable in their work.*

Roja Moser re-enters the meeting at 20:59.

The electoral roll is updated to 21.

16. Confirmation of next board meeting

Chairperson Soha Kadhim informs the board that the next board meeting will be held on the 26th of November (26/11) at 17.00.

17. Meeting adjourned

Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned at 21:08.



Carl Cotton, Secretary



Soha Kadhim, Chair



Maximilian Onkenhout, Attester



Demi Bylon, Attester

Attachment 1

Board Meeting 4

2020-11-05, 17:00-21:00

Online, Zoom.

The Board 20/21

Association of Foreign Affairs,
Lund

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair of the meeting
3. Election of Secretary of the meeting
4. Election of Attesters and Vote Counters of the meeting
5. Approval of the electoral roll
6. Approval of the Agenda
7. Tabled points
 - 7.1. Motion about amending Sexual Harassment Policy
8. Presidium reporting
 - 8.1. Presidents
 - 8.2. Treasurer
 - 8.3. Secretary
 - 8.4. UFS-rep
9. Committee reporting
 - 9.1. Magazine
 - 9.2. Pod&Radio
 - 9.3. PR
 - 9.4. Travel
 - 9.5. Webzine
 - 9.6. Activity
 - 9.7. Career
 - 9.8. Lecture
10. Project of the Year
11. UFS Annual Assembly
12. Membership Recruitment

13. Working groups:

13.1. Senior Collegium

13.2. Rules and Regulations

13.3. Policies

14. Motions

15. Other points

16. Confirmation of next board meeting

17. Meeting adjourned

Attachment 2

Motion to amend “Sexual Harassment Policy”

Background

UPF has a Sexual Harassment Policy, with the purpose of preventing sexual harassment from occurring within the association. In the writing process of the Discrimination and Equal Treatment Policy, the group used the Sexual Harassment Policy for guidelines, and detected areas of improvement in the policy.

Purpose

The updated policy is thought to be more accurate for how these matters should be handled within UPF. Also hoping that the Discrimination and Equal Treatment Plan comes into force, we consider it important that these two policies are consistent with each other and uses the same action plans.

Proposal

We propose that the board decides:

To amend the “Sexual Harassment Policy” and that the updated policy comes into force effective immediately.

*Anna Mizser, Carl Cotton, Hedda Carlsson, Karin Mizser and Max Onkenhout
Head of Career, Secretary, Vice President, Head of Lecture and Head of Radio*

Attachment 2.1

Sexual Harassment Policy

The Association of Foreign Affairs in Lund (UPF) is committed to providing a safe and trusting environment for all its members, free from sexual harassment. UPF operates a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment and recognizes the need to work proactively to prevent sexual harassment as well as provide guidelines for how to address an incident after it has happened. This policy defines procedures for UPF to take in situations relating to sexual harassment.

Purpose

The Association of Foreign Affairs in Lund (UPF) does not tolerate acts of sexual harassment of any kind. UPF recognizes the need and its responsibility to work proactively to prevent sexual harassment incidents from occurring at UPF events or by representatives of the association, as well as provide guidelines for how to address an incident after it has happened, in order to create a safe and trusting environment for all of its members. The purpose of this sexual harassment policy is to provide guidelines and define procedures for UPF to take in situations relating to sexual harassment, thereby helping the board navigate and act preemptively during and after any incidents.

Guidelines

1. Definition of sexual harassment

1.1 Unwelcome actions including but not limited to the following are considered inappropriate and may, depending on the circumstances, in and of themselves meet the definition of sexual harassment.

1.1.1 Pressuring someone to participate in sexual acts to which they do not consent, or to which they cannot consent;

1.1.2 Unwelcome physical contact;

1.1.3 Touching or grabbing of a sexual nature;

1.1.4 Repeatedly standing too close to or brushing up against a person;

1.1.5 Unwelcome comments of a sexual nature;

1.1.6 Sexual pranks, or repeated sexual teasing, jokes, or innuendo, in person or via other medium;

- 1.1.7 Spreading rumours or commenting on a person's sex life, sexuality, or appearance;
- 1.1.8 Repeatedly asking a person to socialize when the person has said no or has indicated disinterest;
- 1.1.9 Giving gifts or leaving objects that are sexually suggestive;
- 1.1.10 Repeatedly making sexually suggestive gestures;
- 1.1.11 Staring or leering;
- 1.1.12 Making or posting sexually demeaning or offensive pictures or other materials;
- 1.1.13 Displaying pornographic or sexually explicit material.

2. Pre-emptive steps

2.1 At the beginning of each board year, two sexual harassment contact persons (preferably one man and one woman) should be chosen. One person should be a board member and the other person should be an active member. Their contact information should be available on the association's website, and their roles and responsibilities should be communicated to the association's members.

2.1.1 The contact persons should be given an email address each, once they are elected. Through this email, members can report incidents, complaints and/or concerns related to the content of this policy. It is the responsibility of the contact persons to delete the content of their email inboxes at the end of the board year.

2.1.2 The contact persons should be available at the office once a month on a specific time.

2.1.3 The contact persons are responsible for providing information about this policy and for providing their contact information to members of the association.

2.1.4 The association should always aim to have at least one of the contact persons present and available at all major and social events where alcohol is available. This person should be contactable and not drunk.

2.2 The president and the vice president are responsible for informing the board of the content and practicalities of this policy at the beginning of every board year.

2.3 The board members who are also committee heads, must inform their active members about this policy at the beginning of every semester.

2.4 Information about this policy and contact persons should be stated, in written form, in connection to every UPF social event.

2.5 Counteracting a culture of silence.

2.5.1 The association shall actively work to counteract all tendencies of culture

of silence-behavior.

2.5.2 Representatives of the association have a particular responsibility of actively preventing a culture of silence.

2.5.2.1 Representatives shall strive to speak up in a situation of sexual harassment, even if they are not the subject of the harassment.

2.5.2.2 Representatives shall actively encourage all members to do the same.

3. Steps to follow if you experienced or witnessed sexual harassment within the association or by representatives of the association

3.1 Reach out to the sexual harassment contact person(s).

3.2 If not comfortable with contacting the sexual harassment contact person(s):

3.2.1 Contact a board member.

3.2.2 Contact AF at programchef@af.lu.se.

3.3 If the individual does not feel heard, that their claim is not taken seriously, or that the measures taken within the association are not enough, contact AF at programchef@af.lu.se.

4. Following allegations of sexual harassment, at least the following steps must be taken

4.1 The contact person(s) should offer a meeting with the person bringing the allegation.

4.1.1 At this meeting, the contact person(s), will meet the person who has come forward, potentially together with a support person of the individual's choice. The composition of people attending can be adjusted to what the person bringing the allegation feels comfortable with.

4.1.2 If the individual bringing the allegation does not want to meet, the contact person(s) together with the crisis group is to proceed in accordance with this policy based on the information provided by the person who brings the allegation.

4.2 The contact person(s) should contact the crisis group, if deemed necessary.

4.3 Preferably meet with, or at the very least communicate with the person(s) who has been accused of sexual harassment.

4.3.1 At the meeting the crisis group and preferably the contact person(s), will meet the accused individual(s), potentially with a support person of the individuals choice. The composition of people attending can be adjusted to what the person(s) accused feels comfortable with.

4.3.2 If the individual accused of sexual harassment does not want to communicate and/or meet, the crisis group is to proceed in accordance with this policy based on the information provided by the person who brings the allegation.

4.4 Following these meetings and/or communication, the crisis group together with

the contact person(s), should try to establish what has happened, and based on this decide which of the sanctions outlined below should be taken.

4.5 The association, and especially the contact person(s), must take action after every reported case of sexual harassment, and/or reported concern that a case of sexual harassment has occurred during, or in connection to, the association's operations or activities, or by representative(s) of the association.

5. Potential sanctions following a sexual harassment incident

5.1 The crisis group has the authority to take the following measures on behalf of the board until the next board meeting. All decisions taken can be overruled by the board at the next meeting.

5.1.1 Removal from a position of responsibility within a committee.

5.1.2 Removal from participation in a committee, a particular subgroup of a committee, or removal from all committee work.

5.1.3 Prohibition from participating in UPF social events, even if the person is not a member of UPF.

5.1.4 Prohibition from participating in UPF lectures and public events, even if the person is not a member of UPF.

5.1.5 The crisis group can decide for how long the above mentioned sanctions should be upheld.

5.1.6 If the allegation of sexual harassment is deemed mild and does not require removal or prohibition of participation, the crisis group can decide upon the following sanctions:

5.1.6.1 Making sure the person accused understands what in their behavior was considered as harassing and apologizes.

5.1.6.2 Following this sanction, the crisis group does not have to initiate a discussion of further sanctions at the next board meeting, but a report of the situation still has to take place.

5.2 The crisis group should, if considered necessary, initiate a discussion at the next board meeting about potential sanctions. If the matter concerns a board member, a discussion on whether or not an extra annual meeting should be called to decide which sanctions should befall the board member in question.

5.2.1 According to 2.13 § of the association's bylaws, a member can only be excluded through a board decision or a decision at a higher instance.

5.2.2 The board, the president, a third of the association's members or the auditor may call for an extra annual meeting to exclude a board member.

5.2.3 Exclusion from the association should be considered a last route solution and only be considered in the case of a severe incident or repeated offences. If exclusion is not considered appropriate, the board can decide on the following sanctions:

5.2.3.1 Give a warning to the accused person(s) and point out that if this would be repeated or similar incidents would occur again more severe sanctions will be taken, with the possibility of exclusion.

5.2.3.2 Being prohibited to be active in one or several committees and events.

5.2.3.3 A temporary suspension of the amount of time the board sees fit.

6. Rules of conduct regarding allegations of sexual

harassment

6.1 The identity of the individual(s) involved in the alleged sexual harassment, along with any specific details concerning the situation, should not be shared with individuals outside of the relevant parties, unless this is unavoidable or unless the individual(s) involved in the alleged sexual harassment has explicitly given their consent.

6.1.1 If the board decides to have a discussion and/or a vote concerning potential sanctions towards a member from the association, the details of the sexual harassment may be shared with the board, but only to the extent necessary to have an adequate discussion.

6.1.2 When publishing the board meeting protocol the names of the persons involved is to be redacted from the document.

6.2 If one or more of the contact persons or the crisis group members are directly affected, or have especially close ties to the directly affected person(s), they should reserve themselves from partaking in the investigation. If a member of the crisis group or a contact person does not reserve themselves, contrary to the opinion of the crisis group, the remainder of the crisis group may remove the individual(s) from the process. If this concerns a crisis group member, a substitute individual should be chosen by the remainder of the crisis group on an ad hoc basis.

6.3 The crisis group must outline their actions, and the reasons for those actions, at the next board meeting.

6.3.1 If the crisis group decides not to take action, this must also be reported to the board.

6.3.2 Note that the identity of the persons involved should not be shared with the board, as outlined above, unless that person has explicitly given the individual consent to do so, or if it is deemed unavoidable.

6.4 The contact person(s) or the crisis group should direct the concerned individuals to, and recommend, the use of Studenthälsan or other equivalents following an incident.

6.5 The contact person(s) or the crisis group should, when considered appropriate, direct the concerned individuals to, and recommend them to reach out to the police in the case of sexual harassment.

6.6 Assumption of innocence.

6.6.1 When an allegation of sexual harassment is brought forward, the parties carrying out the investigation are to assume the alleged individual(s) innocence until a thorough investigation has taken place.

6.6.2 The situation needs to be investigated to the best of the association's ability before exclusion of a member.

6.6.3 All involved parties should be presented with the opportunity to be heard and tell their side of the story in the investigation.

Attachment 3

BUDGET 2020/2021		Q1 (current balance)	Remaining amount	Note
Incomes				Generally: Does not include any cash transactions or transfer from membership and merch accounts
Entrance Revenues	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Advertisement	57 970,00	33 980,00	23 990,00	Due to late payment from CMES & CFE
Membership Revenues	0,00	3 343,67	(3 343,67)	Due to income before removal of membership fee
UFS Grants	150 000,00	87 018,96	62 981,04	
Other Revenues	112 612,00	0,00	112 612,00	
Total Incomes	320 582,00	124 342,63	196 239,37	
Expenses				
Shared exp.				
Office Rent	28 742,00	0,00	28 742,00	
Bank expenses	2 000,00	0,00	2 000,00	
Fika	10 000,00	584,99	9 415,01	
Projekt	10 000,00	0,00	10 000,00	
Office expenses	10 840,00	4 129,00	6 711,00	
Board Activities	25 000,00	12 403,65	12 596,35	
Board trips	2 500,00	3 299,00	(799,00)	Due to presidents train tickets to Sthlm
Total shared exp.	89 082,00	20 416,64	68 665,36	
Committees				
Radio	6 500,00	0,00	6 500,00	
PR	15 000,00	0,00	15 000,00	
Magazine	86 500,00	0,00	86 500,00	
Webzine	4 000,00	0,00	4 000,00	
Lecture	61 500,00	2 115,60	59 384,40	
Career	16 500,00	0,00	16 500,00	
Activity	8 000,00	0,00	8 000,00	
Travel	12 000,00	0,00	12 000,00	
Presidium	1 000,00	0,00	1 000,00	
Election	300,00	0,00	300,00	
Cheif recruiters	200,00	0,00	200,00	
Total committees exp.	211 500,00	2 115,60	209 384,40	Many committees have fixed costs which are not paid yet
Other expenses	20 000,00	307,80	19 692,20	
Total expenses	320 582,00	22 840,04	297 741,96	
Difference	0,00	101 502,59	(101 502,59)	This is our current result, but it doesn't mean anything this early on

Attachment 4

Motion about Solidarity Travel Funds

Background

The idea of the “Solidarity Travel Fund”, has been on UpF Umeå’s mind for quite a while. Due to our geographical location members of UpF Umeå tend to have both long travel hours as well as higher costs than some of the other associations located in the middle of Sweden, when it comes to various events (co)hosted by UFS. It is true that the previous annual meeting was held in Umeå, which was highly successful and appreciated. However, it was the first of its kind in ten years that UFS, together with the rest of the associations, came to Norrland, and not the other way around.

In light of this, it is our strong belief that there should be instated a Solidarity Travel Fund “option” within the standing budget post “Member Association Travel”, that essentially will automatically grant an association the right to travel reimbursement by UFS, if the travel time exceed eight hours by train or likewise travel time by similar transportation methods such as car, bus. Following our travel policy; “If the travel time by train or by bus is more than 7 hours and flying considerably shortens the travel time, a flight can be booked instead of bus/train tickets.”

This motion is aimed solely on UFS activities such as the Forum Weekend, the Convent and Annual Assembly, however excluding projects such as “UFS i Almedalen”.

Purpose

The purpose of this motion is to make it easier for members of any UF/UPF association to attend events created by the UFS, on similar terms as other associations around Sweden. Prices of the tickets can become quite high when traveling extensive distances as well as the natural time investment. Thus, to combat these disproportional advantages, the Solidarity Travel Fund option shall keep the imbalances in check.

Proposal

The meeting is proposed to decide:

To delegate the mandate of designing how a “fair” Solidarity Travel Fund option could be realised in practice to the board, who will

1. Decide how the working process should be organized within the

organization.

2. Be responsible of presenting the final solution up for a vote during a board meeting within the operational year.

Writer

Artem Angelchev Shiryayev, UFS Representative - UpF Umeå.

Attachment 4.1

Verdict on UPF Umeå's motion "Solidarity Travel fund"

The board thanks UPF Umeå who has brought attention to an important issue regarding the different possibilities of SAIA's member associations to participate in national events due to their geographic location.

Firstly, the board agrees with the soul of this motion in that the UFS should always strive to ensure accessibility for all member associations to our national events. We also acknowledge that the vast majority of UFS's events takes place in the bottom half of Sweden, although that is connected to the fact that nine of our eleven member associations reside there. The board welcomes the initiative and sees it as an opportunity to start a wider discussion about geographical accessibility and equality within the UFS's operations.

With that said, the board will propose to reject the infinitive clause of the motion. Not because we disagree with what the motion aims to accomplish, but because we see obstacles in the proposed design of the solidarity travel fund, and we see another way forward which will allow the board to take a more all-encompassing approach to solve the issues related to geographical accessibility. In the below paragraphs we will outline our reasons for rejecting the infinitive clause.

The first obstacle we see is related to the UFS's budget and the proposed mechanism to "...automatically grant an association the right to travel reimbursement by UFS, if the travel time exceed eight hours by train...". Today, the budget post related to travel reimbursement is shared with the knowledge exchange fund and stands at 10 000 kr. This is a rather small sum which is quickly depleted if a large number of travel reimbursement requests would be submitted. This would also be the case if a national event would take place in a location such as Malmö or Umeå and where, under this motion, one or more associations would automatically be granted reimbursement. We would likely have to increase the budget post to make a "solidarity travel fund" possible, and that would likely entail giving less grants to the member associations

and keeping more within the UFS. In the past, such a distribution of resources has not been favored by the member associations and would need to be worked out before a solidarity option could be introduced with the resources to back it up. In summary, the mechanism of automatic reimbursement risks leading to unpredictable spending in an area with already scarce resources. This might in itself alter the behavior of the board, as described in the next paragraph.

The second obstacle with the proposed mechanism is that it might have an adverse effect. Namely of creating economic incentives for future boards to organize national events mainly in Stockholm/Uppsala as that would put all member associations within the eight hours demarcation stipulated in the motion. As the budget post is small and should be used to promote knowledge exchanges as well, it is not unreasonable to think that future boards would consider the mechanisms of the proposed solidarity travel fund when deciding where to host an Annual Assembly or Forum Weekend. Although having the intention of improving the geographical accessibility and equality, the solidarity travel fund might instead skew the distribution of events towards the center of Sweden. As it is the goal of the UFS to host its national events in all member associations at one point, this incentive risks promoting a reality contrary to the goal.

Our third reason is not an obstacle but an observation. We agree that one method of improving the accessibility to national events is through economic means, but we believe that the problem is multifaceted and requires a more all-encompassing look when designing the solution. It is for example unreasonable that the last time a national event was held in Umeå, before last year's Annual Assembly, was ten years ago. But, the solidarity travel fund would not improve the distribution of national events. As the board acknowledges the problem brought up in the motion, we want to take the opportunity to do a thorough investigation of all aspects related to geographical accessibility to solve the issue on both the short and long term.

It is against the past three paragraph's reasoning that we find the proposed solidarity travel fund to be difficult to implement and the proposed infinitive clause to be too restricting. By allowing the board to take a wider approach to the issue, we are certain that we can propose solutions which will improve the geographic accessibility and equality.

Against this background, the National Board proposes:

to reject the infinitive clause of the motion: To delegate the mandate of designing how a “fair” Solidarity Travel Fund option could be realized in practice to the board, who will 1) Decide how the working process should be organized within the organization and 2) Be responsible of presenting the final solution up for a vote during a board meeting within the operational year.

to direct the National Board to produce a report, including policy proposals, on how SAIA can improve the accessibility of national events for geographically distant member associations through measures including but not limited to economic incentives.

to direct the National Board to present the final report at the Electoral Meeting of 2021 at the latest.

Writers

The UFS board through

UFS President Johan Bergman and UFS Treasurer Rafael Rodrigo