



ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

LUND EST. 1935

Board Meeting 8

17:16-19:45

2020-02-18

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 Baker, Frida Lindberg, Gabriella Gut, Hedda Carlsson, Kerime van Opijnen, Lovisa Lundin Ziegler, Mara Glas, Maximilian Onkenhout, Miljaemilia Wala, Roja Moser, Soha Kadhim, Victoria Becker.

Absent: Henrietta Kulleborn, Karin Mizser, Maguette Fall, Thea Sandin.

1. Opening of the meeting

President Soha Kadhim declares the meeting opened at 17:16.

2. Election of Chair of the meeting

Soha Kadhim is elected Chair of the meeting at 17:23.

3. Election of Secretary of the meeting

Carl Cotton is elected Secretary of the meeting at 17:23.

4. Election of Attesters and Vote Counters of the meeting

Kerime van Opijnen and Anna Mizser are elected Vote Counters and Attesters of the meeting at 17:25.

5. Co-opted Persons

There are no requests to be co-opted into the meeting.

6. Approval of the electoral roll

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim sets the electoral roll to 18.

7. Approval of the Agenda

(Attachment 1)

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim proposes to amend the agenda by adding a point 14.4 UFS-Representative.

The UFS-Representative Mara Glas proposes to amend the agenda by adding a point 10 UFS-Solidarity Travel Fund.

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim proposes to approve the amended agenda.

Passed by acclamation at 17:28.

8. Information Point: Half-year Evaluation

Chairperson Soha Kadhim informs the board that 15 board members participated in the Half-year Evaluation. She goes on to inform the board on what the evaluation showed, both general contentedness and areas in need of improvement.

9. Information Point: Lecture w. Stefan Ingves

Vice President Hedda Carlsson briefs the board on an issue related to a cooperation between Riksbanken and UPF.

10. UFS Solidarity Travel Fund

The UFS-Representative Mara Glas briefs the board on the newly established Solidarity Travel Fund. Funding will be taken from the MUCF-grant and will be allocated to fund traveling through Sweden in order to combat steep transportation costs. This is expected to assist the associations furthest away from national events taking place in Central Sweden.

11. Discussion Point: Axis Communication (Attachment 2)

The Head of Career Anna Mizser briefs the board on a potential event with Axis Communication, and asks the board if they feel that the controversy revolving around the company is an insurmountable issue, and whether or not the Career Committee should go through with it.

Different perspectives are raised on whether or not this is a good idea and the Heads of Career will get back to the board once they have made their decision.

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned for a break at 18:24)

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting re-opened at 18:37)

12. Decision Point: Signing up for events (Attachment 3)

The Treasurer Lovisa Lundin Ziegler proposes to make our events for members only.

The Chairperson Soha Kadhim presents some more background to the board on the expectations of this proposal, and why it is important.

Different perspectives are presented and a discussion arises in regards to the potential issues this could result in. Mainly losses when it comes

to participation, as well as issues with how to follow through with this on a more concrete basis, are brought up.

The Head of Pod&Radio Maximilian Onkenhout counter proposes to change the wording

from

"Make our events open for members only"

to

"Make our events open for members only when practical possible"

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned for a break at 19:03)

(The Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting re-opened at 19:14)

There are now two proposals on the table. First we will vote on the proposal by Lovisa Lundin Ziegler, and if that fails we will move on to the counter proposal by Maximilian Onkenhout.

The proposal by Lovisa Lundin Ziegler was rejected by votation at 19:16.

The counter proposal by Maximilian Onkenhout was passed by votation at 19:17.

13. Motions

There are no motions.

14. Presidium reporting

14.1. Presidents

Vice President Hedda Carlsson briefs the board on a workshop that will be held in the beginning of March. An exchange with UF Uppsala is being planned. Individual talks are being planned. The board members are being encouraged to plan events for the theme weeks in March. The application to the Project of the Year is still ongoing. The digital office hours are now happening each Thursday.

14.2. Secretary

Secretary Carl Cotton reports that the membership numbers are up since the last board meeting, mainly due to the goal of signing up five members each.

14.3. Treasurer

Treasurer Lovisa Lundin Ziegler has nothing to report.

14.4. UFS-representative

UFS-Representative Mara Glas informs the board that the application to the UFS board is open and that everyone is encouraged to apply. The MUCF-grant application has been approved and the association has received its share of the funds.

15. Committee reporting

15.1. Activity

Head of Activity Miljaemilia Wala reports that the committee has lost the bulk of its committee members. Has been looking into a digital ball and although quite low numbers of seemingly interested they will keep on trying to organize something in that manner.

15.2. Career

Head of Career Emma Baker reports that the ongoing events are going well and that the current committee numbers are fine.

15.3. Lecture

Head of Lecture Frida Lindberg reports that the viewership numbers have dropped slightly. Committee members are eager and excited to plan and organize events. Speaks briefly on upcoming events.

15.4. Magazine

Head of Magazine Victoria Becker reports that the committee numbers are fine. The upcoming layout period will soon begin. Speaks briefly about the upcoming issues.

15.5. Pod&Radio

Head of Pod&Radio Maximilian Onkenhout reports that the committee is very active and mentions the upcoming Live Shows as well as an upcoming collaboration with the other Media Committees.

15.6. PR

Head of PR Gabriella Gut reports that the PR committee has four new trustees who are very active. Head of PR Roja Moser reports that the Get Active was successful and that the UPF-sweaters are still available to order.

15.7. Travel

No one from Travel is present at the meeting.

15.8. Webzine

Head of Webzine Kerime van Opijnen reports that the committee numbers are rising. The Heads will try to capitalize on this and will post more articles from now on. Head of Webzine Daniel Bergdal reports that they will recruit a new Sub Editor to manage the large numbers of members.

16. Other points

There are no other points.

17. Confirmation of next board meeting

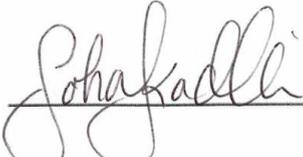
President Soha Kadhim informs the board that the next board meeting will be held on the 11th of March (11/3) at 17.00.

18. Meeting adjourned

Chairperson Soha Kadhim declares the meeting adjourned at 19:45.



Carl Cotton, Secretary



Soha Kadhim, Chair



Kerime van Opijnen, Attester



Anna Mizser, Attester

Attachment 1

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. Co-opted Persons
6. Approval of the Electoral Roll
7. Approval of the Agenda
8. Information Point: Half-year evaluation
9. Information Point: Lecture w. Stefan Ingves
10. Discussion Point: Axis Communication
11. Decision Point: Signing up for events
12. Motions
13. Presidium reporting
 - 13.1. Presidents
 - 13.2. Secretary
 - 13.3. Treasurer
14. Committee reporting
 - 14.1. Activity
 - 14.2. Career
 - 14.3. Lecture
 - 14.4. Magazine
 - 14.5. Pod&Radio
 - 14.6. PR
 - 14.7. Travel
 - 14.8. Webzine
15. Other points
16. Confirmation of next board meeting
17. Meeting adjourned

Attachment 2

Discussion: Axis Communications

We, the Career Committee, are looking into the possibility of an event in cooperation with Axis Communications, as one of our committee members has raised an interest to organize such an event. However, before we plan anything concrete we want to ask for the opinion of the board due to the controversy surrounding the company. Our committee wants to make sure our approach and planning of the event follows the values and interests of the Association, which is the reason why we think that having this discussion at this early stage is important.

Axis Communications AB is a Lund-based network camera manufacturer for security and surveillance industries. In their report from 2020, Amnesty International connects the company to possible human rights violations. Their findings can be shortly summarized in the following paragraph:

“...three companies based in France, Sweden [Axis Communications] and the Netherlands sold digital surveillance systems, such as facial recognition technology and network cameras, to key players of the Chinese mass surveillance apparatus. In some cases, the export was directly for use in China’s indiscriminate mass surveillance programmes, with the risk of being used against Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups throughout the country.”

Link to this and other informative articles are included in the bottom of the document.

Our committee has already many ideas when it comes to this potential event. We have discussed that having a panel discussion, for example, would serve to make sure that an open and transparent discussion would be prompted and different sides were to be heard. Some of the positive and negative points we have raised that should be considered:

- Having the event would provide an opportunity to encourage transparent debate and discussion about a controversial subject as well as offer a better understanding of the situation to our members.

- From a career perspective, it could provide our members better understanding of how it is to work for an employer who is found to be a subject of this kind of controversy or acting against their values. It is important to realize that not all employees were necessarily connected to the China sales and that some of us might end up working for an employer that is in a similar situation in the future.
- Axis Communications remains to be a potential employer for many of the students in Lund and possibly also to our members. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial for them to have the opportunity to hear a transparent and an open discussion evolving the company.
- The event could risk affiliation between our association and the controversy of the company's previous actions.
- There would be a risk that the perception would be that we want to give Axis Communications a platform to "ignore their past".

We want to discuss with you in this Board Meeting how we can respect our Association's values and views in the most appropriate way in this situation. Should we have an event in cooperation with the company at all? If we were to have the event, which ways can we best avoid the risks associated with the controversy and instead encourage debate and transparent discussion?

Articles on the topic:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/09/eu-surveillance-sales-china-human-rights-abusers/>

<https://www.politico.eu/article/amnesty-international-eu-is-selling-spyware-to-china/>

<https://asiatimes.com/2019/10/chinas-big-brother-is-watching-your-every-move/>

Attachment 3

Background

Before the pandemic it was necessary to be a member of UPF Lund to attend our events. The exception was that it was possible to pay an entrance fee for our lectures instead of becoming a member. With the pandemic and everything moving online the control of memberships for events disappeared and the events were available for everyone.

In the beginning of our operational year, we decided to remove the membership fee in order to increase our membership count. Especially since most of our operations are carried out online, apart from the printed magazine, there has not been any incentive to pay to be a member anymore.

Purpose

In order to increase our membership count and create an incentive to become a member again, we should revert back to checking memberships before events. This can be done in different ways. For example, it can be done by having google forms sign ups and there having a question if they are members and saying they have to be members to receive the link or it can be done by sending out the zoom-link for events in the newsletter.

Proposal

To make our events open for members only

Lovisa Lundin Ziegler, Treasurer