

Board Meeting

2022-08-24, 15:00

Studentgården, Skanör

Board of 22/23

Association of Foreign Affairs Lund

Present: Annie Anderek, Lucile Corcoran, Santeri Rönty, Sara Friman, Love Kirkegaard, Ana Caselles Calle, Zahra Aghazada, Nora Eliassen, Laila Sasivarevic, Ella Fasting, Julia Hampel, Hassan El-Saghir, Elliott Gunnell, Victor Åstrand, Anna Holm, Kathryn Dolan

Absent: Isabella Silva Ortiz, Helene Witte

1. Opening of the meeting

President Annie Anderek declares the meeting open at 15:11

2. Election of Chair of the Meeting

Annie Anderek is elected Chair of the meeting at 15:11

3. Election of Secretary of the Meeting

Santeri Rönty is elected Secretary of the meeting at 15:12

4. Election of Attestors and Vote Counters of the Meeting

Sara Friman and Elliott Gunnell are elected Vote Counters and Attestors of the meeting at 15:13

5. Approval of the Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is set at 15 at 15:13

6. Approval of the Agenda

The Board approves the Agenda at 15:14

7. Information Point: The Annual Meeting and Board Meeting Schedule

Annie informs us that the Annual Meeting is going to be held on the 8th of October 2022.

Hassan asks about the vote counters' procedures.

Annie responds to Hassan's question.

Elliott asks about if one were to miss a board meeting.

Annie responds to Elliott that missing a board meeting will have to be informed to the Vice-President of the association.

Victor asks about amending the agenda at the beginning of the board meeting.

Annie responds that it is possible to add information and proposals at the beginning of the board meeting.

8. Discussion Point: Membership Fee

Annie informs the board that there is a document that explains the membership fee and the recommended amount of the fee. There is a possibility to change the membership fee from only one year's membership to up to three years' membership. In order to change the membership in the Statutes, it is necessary for two Annual Meetings to approve it. The proposal is to be further discussed.

Hassan asks if the annual membership fee increases year by year.

Annie responds that right now, the fee is 100 SEK, but for instance due to Covid, it was deemed more important to not have a membership fee.

Victor suggests that the membership fee is not a main source of income for the association.

Annie responds that annually, the association makes around 30 000 SEK from membership fees and that it is a noticeable amount of money, in addition to the fact that this source of income is not dependent on any grants.

Love wonders if the association could recruit more members if the membership fee were to be lowered from 100 SEK.

Julia says that 100 SEK is a good fee, because it is affordable and is more tempting because it is an even sum.

Nora wonders if there are statistics regarding renewals of memberships.

Annie says that she is not sure, redirecting the question to Santeri. Santeri says that he is not aware of the existence of such statistics.

Ana suggests that a lower membership fee would make our members feel like they would be getting less value from being a member.

Annie says that 100 SEK membership fee has been a constant fee for a long period of time – with exception of the Covid period – and has been neither too low, nor too high.

Hassan also wonders about membership renewals since he has not yet received a reminder.

Santeri responds that the membership renewal email will be automatically sent one week before the expiration date of one's membership.

Anna says that the 100 SEK is a good amount for the annual membership.

Victor asks for clarification on the use of the Point of Clarification (POC).

Annie responds that it can be used whenever during a discussion in a situation where one deems the subject unclear and is in need of clarification.

Victor asks about the importance of the amount of members versus the amount of active members within the association.

Annie responds that the amount of members is something that affects the grants we receive.

Ana wonders if there is a possibility to be a member of the association for only one semester, which would be reasonable for for instance exchange students.

Annie responds that administratively it might be difficult since the grants and other associations operate on an annual basis. Annie will look it up.

Nora wonders if non-students can be members of the association.

Annie responds that it is possible.

Nora suggests that old students might be interested in staying in touch with the association's activity, especially the magazine.

Annie will research the possibilities.

Julia says that it could be possible to offer the magazine for previous students or active members of UPF Lund. She adds that new members might want to try out being a member of UPF Lund for one year before making the decision of remaining a member.

Hassan wonders if by removing the membership fee we would increase the number of members, thus increasing the amount of grants.

Annie responds that it would take away our own income and that it would still not necessarily incentivise enough to become a member.

Elliott wonders if there are any possibilities for revenue from the alumni network – for example donations.

Annie says that such possibilities could be looked up.

Elliott wonders if there are scholarships for people who can not pay the membership fee.

Annie says that it has not been done earlier.

Victor asks about the possibility of removing the membership fee and recruiting for free in for instance classrooms.

Annie responds that it would not necessarily be a good idea – it would potentially make the association look bad.

Elliott says that any grant money brings responsibility, so membership fee money can be used more flexibly

Annie proposes an End of Debate at 15:49

The Board agrees to the End the Debate at 15:49

9. Discussion Point: Recruitment Strategy

Annie informs the board how recruitment strategies are important in recruiting members to the association. Each board creates a recruitment strategy. Past years, there have been classroom visits, student fairs and other events. Discussion about new recruitment strategies follows.

Ana proposes classroom visits since they work. She also proposes Get Active events.

Elliott proposes a more active recruiting strategy via social media and the website, which could for instance answer questions about why it is a good idea to join UPF Lund. Elliott wants to see more Get Active events and more diversified ways of using social media. He also proposes ambassadors for UPF Lund, such as previous board members.

Nora suggests QR codes for membership recruitments that could be positioned in different places, like at cafés, libraries and even toilets.

Love wonders if UPF Lund ambassadors could be both our current active members and senior members that are or have been in important positions.

Elliott responds that it is a good idea.

Julia responds that we ought to think about political neutrality if we were to choose to ask ambassadors, for instance political actors.

Victor asks about classroom visits: have we gotten any invitations to visit classes? We should do it as soon as possible in the introduction classes.

Hassan wonders if UPF Lund could lean a bit more into the fact that it is not only for those interested in politics, but also a wonderful student association. Hassan says that he thinks that the QR code posters are a good idea. Hassan wonders if we recruit in the winter too.

Annie responds that we try to recruit members in the winter too.

Ana says that it is not a good idea to go to the introduction meetings because not everyone is there, so it is better to go there during the first weeks of school.

Annie adds that posters would be a good idea, since there have been problems with visibility of the association.

POI Ana: Posters might go against our environmental policy

Annie responds that it is not too much

Julia says that stickers with QR codes would be a good idea.

POI from Annie: stickers at the office are available to take whenever.

Ella asks about merchandise of the association.

Annie responds that the merchandise goes to active members. Water bottles cost 65 SEK. The board gets hoodies and other merchandise.

POC Victor: where do we sell the merchandise?

Annie responds: at the office if requested.

POI Elliott: we can use Swish

POI Love: we have not accepted cash for merchandise

Nora says that in her programme, there are class representatives who could be reached out for promotion

Love wonders if it is the committees' task to spread the posters or if there will be a responsible person

Annie responds that PR could do it but that they do have a lot to do, so the tasks could be equally divided among the board members

Elliott asks how to make the leap from a non-member who knows about UPF Lund to become a member of the association. Elliot proposes free merchandise to the public.

Victor points out that there should be an accessible way to become a member even more easily, and that there should be a personal approach to it.

Sara suggests that we should be accessible throughout the year, that is to say more activities and events. We should make the process of becoming a member clear.

Hassan suggests more high level events for UPF Lund, such as Studentafton. At least earlier we have had the American Ambassador visit us.

Ana points out that we do not pay our speakers. Ana suggests that there should be a template for a message to be sent to class representatives.

Annie calls an End of Debate.

The board approves the End of Debate.

Elliott suggests events where all the committees mix up.

POI Annie: proposals during board meetings will be done through a Slack channel in a written form - we are not allowed to vote on such proposals that are not in written form.

Love suggests that debates are political since there is a political issue - this will be a problem with the political neutrality of the association.

Hassan responds that in a debate, both sides are represented.

Ana suggests that there could be a working group for debates.

End of Debate

Annie proposes a 15-minute break.

The board approves the 15-minute break at 16:28

The board reopens the meeting at 16:45

10. Discussion Point: Operational Budget

Annie opens the discussion on the Operational Budget (OB). The OB of the association is approved by the Annual Meeting (AM). It is going to be sent to the AM by the board. The OB will be discussed and taken up as a decision point at the next board meeting.

Elliott suggests that there should be more funds for free merchandise that could be distributed equally among the committees. How would the budget for the Pod & Radio Committee (P&R – not to be confused with PR) be increased?

Annie responds that it should be discussed with the President and the Treasurer during the upcoming week.

Hassan argues that P&R uses around 8000 SEK for Adobe and could be replaced with free software.

POI Elliott: Adobe is for professional use, while free software is more suitable for smaller projects.

Hassan says that P&R has to allocate some of the budget to treat the guests in order to thank them. This might also be an incentive for recruiting active members to the committee.

Victor asks a question about the budget: why is the outcome not set in the budget proposal?

Annie and Lucile respond that the invoices have been received later than expected.

Victor wonders if they have more funds than planned.

Annie responds that there is no information yet about how much FBA funds were spent during the last operational year, so they will have to find that out.

Annie proposes a 2-minute break

The board approves the 2-minute break at 16:53

Annie opens the meeting at 16:58

Victor asks what was discussed yesterday when going through the budget.

Annie responds that she can go it through with Victor later.

Annie proposes an End of debate

Board agrees to the End of Debate at 17:00

11. Discussion Point: Theme for the FBA Grant of 2023

Annie opens the discussion. The application for Grants from FBA requires a project on a set of themes, out of which the board can choose the most convenient one. There are five themes in the document. The theme is going to be recurring throughout the operational year. The deadline is on the 15th of September. Which themes does the board prefer?

Julia suggests International Peace-keeping and Peace-building due to the situation in Ukraine as well as the dynamic in East Asia (Taiwan)

POC Hassan: Can we choose any theme?

Annie: yes

Victor suggests Disarmament and non-proliferation. Asks if we need to come up with a separate name.

Annie responds that we do not need to come up with our own name.

Love: International Peace-keeping and Peace-building. Suggests that it would be more interesting to choose a spectrum that focuses on non-eurocentric perspectives, for instance Yemen.

Sara wonders how strict FBA is when it comes to the content of our activities and the chosen theme.

Julia adds that it could be possible to discuss the questions about changing borders between countries and how those situations are being handled in the international community.

Ana suggests that we could choose International Peace-keeping and Peace-building to have a broader spectrum.

Annie notes that it seems that the International Peace-keeping and Peace-building and Disarmament and non-proliferation are the two strongest suggested themes

Ana asks if they two can be fused together.

Annie responds that they do have common themes but that we do have to choose one or the other.

Sara wonders how strict FBA is about the preciseness of the themes.

Annie says that the spectrum can be broader but connected to the big picture.

Julia suggests that International Peace-keeping and Peace-building provides a wider spectrum.

Victor suggests that proliferation is connected to peace-keeping and wonders if we need to argue why we want to choose a specific theme.

Annie says that it is not necessary to argue for choosing a specific theme.

Elliott suggests that International Peace-keeping and Peace-building is a very broad topic because the theme is based on the avoidance of conflict.

Annie suggests that the ideas for the names of the themes can be discussed via Slack.

POC Ana: when will the suggestions be sent?

Annie responds that they will be sent the following week.

Annie asks the board if they agree on voting between the two themes.

The majority of the board members voted YES for International Peace-keeping and Peace-building.

- 12. Presidium reporting
 - 12.1. Presidents
 - 12.1.1. Has been organising numerous things, mostly preparing for the operational year
 - 12.1.2. Has been working on the budget with the treasurer
 - 12.2. Secretary
 - 12.2.1. Took part in the board kick off meeting in Skanör
 - 12.3. Treasurer
 - 12.3.1. Has been working on the budget with the committees
 - 12.3.2. Reminds of remembering the receipt for reimbursement
 - 12.4. UFS Representative
 - 12.4.1. N/A
- 13. Committee reporting
 - 13.1. Activity
 - 13.1.1. Been planning the first sittning, September 15th at Malmö Nation
 - 13.1.1.1. 150 SEK
 - 13.1.1.2. Theme: Conspiracy theories
 - 13.1.1.3. Hassan: Is the food of good quality?
 - 13.1.1.3.1. Yes. Club entrance is included in the price too
 - 13.1.2. Planning a hike, 1st or 2nd of October
 - 13.1.3. Sittning in October
 - 13.2. Career
 - 13.2.1. Career FBA for next spring:
 - 13.2.1.1. Would rather use the grants for study visits than seminars
 - 13.2.1.2. Elliott: What is a study visit?
 - 13.2.1.2.1. For instance a visit to UN City in Copenhagen
 - 13.2.2. Does the committee get to decide the people for the trustee positions?
 - 13.2.2.1. POI Elliot: Yes
 - 13.2.2.2. POC Ana: The committee heads decide the criteria so yes
 - 13.2.3. Career fair being planned
 - 13.3. Lecture
 - 13.3.1. Starting contacting speakers, one confirmed
 - 13.3.2. Lecture on September 28th
 - 13.3.3. Collaboration with Career for a lecture

- 13.4. Magazine
 - 13.4.1. N/A
- 13.5. Pod&Radio
 - 13.5.1. In-committee strategies discussed
 - 13.5.2. Four podcasts to be produced
 - 13.5.3. Open for collaboration
 - 13.5.4. Ana: Could Pod record a lecture and post it?
 - 13.5.5. POI Love: We can not guarantee more than 40 minutes of recording
- 13.6. PR
 - 13.6.1. Posted information about the activities
 - 13.6.2. Sara: How far in advance should the information about lectures be sent to PR?
 - 13.6.2.1. At least 2.5 weeks before the lecture
 - 13.6.3. Ana: Last year's lecture committee had a calendar. Could that be an idea?
 - 13.6.3.1. Yes
- 13.7. Travel
 - 13.7.1. Work has started, destinations not yet decided
 - 13.7.2. Have trustee positions for the committee
 - 13.7.3. Collaborations with Pod&Radio, maybe even Lecture and Webzine
 - 13.7.4. Planning a trip to Jordan
 - 13.7.5. Love: Some insurance companies have a limited validity for some countries that might have warnings issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issues with Jordan?
 - 13.7.5.1. Only in areas specified in the warning
- 13.8. Webzine
 - 13.8.1. Setting everything up
 - 13.8.2. Schedule in progress
- 14. Other Points
 - 14.1. Victor: On Friday the 26th of August there are introduction meetings. Victor quotes a long email about the different programs that are included in the introduction meeting. It has been suggested that UPF Lund could present themselves to the students at the introduction meetings.

15. Confirmation of the next Board Meeting
September 8th at 17:00

16. Meeting adjourned
Annie Anderek adjourns the meeting at 18:09



President

Annie Anderek



Secretary

Santeri Rönty



Meeting attestor

Sara Friman



Meeting attestor

Elliott Gunnell