



Board Meeting IX

2025-03-20, 17:00

UPF Office - AF Borgen

Board of 24/25

Association of Foreign Affairs Lund

Present: *Edwina Magnus, Graciela Moreno Niño, Gustav Yxell, Herman Robert, Joosep Raudsepp, Lauren Gerber, Louise Falk, Ludvig Eriksson, Ronja Lamberg*

Online: *Filippo Fioretti Boccato*

Co-opted: *Antoine Vincenot, Fabio Cavaliere, Sam Löfström*

1. Opening of the meeting

President Edwina Magnus opens the meeting at 17.14

2. Election of Chair of the Meeting

Edwina Magnus is elected the Chair of the Meeting at 17.15

3. Election of Secretary of the Meeting

Ronja Lamberg is elected the Secretary of the Meeting at 17.16

4. Election of Attestors and Vote Counters of the Meeting

Louise Falk and Gustav Yxell are elected the Attestors and Vote Counters of the Meeting at 17.16

5. Approval of the Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is set to 10 at 17.17

6. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved at 17.18

7. Information Point: Progress update regarding the Alumni Network

Joosep presents the details of the recent developments of the Alumni Network. Antoine has been working for the website and the group is in the process of getting a plugin. They have created a LinkedIn page where they post weekly. He highlights that the reason why we should get the Alumni Network going this year is to make valuable connections which could give us a few donations.

Antoine adds that the UPF website would in the future have a section where members could register as an UPF alumni and the possible candidates for lectures and “alumni only events” could register through a registration form on the website.

Fabio adds that the working group is also trying to figure out who our alumni are by going through the archives.

Edwina asks whether Fabio is planning to go down to the archives independently or by contacting them first.

Fabio answers that they have told him that he needs to wait two weeks to get a few UPF boxes.

Joosep adds that the network is meeting every Monday and if someone is interested, we can add them to the Slack channel.

8. Decision Point: Motion about deciding the allocation of future donations that UPF Lund may receive

Joosep presents the details of the motion about deciding the allocation of future donations that UPF Lund may receive. He decided to write the motion since there have been contradicting views about how to use the possible donations and what our focus should be. The background is that the plugin would allow people to donate either monthly or one sum at a time. The first option is that the Board and the Treasurer would decide how the whole donation sum would be used within that operational year. The second option would be to establish an Alumni Fund which could act as a lender of last resort in case of a financial crisis and the amount that would be allocated to the operational budget would be minimal. The third option is one that Antoine came up with which would be to allow the donors to choose the proportions they would like to allocate to certain activities.

Joosep adds that his view would be to use the money sooner rather than later since UPF no longer receives the FBA grant and needs more channels to get more revenue.

Fabio adds that he acknowledges the ongoing financial problems. He says that the Alumni Fund would act as a safety net and the interest would be put into the yearly operational budget. He highlights that this Fund would provide a safe way to guarantee long term financial stability for UPF since the financial problems could even get worse and it is better to start working now and establish a system that could fix this.

Antoine says that he wanted to add the option for the alumnus to choose which projects they would like to support.

Edwina adds that she would like us to wait until there actually is some money to discuss which is why we should wait with this discussion. She adds that the idea of putting money in long-term financial accounts is not tied to the Alumni Network and there is the option to do both, save it for long-term or use a part of it for the operations.

Joosep reminds the Board that this is a big investment opportunity since there might come a time when UPF might lose the MUCF grant which is also a reason why the donation money should be used for activities such as UPF trips as a way to give something back to our members who now pay a lot to participate on our trips, as an example.

Ludvig says that option C might not work and cause extra work for us and the Treasurer. He is not against investing but if we do not have money to fund the operations we will get less and less members. He adds that if we want to do fun stuff to attract more people, we need bigger committee budgets.

Graciela asks if choosing option B means that we would get to decide which committee gets the money.

Joosep answers that they have decided to not make it committee specific since it would make it unfair and difficult (indicating that the Board would decide).

Graciela continues that she supports option B since sometimes picturing the future and saving for a long-term cause is not always as wise as we think, and the fairest option would be to divide it each year between the committees and activities.

Ronja adds that option A has the issue of UPF already having accounts for long-term investments which is why having money sit on accounts and establishing another account is maybe not the wisest option. She says that option C has the issue that trusting the donor with what they want the money to be used for is not the best option considering that it might cause a conflict when the Board needs it for another purpose. She adds that she supports option B since we need to focus on attracting more members and supporting the operations.

Edwina proposes a break at 17:47

The meeting resumes at 17.58

Fabio highlights that now is the time to act since this is the time when we will get the most amount of donations. He will be contacting all the old members who will now pay attention to UPF again. He presents a graph for the Board to illustrate how the estimations of the Fund's interest would work and how even after one year we could receive a reasonable amount. He adds that after the investments are done, we would even forget about the work that was required to get donations and we would not have to go through the same process again every year.

Gustav presents his counter suggestion which would be to put the current savings account sum to a fund that could for example give us 6% interest. The way to combine this with the Alumni Network would be to make the donations flow primarily to the operational budget, however, the leftover at the end of the year would not go to the savings account but to a fund which would always be a little risky but a good option for long term since the lost amounts would balance back.

Antoine agrees with Gustav's ideas and says that we need to remember that he (Gustav) has the best overview of financial things. He suggests that we should postpone the motion.

Filippo agrees that we should postpone the motion, and that the revenue would be less than we think if we establish a separate fund for the Alumni Network.

Ludwig asks Gustav what his plan means for this discussion.

Gustav answers that if we follow his plan, we would then table the motion.

Edwina adds that she has brought up the option to put our extra money into a fund which she has been discussing with the Alumni Network group and Gustav before this Board meeting.

Joosep adds that this discussion was important since we always have to bring these matters to the Board, and everyone should have a chance to express their opinion even if we decide to table the motion.

Fabio adds that the idea from the start was to make a plan and gather the facts about the practicalities and this is supposed to be a work in progress which is why we should table this for now and keep discussing the fund within the Alumni Network group.

Joosep adds that he personally does not want to get involved with the financial matters of the Alumni Network anymore at all since the discussions are repetitive. Instead we should focus on how to get money for the current operations, reminding the Board that the future Boards are eventually going to be those who decide how the donation money will be used.

Graciela calls for end of discussion at 18.14

Edwina asks the Board to move to a decision at 18.19

The Board decides to implement a hand vote on whether we reject the motion or move on with voting.

The Board rejects the motion at 18.20

9. Decision Point: Motion about inviting Kvinnofrid Malmö as guest lectures

Edwina presents the details of the motion about inviting Kvinnofrid Malmö as guest lectures. Edwina adds that she is speaking on behalf of Ella (who has made the motion). Kvinnofrid Malmö is an NGO, indicating that they do not do lectures for free which is why we have decided to collaborate with LUPEF to split the costs of a lecture arranged in collaboration with the NGO. The lecture will be about a topic (discrimination and sexual harassment) which has been seen as a critical theme during the past year. Edwina agrees with Ella about collaborating with the NGO and LUPEF even if the lecture is not something we usually speak about.

Ludwig says that he is concerned about whether this event will get the amount of visibility it deserves since it is not tied to any committee. His suggestion is that we should make it mandatory for some Committee Heads to participate if this is an important topic we want to share awareness about.

Joosep answers that making an event mandatory is difficult because we all are students who have our own schedules, and the event does not even have a set date yet.

The Board approves the motion about inviting Kvinnofrid Malmö as guest lectures at 18.27

10. Discussion Point: Our position on sharing information to our members from charities/organisations which approach us

Edwina brings up her recent discussions which have been about partnerships with charities and organisations who have reached out to us. She asks the Board about what we think about these opportunities and in what ways we could cooperate with them. Her suggestion is that we could share awareness of their operations in our newsletter while we should be careful when assessing our partners and guest lecturers.

Gustav adds that if we say yes to one organisation we need to do the same to all who approach us, which might become a problem when we do not think it is a good idea to invite them. He suggests that we should say no to all the requests we receive.

Joosep adds that UPF is pro human rights, and we should not say a hard no for these opportunities since nothing is stopping us from collaborating with an organisation that supports similar ideologies.

Ludwig agrees with Gustav; we should be really careful not to just forward information about other organisations without looking into it and we should be very strict with who we collaborate with.

Graciela agrees with Gustav; we should primarily say no to all these requests since if we say yes to sharing awareness of one case then it might cause a lot of trouble when we do not want to share awareness of another case.

Fabio leaves the meeting at 18.36

Louise agrees with Gustav. She adds that even promoting something in the newsletter is risky since people seem to pay attention to the smallest things which is why we should only promote our own events.

Edwina says that it is important to weigh these things carefully. She points out that the suggestions she has received recently are not the most controversial and do not include a political agenda. She adds that we should not close down all opportunities only because of the fear of being criticised and we do already promote many events of other organisations and our partners.

Lauren agrees with Edwina; it is a good thing that organisations come to us, and it is good to keep the opportunities open.

Gustav adds that he understands that we do collaborations with organisations all the time. He still thinks that if we do have a bad feeling about something and start to consider that we should not support this then that is a sign to not do that.

Ludwig adds that just because we already do something is not a good reason to keep doing it. He thinks that the media committees play a central role because they have a way of keeping the collaboration going with other organisations while also at the same time keeping our lines with our policies.

Herman says that he sees Gustav's point and remembers Seth arguing for it. He suggests that maybe we should come up with a system to go through the suggestions we receive and view whether the organisations or the proposed events are too controversial.

Edwina still supports her earlier point of weighting the merits of the event and not backing down for the fear of being criticised because a topic is stigmatised. She adds that she does not agree with Gustav that gut feeling should dictate our position on things. Some topics can be controversial, such as the war in Ukraine or war in Gaza but that doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about them, instead the opposite is true. This has been happening since last year and we should overall keep this conversation going.

Ronja says that we do already collaborate with many other actors e.g. all the events of ACE are mentioned in the newsletter, and closing ourselves off from all these suggestions would be an opportunity missed.

Antoine adds that he has heard the term "non-political" being used in a wrong way in UPF events and activities - the initial thought with political non-affiliation is more to not openly declare that we support e.g. the social democrats. We should be able to critically view the suggestions we receive since supporting a film festival is completely fine according to our policies.

Graciela adds that she still supports being neutral and that there has to be a clear rule of how these things are handled.

Joosep adds that we should establish a system to review collaborations and that we also at the same time have to remember that sometimes our funds depend on the views of Sweden and the civil society around us.

Sam agrees that we need a system and says that neutrality is a very broad term that should be clearly defined.

Edwina proposes a break at 18.58

The meeting resumes at 19.07

11. Discussion Point: Preparation of future heads of committee

Graciela begins the discussion by informing the Board about what the Nomination Committee has told her to spread. She suggests the Board members and the Committee Heads to nominate their committee members and start preparing them for the duties of Heads on time. She adds that it is always nicer to share everything you currently have on Google Drive and other platforms and never to erase those things.

Joosep agrees with Graciela about helping people and being honest and open about all the information. He suggests the Board members to be present when meeting their follower.

Gustav says that he got all the preparation and help on time, which is why he encourages others to do the same. He adds that we should not discharge people of responsibility if they have not written their end-of-year reports.

Edwina adds that she encourages everyone to nominate at least one person for a position and that often inspires people to apply.

Filippo says that he does not have anyone to nominate since people have not raised interest toward the position. He asks if it is a problem if Career does not nominate anyone.

Edwina answers that she meant to encourage people to nominate, and it is not mandatory to nominate.

12. Information Point: The spring team-building weekend

Ronja begins to inform the Board about the upcoming spring team-building weekend. She has booked a cottage which belongs to Trelleborgs scoutkår which ended up costing only 2700 SEK. She adds that the cottage is situated in a difficult place which means that there is no public transport to the area. Our options are to take a bus to a nearby city and use cars and possibly walk a little. She adds that this event is mandatory for the Board members and Committee Heads and that one should inform the Presidium if they cannot participate.

Edwina adds that this is mandatory. Her plan for getting to the cottage is to use her car and have, perhaps Santeri, as a designated driver who would help the Board members to get there and also possibly back to the city so that nobody would feel like they have to stay for the night.

13. Information Point: Model UN workshop in Malmö

Edwina begins to explain about a Model UN workshop in Malmö that she has been informed about. She has sent all the information on Slack and encourages everyone to share that within the Committee group chats.

14. Presidium reporting

14.1. Presidents

Contributed to writing and submitting an EU grant in collaboration with our Estonian partner organisation.

Entered into an MoU with Global Human Rights Defence

Held a meeting about potential collaboration with European Nations and Regions Organisation

Written recommendation letters for Heads

Submitted nominations to the nomination committee

Attended alumni network meetings

Been in touch with lecture about an upcoming collaboration for sustainability week

Applied for 30 000€ Erasmus collaboration grant with Edwina and RSR

Held weekly Alumni Network meetings

Attended meeting with Ukrainian thinktank ADASTRA

Nominated people for 25/26 board positions

Held another meeting with RSR to start applying for 5000€ collaboration grant due end of March

14.2. Secretary

Participated in Presidium meetings

Finished the editing and printing of previous protocols

Conducted the weekly newsletter

Done photographing for the Flower Power sittning

Contacted companies to book a cottage for the spring team-building weekend

Settled for a deal to rent a cottage for May 17th-18th and sent the invoice to the Treasurer

14.3. Treasurer

Finished taking payments for the Flower Power sittning

Done the accounting for February

Continued MUCF reporting

Sent out payments and reimbursements

14.4. UFS Representative

Been in contact about the matters relating to the Forum Weekend this spring, taking place between the 2nd and 4th of May

Shared the information about the vacancies open for UFS Presidium for the next operational

Communicated the voting process of the PC decision about limiting electing a candidate to the OSSE-Nätverket to the UPF Board members

Applied for funding for the Lundsala knowledge exchange from UFS, who decided to allocate the 4,000 SEK to the knowledge exchange between Malmö and Gothenburg instead

Been planning Lundsala together with the UFS Rep of Uppsala

15. Committee reporting

15.1. Activity

Hosted the Flower Power sittning

Been selling tickets for the 90-year ball

Been planning the ball and potential other projects

15.2. Career

Held regular meetings

Continued with the organisation of Career Talks

Defined the schedule with UN City and Nordjobb for the 25/04/2025

Been looking into the feasibility of other projects related to networking and career

15.3. Debate

Been in contact with different debate societies about which dates work best for them with regards to a debate tournament

Talked and planned the handover things, and discussed different positional roles with trustees and solidifying future tasks for them

Started organizing a comprehensive judging guide, specific to Lund

Had meetings as usual, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Have attempted more outreach, both through emailing, and posters

15.4. Lecture

Had two lectures

Planned for upcoming lectures

Prepared nominations for next year

Started working on a live event and podcast as part of Lund's Sustainability Week with the Pod&Radio committee

15.5. Magazine

Received the second issue of the academic year

Held weekly meetings

Nominated a potential head of magazine committee for next year

Started editing process for the last issue

Started planning a potential committee trip

15.6. Pod&Radio

Continued to hold weekly meetings

Published the 3rd and 4th episodes of Blue Dot Pod

Held the season premiere of Blue Dot Live

Begun actively working on this week's Blue Dot Live broadcast

Booked other committee heads as guests for upcoming live shows

Started planning a podcast collaboration with the Debate Committee

Started working on a live event and podcast as part of Lund's Sustainability Week with the Lecture Committee

Held discussions with Ukrainian thinktank ADASTRRA about collaborating

Attended and used reporting from the Flower Power Sittning

15.7. PR

Hosted weekly committee meetings (online)

Created and posted interviews to help with the recruitment of next year's board

Started working on our upcoming takeover of akademiskaforeningens Instagram

Posted and designed weekly

15.8. Travel

Held weekly meetings

Finished all planning for Kenya

15.9. Webzine

Held 3 committee meetings

Published 3 articles

Held a meeting with the new cohead going through all the processes and responsibilities

Nominated and has had two people apply for head for next year

Still working on getting legal editor papers asap

Held discussions with Ukrainian thinktank ADASTRRA about collaborating

Redesigned our Instagram template, discussed a new promotion strategy with PR

Had discussions about collaborating with P&R/Magazine writers for some of our upcoming articles

16. Other Points

Ludwig informs the Perspective collective members about an external opportunity.

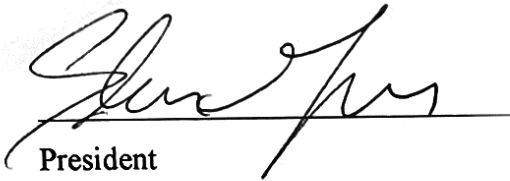
Joosep suggests a UPF hangout in the office for the weekend when the other Board members are in Uppsala.

17. Confirmation of the next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on the 10th of April

18. Meeting adjourned

Edwina Magnus adjourns the meeting at 19.59



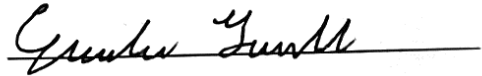
President
Edwina Magnus



Secretary
Ronja Lamberg



Meeting attester
Louise Falk



Meeting attester
Gustav Yxell