



Board Meeting I

2025-08-21, 17:00

UPF Office - AF Borgen

Board of 25/26

Association of Foreign Affairs Lund

Present: *Axel Bohm Persson, Ella Hellerup, Emelie Andersson, Erika Clesi, Gaia Zubrickaite, Klara Sjöström, Maya Bukhory, Max Ulander, Micol Zubrickaite, Sam Löfström, Wera Hänsch Mauritzon*

Online: *Ellen Sköld Harrestam, Filippo Fioretti Boccato, Nomena Andrianjafy*

Co-opted: *Michael Alexander Müller, Sabina Rameke*

1. Opening of the Meeting

President Ella Hellerup opens the meeting at 17.12

2. Election of Chair of the Meeting

Ella Hellerup is elected the Chair of the Meeting at 17.12

3. Election of Secretary of the Meeting

Emelie Andersson is elected the Secretary of the Meeting at 17.12

4. Election of Attestors and Vote Counters of the Meeting

Sam Löfström and Micol Zubrickaite are elected the Attestors and Vote Counters of the Meeting at 17.13

5. Approval of the Electoral Roll

The electoral roll is set to 14 at 17.14

6. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda is approved at 17.14

7. Decision Point: Election of the Attestor of the Company Card

Klara Sjöström explains what the election of the Attestor of the Company Card entails. The job of the attestor is to ensure transparency and to sign off on receipts of the company card.

Michael Alexander Müller asks what is done if someone from the board disagrees with a purchase approved by the attestor.

Ella explains that this can be brought up at a board meeting.

Michael nominates himself to be the attestor.

Ella asks if Michael sees any issues with being away from Lund while serving as an attestor, regarding the signing of documents.

Michael explains that he already has experience in digitally signing documents and is confident that his absence will not pose an issue.

Ella and Klara also see no issue with this.

The Board approves the Election of Michael Alexander Müller as the attestor of the company card at 17.20

8. Decision Point: Membership Fee

Ella initiates a discussion about whether to increase the membership fee. Explains that the praesidium has had a short discussion about this before.

Klara points out that former treasurer Gustav Yxell stated it would be beneficial to increase it, as this would not be criticised due to rising prices of everything.

Filippo Fioretti Boccato believes that the current fee of 100kr is a reasonable and appealing figure.

Micol brings up the point that raising the price can make the membership less desirable.

Klara mentions that she calculated that with 300 members, raising fees by 10 or 20 kr would generate 3,000 to 6,000 kr.

Erika Clesi suggests that there are alternative avenues to raise funds, rather than increasing the membership price.

Sam believes that increasing the price would help us be viewed more as the professional organisation that we are.

Ellen Sköld Harrestam states that the membership price does not influence how people perceive us; rather, public relations, among other things, does.

Michael asks why we need to increase the membership fee. He asks why it is necessary to raise it regarding our budget.

Klara explains that the budget is currently break-even, but there are unmet wishes. Money remains tight and is still needed.

Max Ulander suggests that we should increase it to 110 or 120 kr. Raising it too much would discourage people, but a small increase is beneficial financially.

Micol and Ella propose that we go around in a circle and, in a few short sentences, state our opinion.

The majority of the board considers a membership price of 110-120 kr to be a good value.

The board decides to implement a secret ballot vote on whether we should change the membership price or not.

Ella proposes a 7-minute break at 17.56.

The meeting resumes at 18.03.

The board votes that there should be no change to the membership price at 18.05.

9. Decision Point: Operational Budget

Klara introduces the Operational Budget motion, outlining the proposed budget, which relies on the grants provided by Eurasmus and MUCF, as well as anticipated membership and entrance fees for the year. She emphasises her efforts to accommodate the requests of each committee to the best of her abilities.

Ella wants to highlight that Klara has done a great job with the budget and in ensuring that everyone's wishes have been met.

Axel Bohm Persson asks how much money we will get from UFS next term.

Klara says that it is around 62,000 kr.

The Board approves the motion for the operational budget at 18.11.

10. Information Point: Team Building Weekend

Ella discusses the team-building weekend scheduled for Skanör from September 19th to 21st. She explains that all expenses would be covered and that many fun activities will be planned.

11. Information Point: International Students Welcome's Week

Ella explains that the upcoming week will be filled with activities for International Students Welcome Week, to which all board members are expected to participate.

Micol explains what the whole board needs to participate in order to make the events come to fruition.

Ella and Micol explain what to expect and highlight key points to sell the Association to new students.

12. Information Point: Hälsningsgillet

Ella explains that Hälsningsgillet is very similar to the Student Fair during International Welcome Week, but it is more geared towards Swedish students.

Micol explains that the International Students Fair mainly involves associations, while Hälsningsgillet caters to both associations and nations.

13. Information Point: Office Cleaning & Fika Schedule

Micol explains that there is a document in the shared board folder on Drive outlining the responsibilities for cleaning the office and purchasing fika. She also mentions that the document includes a calendar to indicate who is responsible for each week.

14. Information Point: Report from first UFS Board Meeting

Nomena Andrianjafy introduces the Report from the first UFS Board Meeting. She explains that we received a grant of 16,000 kr for the fall semester. She discusses the Nordic Convention of International Affairs, an event organised by various countries, which many UF associations are eager to attend in Oslo this November. However,

Nomena informs the board that there are concerns as Norway may be reconsidering its participation, leaving uncertainty about whether the event will take place.

Nomena continues to explain what knowledge exchanges are, noting that it is a tradition to have an exchange with UF Uppsala. This includes discussions about our operations as boards, as well as workshops and activities.

She informs the board that talks have been held with the UFS representative, Elias, from UF Uppsala, regarding the organisation of a knowledge exchange.

Additionally, Nomena describes the concept of a Forum weekend, where all foreign associations come together to meet. She also mentions that UFS is seeking a member association to host the event.

Micol emphasises that the knowledge exchange is a very fun experience.

Ella proposes a 5-minute break at 18.32

The meeting reopens at 18.37

15. Discussion Point: UPF Travel Location

Sabina Rameke explains that one of the travel destinations will be Estonia, thanks to our partnership with the Estonian student organisation RSR (The Society of International Relations at the University of Tartu). This trip is planned for the spring and will be our European destination. In the fall, however, there is still a decision to be made regarding which country to visit: Abu Dhabi or Canada.

Max explains that Abu Dhabi has become a leading hub for diplomacy and culture; mediating prison exchanges between Russia and Ukraine, it is serving a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, among others.

Max highlights an opportunity to learn about economic diversification in the UAE, which is moving beyond reliance on oil by supporting various industries. The country recognises the necessity of diversifying its economy and is actively pursuing investments in various sectors.

Max emphasises that Abu Dhabi has one of the largest mosques in the world, as well as cultural landmarks such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi and the Abrahamic Family House. Among the trip's objectives, Max also mentions visiting the Swedish embassy to meet with Ambassador Fredrik Florén, where they will have a Q&A session. Max says that they can have the important opportunity to address sensitive issues, such as labour rights, during this discussion. Additional goals for the trip include visiting the Abu Dhabi Investment Office and Marsa City, a carbon-neutral urban development.

Max explains that there are over 250 Swedish companies in Abu Dhabi, and it can be interesting and valuable to observe how international companies adapt to cultural needs. Additionally, they would like to develop an academic collaboration and are interested in meeting a student organisation similar to UPF in Abu Dhabi. They have found some similar organisations that will be contacted.

Max also states that government and religious freedom of speech are limited, which can influence what can be done during the trip. This can also affect post-trip publications, for example.

Sabina reads the letter from Swedish Ambassador Fredrik Florén, expressing his interest in having a Q&A session with UPF.

Sabina points out additional drawbacks to traveling to Abu Dhabi, such as the possibility that people in Lund may not support the idea, and we could face backlash.

Sabina explains that the other possible travel destination is Canada, specifically Ottawa and Montreal. Visiting both cities provides access to various locations related to foreign affairs. It is noteworthy that Canada is increasingly aligning itself with the EU, becoming more engaged in the conflict in Ukraine, and experiencing heightened tensions with the U.S. Although UPF has visited the U.S. three times, it has not yet travelled to Canada.

Max outlines the trip objectives, which include visiting the House of Commons, the Supreme Court of Canada, and other foreign affairs-related bodies. They are particularly interested in exploring Canada's connection to the UK, such as its role as part of the British Commonwealth. Max highlights the interesting shift in Canada's relationship with the EU and how U.S. tariffs impact Canada. Visiting McGill University could provide a valuable opportunity to build connections. Overall, it is a very non-controversial place to visit. However, a drawback is the cold weather.

Ellen inquires about pricing, noting that Abu Dhabi is very expensive, yet both options are costly. She asks how they will encourage people to sign up given the high prices.

Sabina says that it does not exceed the bounds of the typical European trip costs.

Ellen further inquired about the controversy in Abu Dhabi, particularly how people might feel about it being a dictatorship and the possibility that individuals might cross lines with their opinions and questions. She connects to the trip that was taken to Tunisia, where some individuals asked inappropriate questions.

Max answers that they will clearly outline what is expected of each individual who joins the trip, including what they can and cannot say.

Emelie has expressed concerns about taking a trip to a country that contradicts the values that UPF stands for, such as freedom of speech and human rights. Although we are non-political, choosing to travel to Abu Dhabi is still a political decision, as it supports the country's economy through tourism. She also feels that the potential backlash we could face makes the trip not worth it, especially since we have already received backlash for much less.

Max acknowledges that he doesn't necessarily disagree, but he points out that although UPF is not politically aligned, many of us are interested in pursuing diplomatic careers. Wanting to learn about different governance structures and explore potential changes that can be made.

Ella agrees with Emelie, stating that many people care deeply about our actions, and we strive to minimise any backlash. She also points out that a significant number of our members prioritise political correctness. She expresses that Max and Sabina present their arguments very well, but she is concerned whether these arguments can effectively reach individuals who may have criticisms.

Nomena agrees with Max about the importance of addressing different governance styles, noting that there is much to be learned from the stark contrasts between Abu Dhabi and Sweden. She mentions that Canada is quite similar to Sweden and acknowledges that sometimes it's beneficial to embrace a challenge.

Michael appreciates Max's insights on various governance principles. He believes that Canada would provide a valuable learning experience. While Canada shares some similarities with Sweden, it also has significant differences that offer much to learn. Overall, he finds Canada to be quite intriguing.

Ella points out that one question concerns whether it is morally right to go to Abu Dhabi, while another concerns whether it makes sense from a financial perspective, noting that there could also be public outrage.

Erika states that, financially, travelling to Canada is more expensive than going to Abu Dhabi. She mentioned that there are ways to assess safety risks with going to Abu Dhabi.

Sabina answers that the prices vary, but that prices to travel to Canada and Abu Dhabi are not so drastically different from one another.

Max adds that price-wise, it will be about the same. He says Abu Dhabi is very safe, and notes that issues are more closely aligned with the government structure and human rights concerns.

Nomena asks Max about his experience living in the UAE.

Max answers that he feels fortunate to have lived there. Stating that it is very international, with 90% of the population being foreigners, the highest percentage in the world. In addition to connecting with locals, one can also connect with many international people.

Ella asks Sabina and Ella if they would like for the board to have an informal vote.

Max and Sabina say that they believe a vote is necessary as backlash can affect the entire board; they want everyone to have a say.

Ella proposes that everyone go in a circle to state their thoughts.

The board conducted an informal, anonymous vote, which concluded with the board deciding on Canada as the next travel location.

16. Presidium reporting

16.1. Presidents

Met with the Presidium and various committees

Met with external partners such as RSR and the Social Sciences Union

Contributed to the planning and marketing of Orientation Weeks 2025

Helped shape upcoming and exciting events

Took part in strategizing new recruitment initiatives

Attended a bank meeting with Klara

Began the process of distributing office keys

Captured portrait photos of our amazing Heads of Magazine

Met with the various heads to see how everyone was going

Planned the recruitment strategy

Prepared flyers to distribute at the student fairs

Prepare the calendars

Discusses with PR about posters

Distributed small flyers during the Arrival Day

Met and discussed with the Estonian RSR

Sent email for class visits

16.2. Secretary

Participated in the first presidium meeting

Answered inquiries regarding UPF and our upcoming events

Participated in the planning for the Welcome Week

Created outreach materials for the Welcome Week

16.3. Treasurer

Participated in a meeting with RSR

Held meetings with all committees to talk about financial needs for the upcoming year

Met with the presidium to present budget proposition

Finalized the budget proposition

Had meeting with the bank together with Ella

Accounted for June and July

Contributed in the planning of the waffle stand

16.4. UFS Representative

Participated in the first UFS board meeting

Applied for the MUCF Grant for the Spring Semester

Started to talk with Eva (UFS Rep for UF Uppsala) to talk about the Knowledge Exchange that would take place in Lund during the Spring semester (date to be determined)

17. Committee reporting

17.1. Activity

Created a sign up for for the Novish week

Booked the first sitting

Started recruiting fadders for the week

Created a plan for the Novish week

17.2. Career

Prepared for the career fair and contacted cafe Athens about possible dates, as well as listed companies and branches to contact.

Prepared documents for workgroups

Worked on expanding documents for the mentorship programme

Contacted career talk speaker

17.3. Debate

Started planning the debate tournament happening in may 2026. Including drafting a budget and vision and has started to look into fundraising for the tournament.

Drafted trustee rolls and started looking for new trustees.

Selected time (and sent out a request for booking) for the weekly debates and the date for the first "competitive" debate.

Planned the kick-off debate for the semester taking place on 3/9.

Contacted a debate club in Canada and looking into deepening cooperation with them.

17.4. Lecture

In the process of planing a lecture with the minister of foreign affairs for the 1/9

Recruiting two more heads

17.5. Magazine

Decided on the operational year calendar, logistics and further organisational details

Discussed pricing and publication details with 3+ new printing companies in Sweden

Discussed how to fulfil the EU-Grant Application with the respective Estonian UPF

Decided the Editorial line for the whole operational year

17.6. Pod&Radio

Prepared and submitted tech wishlist to UPF treasurer

Coordinated documentary night with the magazine and webzine committees

Started preparations toward podcast series with potential guests

Decided the Editorial line for the whole operational year

17.7. PR

Participated in meetings to plan collaboration between committees
Published our first posts of this academic year
Started planning how to present all committees across our platforms
Planned the recruitment of trustees

17.8. Travel

Participated in a call with RSR, alongside the President and the Vice President, to confirm the dates for exchange with RSR.
Narrowed down the fall travel destination to two strong options - Abu Dhabi and Canada - and prepared trip objectives and draft itineraries for both.
Will present these alternatives at BM1 to facilitate discussion and finalise the destination collectively as a board.

17.9. Webzine

Organised a schedule & sorted other logistics for the operational year
Found writers for the first two articles
Created a slack workspace for webzine
Created a google forms for trustee recruitment
Began editing writers and trustee guides
Set up meetings with other committees to discuss collaboration

18. Other Points

18.1. Micol brings up the schedule for committee meetings. She inquires about what committees would like what times for their meetings.

19. Confirmation of the next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, the 11th of September.

20. Meeting adjourned

Ella adjourns the meeting at 19.50.

Ella Hellerup

Ella Hellerup

Chair of the Meeting

Emelie Andersson

Emelie Andersson

Secretary of the Meeting

Sam Löfström

Sam Löfström

Attestor and Vote Counter

Micol Zubrickaite

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