



News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

Editor's corner

Anders Gustavsson

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg informs about news in Strömstad Academy. Morberg calls on all members to write a story about why they are part of Strömstad Academy. Flensburg reflects on future research teams in Strömstad Academy.

Business Economist Rune Wigblad will speak about Maglev trains are enabling regional enlargement with socio-economic effects at the international Maglev conference in Malmö on September 18-22.

I want to urge a previous call for all members to verify and complete their personal information on the Academy website. Also try to recruit new members to the Academy, not least young scholars. Please, send suggestions to Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

I wish new contributions to the August issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 August 2024: anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no. Send short articles, opinion articles and/or reviews of new scientific literature. Swedish contributions should have an English translation. Texts should be in Word- or Open Office format!

Please, also send contributions to the Academy's publication series Acta Academia Strömstadiensis, AAS, to peter@wahrborg.se, the video series SAV to: gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se

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Report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

July monthly report by Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board

We would like to thank you for pleasant and stimulating company during the science festival 10-13 June 2024. We also thank the local planning group consisting of Lars Broman, Peter Fritzell, Sveza Daceva and Rosa Jörgenson. It was solid work with all arrangements that would provide opportunities for social interaction and intensive networking.

The togetherness between the members is sparse in the Academy if you don't count the web meetings. Web meetings unfortunately provide limited social interaction. Communication via the web always has its limitations. We know that all too well. We don't have the finances to meet physically continuously, which of course is a shame.

Now we are taking a long and wonderful break until late summer or early fall. Seniors usually take a little summer break anyway, but many seniors don't. As a senior, you do exactly what you want. We also keep operations a little on the low side in Strömstad, but our activities are by no means down. There are actually activities all year round.

We all live under the same sky, yet we have very different horizons. We notice that when we meet for the science festival. That is what is so fun and exciting about our meetings at Strömstad Academy.

The annual meeting and the future work of the Board - some notes

We managed the annual meeting largely without problems. We can ascertain this in retrospect. Sven Moosberg, our permanent meeting chairman, conducted the meeting quickly and with good security according to good association practice.

We presented the Board's activity report, which includes a description of the association's activities during the past year. Also reports on the number of board meetings and the number of member meetings should be presented. The starting point for the activity report is the minutes from previous board meetings and the previous activity plan. Through the activity report, we got a picture of what was actually carried out in the association. We have followed the association's charter.

Our treasurer John Fletcher presented everything associated to our finances. An interesting discussion arose about the value of the inventory of books that the association owns. They are not worth much and the amount was adjusted in the balance sheet. Our budget is not a reflection of reality but a financial plan with hopes and expectations. John Fletcher did not get bogged down in the details but tried to see the broad lines. He presented a well-thought-out and realistic budget, a support for us on the Board to achieve our operational goals.

The business plan, which should be a living document, was also decided on. It describes how the business will achieve its goals. It provides an overview and describes planned activities during the business year. The business plan ties together goals and activities for the entire association in a single document. The business plan is our guide that maps out the association's direction. The plan also states who is responsible for what. We may follow up with a review of the delegation order. It will be needed when we have decided on a new charter.

We have finally managed to decide on a new charter/by-laws. It is gratifying that we have a charter that applies to our current operations. The charter is the association's rules, and shows the name and purpose of our association, as well as where the association is based.

Now we will see if the new charter works in a satisfactory way or if further changes will be needed, then next year's annual meeting will decide on this.

We also received an ethical policy and an ethical advice. We extend our warm thanks to the working group consisting of Sten Philipson, Peter Währborg, Peter Borenstein and Marylou Wadenberg. The ethical policy and ethical principles should give us guidance and a basis and framework for ethical thinking and action. It is, of course, about following rules, norms, values and laws, but it is at least as much about developing a personal and professional approach. Could it be said that they are about "doing good", "doing no harm", "being fair", "respecting self-determination and integrity" put simply. We will try and see if it works and if it doesn't work as planned, we will have to adjust them at the next annual meeting, because we chose to make the decision there. Otherwise, a board may well adopt an ethics policy.

The elections seemed to be on track, but there was a back-and-forth with proxies and reservations. We have tried to act legally correct and there will be a note in the minutes/records from the annual meeting. The elections are governed by the association's charter and by the minutes of last year's annual meeting. The Nominating Committee has worked based on these documents. Full power can only be given to one person and only be about one person's vote. It is the person who has received the power of attorney who must act according to the will of the person giving the power of attorney.

We also concluded a quick constitutive meeting. Sten Philipson was elected Deputy Chairman and that is gratifying. Stens' know-how and knowledge about association practice will be a good support. Marylou needs a deputy secretary. Rune Wigblad has been asked. Rune is always ready to 'pitch in' and we hope that Rune can consider accepting this assignment.

The local chapters in Strömstad Academy - do we need them? If so, how can they work?

We need to assess the work of the local chapters after the summer break. We want continuous reports from the coordinators in the local chapters to board meetings. This is what the local chapters look like today: Bodil Frisdal (Lund/Malmö) Jens Allwood (Göteborg/Gothenburg), Sveza Daceva (Strömstad), Peter Fritzell will take over responsibility from 2024 (Falun) and Marylou Wadenberg/Sten Philipson (Uppsala and Stockholm).

The purpose, goals and content of the local chapters probably need to be updated. It is, of course, also about what members want to get out of their membership in the Academy. Should it be that activists are the norm, and non-activists violate the expectations of behavior that apply within a social community in academia? For my part, you can use Strömstad Academy in the way you want and can. Correcting and prompting behavior is absolutely not good.

It is nice to have activists for the activities in Strömstad Academy, but if you have no desire to become active, this should also be possible! In all associations, there have generally always been some activists and others who do not become active. The goal may be to increase the percentage of activists, but those who do not want, cannot or don't have the energy to become active should also be welcome in Strömstad Akademi. But there is always a reason to join the Academy, and we would like to know this in order to provide better service to our members. Send a short text to either per@flensburgs.se or anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no.

Themes

At the Science Festival, the Vice-Chancellor suggested that we develop different themes within which interested researchers collaborate on specific projects. It could be an issue of our magazine, it could be an anthology, a lecture series or something else. These themes are not fixed but may change as interest varies within the Academy. Within each theme there is one

or more projects. As a first starting point, we intend to have the same themes as we had at the Science Festival this year and last year. It is described elsewhere in this News Forum.

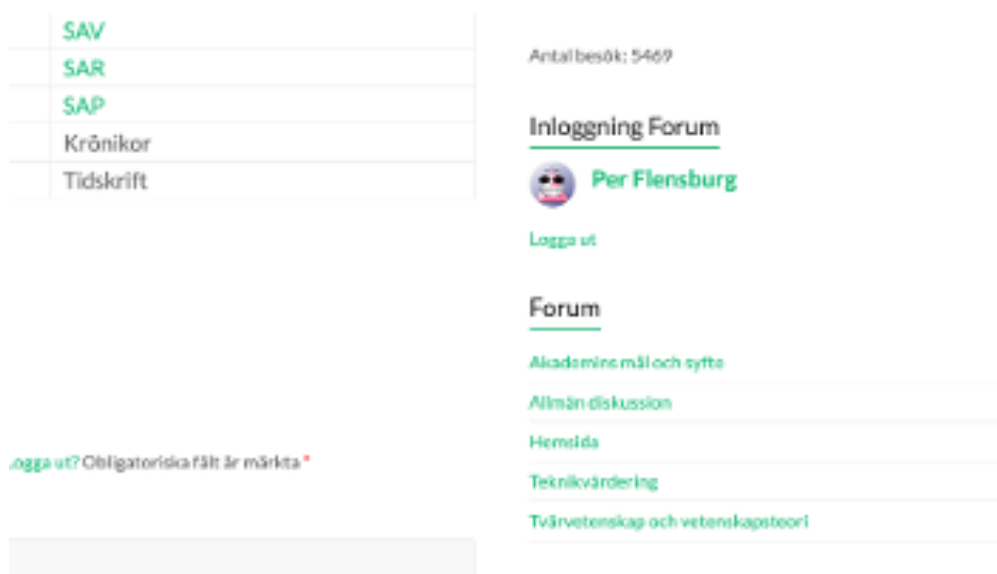
If themes work, we may not need any distinct local groups or we may incorporate them into the theme organization. We'll have to wait and see what happens.

IT

Per and Marylou have an intensive discussion about the website, whether we should use Word-Press, which is a content management system (CMS) or a regular website program that most web hosts provide. An appealing solution is to have a regular website that addresses the public and a CMS system that addresses the members of the Academy. We are planning a change in mid-August. Those who have stromstadakademi.se addresses have been informed that they must save their e-mails because all stromstad.se mailboxes will be emptied. Unfortunately, there is nothing you can do about it. Per has later made two sketches. An external site <https://stromstadakademi.se> and an internal one to be called <https://stromstadakademi.org>

It is therefore necessary that as many members as possible go visit this site and give their views. Putting a lot of work into making a well-functioning website and then being met with massive criticism is not fun and does not encourage any further efforts.

On this test page we have introduced a discussion forum. It is on the righthand side of the first page and is called Forum. Please see picture below.



Instructions on how to use it will be on the test page. Everyone on the Board will get an account there, and if anyone else wants an account, just contact per@flensburgs.se. There are a number of Forum (discussion groups) set up already, but it is easy to add more.

Per Flensburg: Themes

Themes

Per Flensburg, Vice Chancellor

I presented the idea at the year's science festival as a vision, and I developed it further in the last News Forum. Critical in my vision are two things:

1. Interdisciplinary

2. Themes

The concept of interdisciplinarity is complicated. I wrote about it in the last Newsletter. There are various kinds of interdisciplinary studies, but the important thing is to show respect for other styles of thought. You don't have to accept them but respect them. The common notion that there is a unified science must be combated. There are some in academia who do not respect other opinions. Science is by no means the clear-cut concept that some seem to think.

Increased knowledge of interdisciplinary knowledge is thus needed. Traditional education doesn't work, but it must take place in seminars, probably many of them.

The best way to introduce interdisciplinarity is probably to conduct it. We have done it in the form of multi-science where several sciences penetrate the same phenomenon. In the method book, a multidisciplinary perspective was introduced where representatives of different scientific methods discussed each other's points of view.

The problem is to find a problem (domain, area, study...) that a number of members can take an interest in and are willing to write something about. One way is for me as director to propose some themes, another for others to come up with suggestions and organize an investigation group themselves. The latter has already happened when Rune and a few others have started a campaign to woo the Ministry of Economy regarding technology evaluation. I came along as a figurehead to add weight to the courtship.

One way could be to identify possible themes based on the science festivals of the last two years. As Vice-Chancellor, I would then ask key people to create theme groups in their areas. The important thing is that there are several sciences represented in each thematic group.

Themes 2023

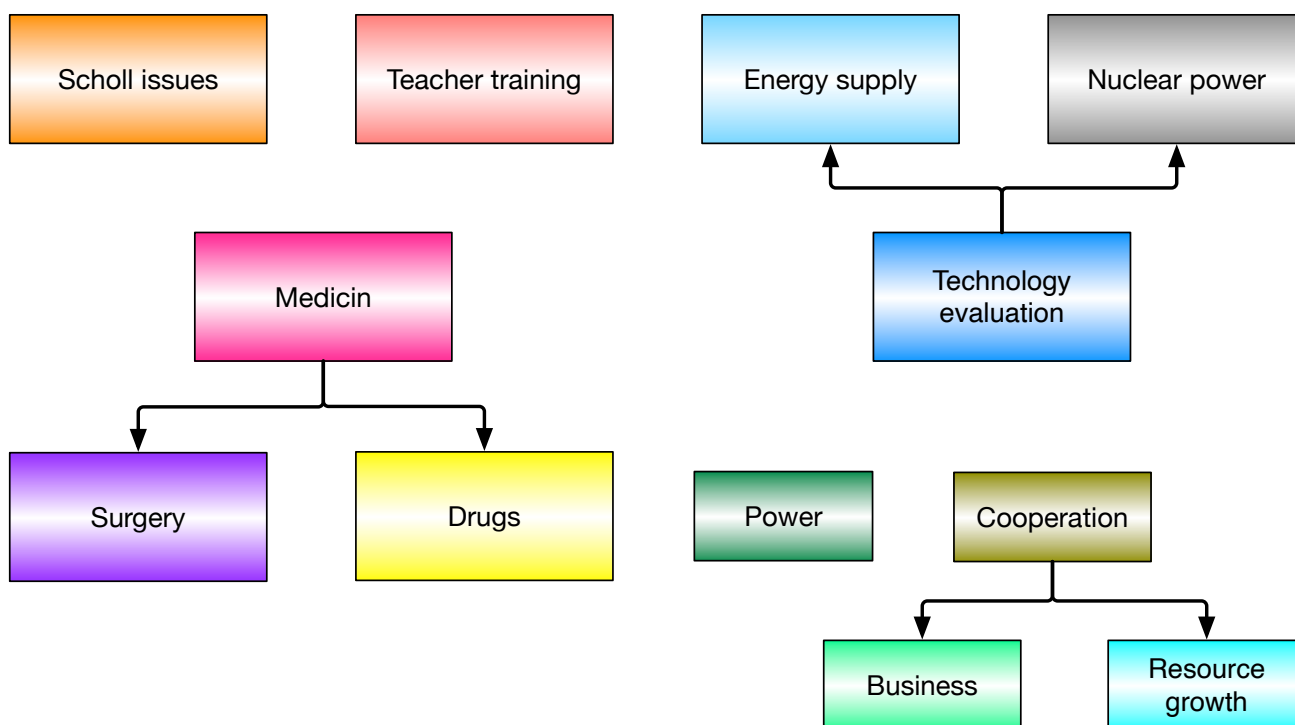
- Resource growth – Per Staffan Boström
- Solar energy – Lasse Broman et al
- The drug project – Lennart Wettergren, Marylou et al
- Cooperation with business - Bengt Johannisson
- School issues – Åsa Morberg, Marie Öhman
- Teacher training – Carl Olivestam
- The population issue – John Fletcher et al
- Immigration and culture – John Fletcher, Cenab, Jens Allwood

Themes 2024

- Power – Anders Gustavsson et al
- Teacher training – Carl Olivestam
- Village schools – Åsa Morberg
- Medicine: Surgery in various forms (Margareta, Peter F and Peter W)
- Medicine: Drugs (Lennart W, Marylou, etc.)
- Research and trust – Bengt Johannisson
- Resource growth – Per Staffan Boström
- Gang Crime - John Fletcher
- Technology evaluation – Rune Wigblad, Carl Olivestam, Bengt Johannisson, Inga-Britt Skogh, Per Flensburg
- Energy supply – Göran Bryntse, Per Flensburg, Arne Fagerström, Agneta Sundström
- Nuclear power – Lasse Boman, Tomas Kåberger

You see a number of larger areas and some smaller ones.

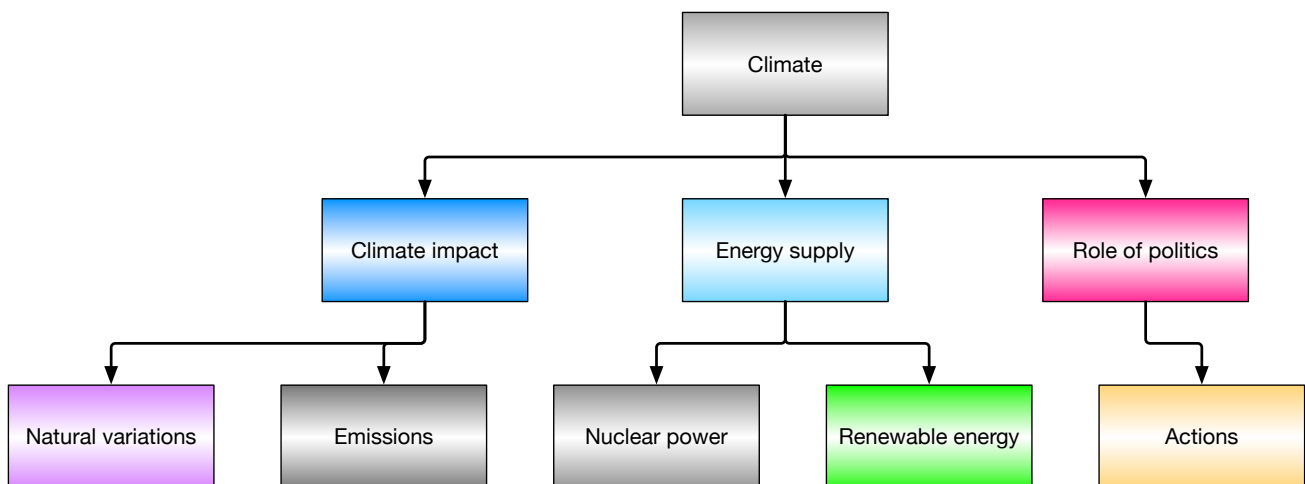
When it comes to school issues, Åsa has written a large number of debate articles about pretty much everything within the school. Carl specializes in teacher training and it may be appropriate to keep them apart. Then we have an area, technology evaluation, which Rune has taken the initiative for and where an action group has already been formed. Associated with this are two groups concerned with energy supply and criticism of nuclear power.



In the field of medicine, we have a division into surgery and drugs. In addition, we have a few smaller profiles: Power, which is a follow-up to our last anthology. Another theme is about cooperation, where we find Bengt Johannisson and maybe a few others who deal with cooperation with business, and then we have Per Staffan Boström's project on resource growth.

There are some themes that I think we should have, but where there are no direct stakeholders. I think first about the climate, where we have fairly high competence, but haven't made much of it. I would like to describe the connection as in the picture below. It is simply a rough hierarchical compilation of important factors within the climate. What is missing is public perception and what influences it. Possibly it can fit under politics. What is also important is to respond to the climate deniers' various claims. Therefore, I have a project that deals with natural variations. Here, however, there are so many different feed-back loops that it is impossible to determine how high the CO₂ content would have been if humans had emitted nothing or at least emitted significantly less. Mathematical model building is needed here.

We have had talks about the parts around energy supply, i.e. nuclear power's disadvantages, and opportunities with renewable energy. One area that I did not include above is how we are going to get enough electricity. It is partly about describing how the system works today (<http://stromstadakademi.se/SAV/SAV-92.pdf>) and partly about what can be done to improve it.



In addition to the climate, there is another theme that I believe must be included, namely interdisciplinary. I have written about it in the last Newsletter but will eventually write a more detailed article about it. We have natural scientists and scientists in medicine on one side who study nature under the assumption that this can be done in a completely objective and repeatable way and then we have the historians who write stories which are really interpretations of observed artifacts from the past. At the far end we have the phenomenologists and existentialists represented by Gudrun, Bodil and the undersigned. All these must understand each other, respect each other, and not claim hegemony. But getting an individual in the medical field to accept that Gudrun's analysis of power is science is a particularly tough task. However, it must be done. And vice versa!

So, let's start a webinar series around the theme of interdisciplinary, where we jointly penetrate the concept and learn how we can take advantage of different perspectives on life! Info will come later.

Rune Wigblad: Abstract about Maglev-train

Proceeding of Maglev 2024

Reference Number of Abstract 8003-A-2466 and Full paper 8527-A-2466

Maglev trains are enabling regional enlargement with socio-economic effects

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Abstract

Maglev trains with high top speed enable regional enlargement with short travel times. This paper explores two opportunities in Sweden/Denmark. The theoretical concepts are “borrowed size” [8] and “regional enlargement” [7], i.e. benefits from shorter travel times.

A scientific ex-post analysis of the Oresund bridge reveals an increase in daily commuting [11]. The commuting figures are largely a result of Swedes helping to “plug gaps in the Danish service sector” as well as new professional roles in niche industries.

Because of the lower numbers of commuters in early years after the Bridge opening, that the Knudsen & Rich [11] evaluation was based on, we adjusted it and this gave the Oresund

bridge a payback time of 17 years. 73% of the commuting benefits derive from labor market effects, i.e. mostly increased commuting. Such an Oresund bridge effect appears when commuting time is less than 45 minutes due to a “threshold” effect, [17] which is present in our cases.

Conclusion: With maglev train from Gothenburg to Copenhagen/Malmö the socio-economic payback time is estimated to be shorter than for the Oresund bridge.

Policy recommendation is to start investigations in maglev feasibility studies in Sweden

[1]DSMG = Den Skandinaviska MagnettågsGruppen. <https://www.dsmg.se/>

Marylou Wadenberg: Summary of AU-meetings

Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg writes a summary of the AU meetings from January to June 2024

In the first part of this 6-month period, the Executive Committee/AU consisted of Per Flensburg - Vice-Chancellor, Åsa Morberg - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Jens Allwood – Deputy Chair. However, at the March 20th AU-meeting, Jens Allwood informed that he wanted to resign as Deputy Chair with immediate effect. This will be touched upon briefly below¹. Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg serves as Secretary of the Board and of AU. The Academy treasurer John Fletcher also attends the AU meetings on a regular basis. AU runs digital meetings (Google meet, zoom) generally once a month.

The agenda for the meetings has, among others, focused on the following items:

- Review of written Memo from previous meeting
- The Science Festival in June
- The Annual Meeting in June
- Academy by-laws – changes/updates – preparations to bring to the annual meeting for decision
- The Interimistic Ethics working group – ethics policy/code of conduct/Ethics Council - preparations to bring to the annual meeting for decision
- Economy
- The website – maintenance
- Local chapters
- Members – recruitment/fee
- Additional items

General Information:

AU works between Annual Meetings, the highest decision-making authority, with a mandate from the Board, and regularly executes decisions made by the Annual Meeting and the Board. Meetings (via the Google meet or zoom platform) start with a brief review of previous written memo. Then items on the agenda are reviewed and discussed concerning what has happened since last meeting and how to proceed. Some decisions can only be made at a Board meeting. In those cases AU works on/prepares these matters for the next upcoming

¹ As stated above, Jens Allwood resigned from his assignment as Deputy Chair, with immediate effect, at an AU-meeting on March 20th this year. The position was then vacant up until the Academy constituent meeting following the annual meeting on June 10th 2024. At this meeting, Sten Philipson was voted for the position as deputy chair. Jens Allwood has also left his positions as member of the Board. As a consequence, Elisabeth Ahlsén also left her positions as deputy secretary and alternate board member, respectively.

Board meeting. Occasionally joint positions/decisions may be carried out per capsulam by means of a memo from AU addressed/sent to the Board for a decision, or via the Board itself if there was not enough time to discuss this matter at the ordinary Board meeting.

Responsibility, for and being in charge of the different main items on the agenda, is distributed between the individuals being part of AU as follows:

- Per Flensburg holds, together with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (and in some cases the Chair), the overall responsibility for: planning of the Academic Ceremony, the Annual meeting and the Science Festival in Strömstad; he is also responsible for the website maintenance and layout of the newsletter, and to some extent keeping in touch with the Strömstad Municipality and the Strömstad Highschool. Per also handles certain records (such as the list of members).
- Anders Gustavsson holds the overall responsibility for: planning of the Academic Ceremony, the Annual meeting and the Science Festival in Strömstad (together with Per Flensburg), for lectures, and, within the framework of the Editorial Board, for writing series/anthologies, and for the Newsletter/Newsforum.
- Treasurer John Fletcher is responsible for overall economic issues.
- Deputy Chair holds, together with the Chair, responsibility for Board meetings; and, together with the Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, for Annual meetings. Former Deputy Chair Mariana Back stays on running the Google Drive place with the Academy's document archive, and works on the recruitment of members for chronicle writing in 'Strömstads Tidning'.
- Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg, AU Chair and convenor, holds responsibility for Board meetings; and together with the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Chair, also for Annual meetings. She also keeps a close oversight over the regular agenda items at AU meetings (please see above).

Working Groups (ordinary) in some cases have someone in charge that is not part of AU. These individuals then most often report to Åsa Morberg and Anders Gustavsson.

The local chapters, Gothenburg and Falun currently being the most active ones, arrange and send invitations to meetings and webinars on various topics. Video records are posted on the Academy website (<http://stromstadakademi.se/wp2/>) and when appropriate also published in the video series (SAV) and on the Academy youtube-channel.

Important results during these first 6 months:

In addition to regular issues, the most important issues for AU during these first 6 months of 2024 have primarily been:

- To prepare issues/items and motions for the Board meetings on March 6th and May 7th 2024.
- Sten Philipson and the Vice-Chancellor, Per Flensburg (with some help from former Vice-Chancellor Lars Broman), have been working on a proposal for updates of the Academy by-laws to bring to the annual meeting in June for a decision.
- As convenor for the interimistic Ethics group, Sten Philipson has also, in joint consultation with AU, presented a final proposal for an Ethics Policy/Code of Conduct to bring to the annual meeting in June for a decision.

- For a number of reasons the communication with the Nominating Committee, presenting a list of names nominated for positions of trust for voting at the annual meeting, has not been optimally effective.

In addition, and related to their resignation from positions of trust (as stated above), Jens Allwood och Elisabeth Ahlsén also filed reservations against the election/re-election of some individuals for positions of trust. These reservations were not explicitly communicated at the annual meeting. Therefore an extraordinary AU meeting was held on June 27th to discuss how to correctly handle these 2 reservations. The final decision on this is clarified in the record from the annual meeting.

Finally, there have been discussions about:

- the website maintenance
- how to improve proper/effective communication within the Academy, use of email/proper handling of emailing lists
- activity in the local chapters
- recruitment of new members; membership fee issues
- economy in general; funding for establishing an office, marketing, routines for handling expenses connected to Academy publications (such as anthologies) etc

Additional issues

1. Members are active providing contributions/chronicles for 'Strömstads Tidning'; presentations posted on social media (Youtube) are also ongoing.
2. Members, for example Rune Wigblad, are active participating in media debates.
3. A number of projects/working groups are active – some of them presented their work at the Science Festival.
4. Local chapters are active.

AU has in the spring of 2024 had meetings via Google-meet/zoom:

on Jan 15, Feb 12 & 27, March 20, April 8 & 22, May 27 and June 27.

Marylou has been keeping written memos during the AU meetings. These have been revised by Åsa Morberg and then e-mailed out to the AU members, and to the Treasurer John Fletcher.

Marylou Wadenberg

Secretary

Åsa Morberg

revision

