STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

Editor´s corner

Anders Gustavsson

With dismay, Strömstad Academy has received the message that **Teacher Educator Carl E. Olivestam** has passed away. He was one of the founders of Strömstad Academy and his memory will be preserved in gratitude.

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and **Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg** informs about news in Strömstad Academy. Flensburg writes about research themes in Strömstad Academy, the risks with internet, search engines on the internet and fundamental research principles.

Ethnologist Anders Gustavsson has published 'Smallpox and Vaccines in the Nineteenth Century in Sweden', in ARV. Nordic Yearbook of Folklore vol. 80 2024 s. 111-132 https://kgaa.bokorder.se/sv-SE/article/5334/arv-nordic-yearbook-of-folklore-vol-80-20

In Acta Academia Stromstadiensis AAS no 79 **Phycisist Lars Broman** has published 'Solar Energy Education: More Important than Ever?' https://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-79.pdf

In Acta Academiae Stromstadiensis AAS no 80 **Cardiologist Peter Währborg** has, together with Panagiota Pervanidou och George P Chrousos, published 'The Physiology of Stress and Stress Recovery' https://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-80.pdf

In Acta Academiae Stromstadiensis AAS no 82 **Phycisist Angelika Basch** has published 'Perovskite Solar Cell Research Lab Course for Higher Science Education', https://stromstadakademi.se/AAS/AAS-82.pdf .

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** perflensburg@gmail.com.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

I wish new contributions to the January issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with de-

adline on 27 January 2025: anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no or anders.gustavsson@stromstadakademi.se . 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: **perflensburg@gmail.com**

Monthly report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

December's report by Per Flensburg and Åsa Morberg

We have arrived at December's monthly letter. We would like to thank you so much for this year. We would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It has been an eventful year this year, as really all other years have been! It will of course be an eventful year next year too.

We have a lot on the agenda. We want to involve you all in the future development of the Academy. We believe in cooperation and dialogue. In the Board, we have managed to adopt a new statute, we have obtained an ethics policy, and we will soon have an archive policy for Strömstad Academy.

We have a new annual meeting ahead of us in March and as a preparation we are having a board meeting. This is so that the Board can process the motions received. Think about what we are missing and may need to improve on. Much of the improvement work can be done without motions. You can send proposals to the Board all year round.

The Nominating Committee needs to start its important work for next year's Board and other officials. We will hear more about that from the Nominating Committee. Being involved as an official is fun and stimulating.

We can see the outlines of the 2025 Science Festival. Book June 2-4! It is the highlight of the year. We will all meet in Strömstad, hopefully at Laholmen's conference hotel. We will do PR for our Science Festival in different ways. This is important for all members. We are waiting for a booking code to be able to book rooms at a good price. The local planning group may be able to announce it as soon as possible so that we can start booking rooms. The program is largely ready. We look forward to meeting you all at the Science Festival. Web meetings are good, but meeting physically on site is something else.

We still have our local chapters and they will remain until further notice. We have started up work with theme groups and it will be exciting to watch them getting up and running. We already have two theme groups underway.

Christmas is followed by the New Year and with it New Year's resolutions. It's not something that either Per or Åsa usually do, but for 2025 we still want to give one. We have complained a lot over the past year, that things don't happen, that members don't do anything, don't write, etc. We're going to stop that! The whip has never worked, now we're going to try carrots and fried pork instead! Incidentally, a lot has happened lately, we've had five new publications in AAS, one book in the free series and seven new ones in the video series, which is now up to 102 publications. Fantastic! In addition, we have another reprint. It only remains for the outside world to pay attention to our publications.

We would specially like to point out Stella Cizinsky's lecture on combating stupidity (SAV-99) which made us think extra hard. It is based on a book that Stella and Mats Alvesson wrote, which is called "Combating Stupidity". A review of it can be found elsewhere in this News Forum plus in our series of reviews. They bring up the concept of “functional stupidity”, which means that management focuses on a lot of things that are not really related to the core business. It is especially common in higher education and healthcare. The stupidity manifests itself by spending a lot of time and energy on things like visions, business plans, equality policy, values, diversity plans, documentation, absurd rule-following, in short, phenomena that do not add anything to the core business. An example based on statistics directly from the employer's interest organization SKL (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, now SKR) shows that between 2010 and 2017 the number of nurses increased by 2.28 percent (1,475). The number of managers/administrators increased by 35.87 percent (8,242) during the same period. A later magnificent example is the Västra Götaland region, which introduced a new journal system, Millenium, despite countless warnings and that's how it went. After three days, they had to go back to the old one. The members of the project group who protested were replaced, a blatant example of functional stupidity. We will not deny that such stupidity has also occurred in our Academy, but now we have at least become aware and will try to avoid the worst forms in the future.

We welcome new members to Strömstad Academy. We are currently about 80 paying members. We can become many more and we believe very much in personal contacts. At Strömstad Academy, you can continue your research and publish within the framework of Strömstad Academy's various publishing opportunities. We are waiting for the Editorial Committee to come up with a proposal for Strömstad Academy's publishing policy. The Board will then establish our publishing policy. Of course, it is not set in stone, it can of course be changed and developed, but we need a policy. We have not had one before, and it is important, not least for our budget.

We have thought about participating in the book fair, but we have difficulty financing our own stand. The prices are very high and our budget is limited. We could sell off our stock of anthologies and establish new contacts. If we had the opportunity to share a stand, we would probably be able to participate. We have done some research but have not found a partner. The book fair could also present some seminars from Strömstad Academy.

We have the opportunity to collaborate with other organizations, Folkuniversitetet through Anders Gustavsson and Strömstad Opera through Per Flensburg. Collaboration is good for our Academy, it makes us better known and broadens our knowledge. We have everything to gain from collaboration.

We are looking forward to a new year of operations. We will all do our best for Strömstad Academy! We need all the good forces.

Per Flensburg: Themes

Themes

Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor

To make a joke of it, this heading will be a theme in upcoming news forums/fora. I will speculate about new theme ideas and report on the status of existing ones. Everyone is also welcome to comment on my text, suggest new themes and otherwise contribute thoughts in this area.

In the previous issue (November 24) of the News Forum, I wrote an article about themes, millennium, nuclear power and other stupidity. Stella Ciznisky's lecture on combating stupidity in Falun further added to the stupidity aspect and I have acquired her and Mats Alvesson's book "Combating Stupidity". I have reviewed it elsewhere in this Newsletter. The book presents some explanations for why stupidity has been able to spread, but they should be developed more. In addition, I have found that AI and search engines also have a major impact. An article about this will be coming soon in Tvärtänkt.

Now we should perhaps be a little careful about introducing a lot of new themes. The existing ones should be given a chance to develop more and deepen. At the moment we have three: Technology evaluation, psychiatry, alcohol and drug addiction and faith and knowledge. I think they should each have a website where the themes are presented, but I don't have the time to maintain them. There probably won't be any advanced website software needed, but I don't know what's available on PC. I'm familiar with Mac. You could also imagine a Wordpress solution with a tab for each theme. But before that, the themes need to get going properly. An issue of the magazine Tvärtänkt for each theme could be a good start. There is already quite a bit of material on the discussion forum for the theme of faith and knowledge. Rune has written a lot about technology evaluation, but the rest of us have been rather cautious. Time to polish the keys, file our nails and start writing.

However, I can't help but speculate about a stupidity theme. In my review of Dumhetsbekämpning, I believe that the authors point to the following causes of functional stupidity:

1. The large number of university graduates requires administrative jobs
2. Specialization leads to a downpipe organization
3. Employees are afraid of making mistakes and follow the regulations to the letter
4. The rules describe what should be done in the normal case. But there are always cases for which there are no ready-made rules and one must use one's common sense.
5. Vulnerability has somehow been elevated to the norm

I believe that there may be more reasons and that there are underlying connections between the above-mentioned. I believe one such thing has to do with the search engines on the internet. I will investigate this further in an article on Tvärtänkt and perhaps in a future "stupidity" issue of the magazine Tvärtänkt.

Per Flensburg: The Internet – a failed vision

The Internet – a failed vision

Per Flensburg, Professor of Informatics

In the late 1960s, when the Cold War was at its worst, the US defense decided to build a secure network for military communications. At that time, secure meant that the line could be cut and the message would still get through. This could be done by having several alternative routes; if one failed, there were others that could step in. In order for it to work technically, the message had to be divided into smaller packets that were sent separately and assembled at the recipient. This meant that the communication was digital and, as a bonus, it could then be encrypted so that unauthorized people could not eavesdrop. With Claude Shannon's theory of signal transmission, it was possible, among other things, with the help of various check digits, to be sure that what was received was exactly the same as what was sent at the bit level. The network was called ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network).

The development of the original ARPANET was financed by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency), whose mission is to conduct and finance research with the aim of developing technology for military purposes. Since 1968, the organization has had close cooperation with some American universities, where research is commissioned and financed. This way, Arpanet was also used for civilian purposes, then mainly for research.

In 1991, Tim Berners Lee released his HTML protocol freely and a few years later it led to a massive breakthrough for the Internet. I often say that in 1995 something happened that will mean as much to humanity as James Watt's invention of the steam engine about 200 years earlier. I was right, but not in the way I thought.

There was a vision that the Internet would be a global knowledge bank, equalize the differences between different cultures, unite people in a global community. When Facebook came along, the vision was that everyone in the world would become friends. Marc Zuckerberg, who created Facebook, has always portrayed it as a way to unite people. But it would develop into something completely different.

When the Internet was new, in the early 90s, there were no search services. But everyone who had any kind of website was very careful to have a link library with links that they recommended visitors to go to. The main purpose was to show what sophisticated taste they had and what exclusive sites they visited. But this was unsustainable in the long run and in 1994 Yahoo! started a search service that is still in existence today. Two years later, Altavista came along, which had a huge impact and covered the entire network. The search services were free to use but they were financed by advertising that was published on the search page. Over time, the page became very cluttered (Fig 1).

Fig 1. Alta Vista search engine

In 1998, a completely new search service called Google was launched. It was a completely blank page with only a search field in the middle. In addition, you could get a free email account with 15 GB of space. This was completely unbelievable at the time and Google marketed it with the message: Never throw away an email again!
There was some discreet text advertising that I only discovered after a few years. What I couldn't understand at first was how Google financed its search service. It must cost a lot and there are no free lunches. But I heard rumors that Google was selling information about me. Only recently have I understood how bad it is. Just like all other companies, Google has to make money and their business idea is to sell advertising space. Not just a space on a website but information about me so that other companies can target personal information

to me. We have all noticed that if we have searched for a certain gadget on the Internet, we suddenly get a lot of ads about this gadget. That is Google's merit. This has now been refined further so that it is not just searches using Google that form the basis for advertising, but all of our browsing statistics, all the pages we have visited, which form the basis for a profile that Google uses to allow companies to target ads to us. This profile is being refined more and more, and it is said that Google knows more about me than I know about myself. All this to enable companies to sell me more effective and tailored ads.

So far everything seems to be in order, but it has undesirable consequences. The pages I go to that match my searches will be tailored to fit my profile and maximize my clicks on the ads Google delivers. The searches are in no way as factual, accurate and objective as we think. They are made to reinforce the image of me that Google has. And it is created by Google, because how many times do we go to a new page without having searched for it first? Not many. Now comes the crux of my argument: Our view of the world is shaped by the knowledge we gain about the world. In other words, drastically speaking: Google creates my view of the world. The aim is to make it as unique as possible in order to be able to tailor the ads even more. This means, if you look at it on a global scale, that all people's preconceptions will be strengthened even more and separation and segregation will increase. So what happened to the idea that the internet would unite us?

This idea of creating an image of the user and using it to provide them with personalized advertising is used not only by Google but by all social media, Facebook, X, Instagram, TicToc, Snapchat, etc. Here, the profiles are chiseled out ever sharper and the AI-supported algorithms create a number of types into which we are herded more or less against our will. What controls is the number of clicks and how long we stay on a page. If you then come across a number of absurd and incredible claims, you naturally want to know how they are motivated, you click and stay on the page for a good while to take in and be horrified by all the nonsense that is there. This is the gefundenes fressen for an AI-supported search engine and it will do everything to provide me with similar pages.

Now we take a small side step and look at all the extreme movements that exist. They are partly created with the help of Google & Co. and no sensible person wants to take them with a pinch of salt. They are consequently forced to market themselves via the Internet and there are proportionally more extreme pages on the Internet than there are people who sympathize with them. But as Goebbels said: “If a lie is repeated often enough, it becomes the truth” and this is exactly what search algorithms achieve. We find more and more pages that confirm the nonsense that first made us start exploring these pages and eventually we start to wonder if there might not be something to it after all. This way, the Internet reinforces the gutter-shaped worldview that functional stupidity has so generously provided us with.

The result of this is an Internet that divides, segregates and splits our society. Something completely different from the vision that existed from the beginning! But what can we do about this? It turns out quite a lot.

First of all, you should not use Google, Bing, Yahoo or the other major search engines. You should use DuckDuckGo (https://duckduckgo.com/&search) which does not save any information about me and also use DuckDuckGo as a browser. It does not save any information either. In addition, you should use ad blockers so that you do not see the ads on the pages you visit. Search for “ad blockers” on the Internet and choose one. Feel free to take one that is free, they all work well.

I will run a more detailed investigation into this and publish it on Tvärtänkt and in an issue of Tidningen Tvärtänkt. Please give your views so far!

Per Flensburg: About sciences – especially interdisciplinary ones

About science – especially interdisciplinary ones

Per Flensburg, Professor of Informatics

I suppose most of the readers consider the classic question “What is science?” to be completely boring and, moreover, you are probably not particularly interested in it either. You should be if you are a member of an interdisciplinary academy, because the question is not at all as simple as you think. The best answer I have seen so far has been given by KG Hammarlund in our large method anthology “Which method is best?”. He simply said: “It depends!” (https://stromstadakademi.se/metod/KG.pdf) KG is certainly referring to method, but I want to take the comparison a step further and say that it depends on what you call science. In many disciplines, the question is irrelevant, you know exactly what science is and what you must do to be scientific. This is especially true in natural sciences and medicine. This is how it is done:

1. A theory is put forward for how one believes the area being studied is put together
2. If this theory is correct, certain phenomena will occur if other phenomena are present. These phenomena are sometimes called variables. Hypotheses are put forward that are then to be verified or falsified
3. One strives to verify the hypothesis because it is much more difficult to get a falsification published. And publication is the absolute most important thing in today's science. To verify the hypothesis, one either conducts experiments in the laboratory or conducts surveys in reality. The latter mainly applies to social sciences that imitate natural sciences.
4. The verification almost always includes various statistical methods that show more or less covariation between the different variables. If this is sufficiently extensive, the hypothesis is considered to be confirmed with a high probability (at least 95%) and the theory is thus made more plausible.

Now there are of course exceptions, an astronomer who studies cosmology and wants to investigate the hypothesis of a multiuniverse, can hardly perform any experiments to investigate it.

The interesting thing is that it is easy to show that this model for science does not work. See for example Chalmers' classic book "What is this thing called Science" published in the fourth edition in 2013 by Mc Graw Hill Open University press. However, this is not what I want to discuss now but instead show other sciences that work in a different way but are still equally scientific. There is no unitary science, as the logical positivists claimed in the interwar period.

We can start with KG's article above, which deals with the method of the subject of history. There is a similarity with natural science: Both the historian and the natural scientist start from facts. For the natural scientist, these are clear, unambiguous and unshakable: Facts are the foundation on which all science rests. The same thing actually applies to the historian: He or she relies on facts in the form of writings, buildings, jewelry and other artifacts that together form a whole and that help the historian to understand the time, the occasion being studied. The natural scientist, on the other hand, wants to explain why the facts look exactly this way and nothing else. The difference between explaining and understanding is a significant difference and the words of the German philosopher Dilthey are usually used: Verklären and Verstehen[1]. Dilthey lived between 1833 and 1911 and made important contributions to philosophical areas: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and esthetics. He is also

prominent in closely related areas such as psychology, sociology, history, literature, music, religion and education. He further developed Hegel's concept of "Weltanschauung" and introduced the concept of "Geisteswissenschaft" to designate sciences separate from the classical natural sciences.

An important difference between the historian's facts and those of the natural scientist is that the historical fact, e.g. a writing, is constantly interpreted and reinterpreted and provides new perspectives, new views on what has happened. Giambattista Vico already pointed this out in his book “Principles of New Science” published in Naples in 1744. This means that scientific methods can be partially applied in the historical sciences, but the fundamental purposes are fundamentally different. The natural scientist explains an effect due to certain causes; historians understand an event by interpreting a number of historical facts. The natural scientist manifests his discovery through a theory, which in cause-and-effect terms explains how the part of existence being studied is put together, while historians explain an event through a story of how it could have happened. The natural scientist’s theory is considered valid until it has been falsified, while the historian’s story is one of several alternatives. In the natural sciences, there is an absolute truth for the time being, while the historian has one of many interpretations. In the general consciousness, science is the same as natural science. This has historical explanations that begin in the 17th century and, unfortunately, is embraced by many natural scientists. There are many examples of physicists who believe that history, literary studies, art studies and other social and humanistic disciplines are not sciences. There are also those in the humanities and social sciences who see natural science as an ideal and try to imitate it. The result is exhausting battles that do not really benefit anyone. I have experienced this myself and have described it in AAS-47.

Here I have chosen to compare natural science and history. This is because I began my academic career as a mathematician and was a full-blooded theoretical natural scientist until I began research within ADB, when I discovered that there were other types of science that suited my field and my interest much better. In short, I became a phenomenologist. When I retired, I began studying the history of ideas and am currently at master's level there. Therefore, it is with a certain amount of expertise that I can speak about historical sciences.

Strömstad Academy is an interdisciplinary academy where around 80 different subjects are represented. They cover all faculties with a certain predominance for natural science. If we are to be able to do something together, it must be interdisciplinary, and then you cannot claim that a certain approach is not science. You can claim that something is not science, but if this was not the intention, it is a meaningless remark. On the other hand, an open dialogue between different disciplines can bring about unexpected creative consequences. I have noticed this in connection with our anthologies, which have been a great boost, not only for me, but Anders has also expressed the same thing several times.

Arguing about what is science or not leads nowhere, it is extremely fruitless. However, one can give criteria for what characterizes a good (scientific) report. I have come to the following conclusion. A good report should

1. Be based on facts, i.e. something that everyone agrees on. Applies to natural sciences and parts of social sciences, behavioral sciences, etc.
2. Be universally valid, i.e. apply under as general conditions as possible
3. Be able to be questioned and changed if new discoveries are made
4. Explain and/or understand studied phenomena
5. Give us concepts to describe new aspects of studied phenomena
6. The results should be relevant and interesting.

I am not sure that the criteria cover all subjects, for example in drama and film you can probably produce other reports. Even my own science, design science, easily falls outside the framework. Here it may be relevant to show that it is possible to construct a certain type of artifact and then the artifact itself is the result. The journal system Millenium, however, is an example of the opposite: The impossibility of creating a general journal system for the whole world. I will write about this another time.

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[1]Dilthey, Wilhelm. The Essence of Philosophy. Translated by Stephen A. Emery and William T. Emery. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1954. doi: https://doi.org/10.5149/9781469657417_Dilthey

Marylou Wadenberg: Summary of activities in AU July-Dec 2024

Summary of activities in the Strömstad Academy Executive Committee/AU July - December 2024.

Marylou Wadenberg

The Executive Committee/AU consisted over this time period of Per Flensburg - Vice-Chancellor, Åsa Morberg - Chairman of the Board, Anders Gustavsson – Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Sten Philipson – Deputy Chair. 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) generally once a month.

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

- Review of written Memo from previous meeting
- Economy
- The website(s) – maintenance
- Archives policy and establishment
- IT-policy
- Delegation of Authority - document
- Lay-out of the Board meeting records
- Language used at Board meetings when Angelika Basch is present
- Local chapters/theme groups
- Members – recruitment/membership fee
- The Science Festival in June 2025
- Calendar
- Other issues/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 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,2 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 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.

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 websites (stromstadakademi.se) external site and (http://stromstadakademi.org) internal site, 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 final 6 months of 2024 have primarily been:3 To prepare issues/items and motions for the Board meetings on September 30th and November11th 2024. Deputy Chair Sten Philipson has during this time period been working on an archiving policy and structure for archiving the Academy documents that he will be presenting at the first board meeting in the spring of 2025 – thereafter to be brought to the Annual Meeting. Sten has also acted as an advisor for the layout of a Delegation of Authority document that was taken to the Board on Sept 30th.

Vice-Chancellor Per Flensburg has produced a preliminary document for an IT-policy that was also taken to the Board on Sept 30th. He has also created 2 new websites for the Academy. Marylou is assisting Per with the maintenance of the websites.

A proposal for a transition to records showing pass or fail, only (regarding the agenda items) was taken to the Board on Sept 30th.

The issue regarding language (English only vs Swedish+English) used when Angelika Basch is present at board meetings was taken to the Board on Nov 11th.

AU is planning on having the Nominating Committee invited to the next board meeting in 2025 to present their work (the Annual Meeting will be in March according to the new by-laws).

There has also been an increased focus on international members (regarded as an international chapter); a contact list has been updated by Per F, and these members will be invited to the Science Festival in June to give a presentation.

John Fletcher has announced that he will step down as the treasurer. AU and Chairman of the Board will assign to the Nominating Committee to come up with an appropriate candidate for the position. Finally, there have been discussions about:

- the website maintenance
- activity in the local chapters
- creating theme groups
- recruitment of new members
- economy in general4

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.
4. Local chapters are generally active.

AU during the second sixth months period of 2024 had meetings via Google-meet on:

Sept 9 and 23, Oct 14, Nov 4 and 25, and Dec 12. 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.

Marie-Louise/Marylou Wadenberg Åsa Morberg

Secretary revision