STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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Anders Gustavsson

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and **Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg** inform about Strömstad Academy news.

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** at per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se.

I wish new contributions to the April issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 April 2025: 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.

Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

March monthly report from Per Flensburg, Vice-Chancellor, and Åsa Morberg, Chairman of the Board

We say that March is the month of spring. However, the rumor that March is the month of spring is significantly exaggerated, in most of the country. We can possibly say that it is a spring month in the northern part of our country. But on the other hand, the Sami have eight seasons. Even in the south it has been warm and nice at times, but also cold and snowy. The winter tires will have to stay on for a while yet.

There are certainly two different definitions of the concept of spring month, a meteorological definition of the seasons based on temperature conditions, and a calendar definition where spring runs from March to May, summer from June to

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

August, fall from September to November and winter from December to February. However, the meteorological spring is coming earlier and earlier due to the increase in the earth's temperature.

We need more enthusiasts - recruiting is a mission for everyone

Our association needs more enthusiasts, several who can inspire, enthuse and work practically! Getting involved in Strömstad Academy means having the opportunity to become part of something bigger and be part of a positive community. Imagine how great it is to be part of a creative context with members who have similar interests. There are hardly any limits to what we can contribute! We all share the recruitment work to get new members. Right now we need a treasurer or at least an assistant treasurer and Per is looking for a member interested in layout who can help with the layout of all our publications.

Annual meeting 2025

We have devoted ourselves to preparing the annual meeting. With computer problems and various illnesses, it has not been easy to get everything ready on time. We have chosen to postpone the annual meeting so it will now not be until April 7.

The Nominating Committee still has vacancies. But we expect that it will be resolved in time for the annual meeting. It is not easy to find elected representatives. It is a trend across the country. The proportion of association members in the country is steadily declining.

Other documents are almost ready. The 2025 budget remains to be fine-tuned. Now we have the documents posted on the website so you can just go ahead and read them online or copy them. We believe that reading them online is environmentally friendly. In addition, the minutes and other important documents are online for everyone's information. The activity report does not repeat what can be read online.

We are pleased that Sven Moosberg has promised to act as Chairman at the annual meeting, like at many previous annual meetings. We have two extra items in addition to the mandatory agenda according to the 2024 statute. It is partly an IT policy, and partly an archive policy.

We have worked through the Board so that there are guidelines, values or plans if you like for our entire operation. The idea is that the policy documents should serve as guidance for the association's work. If we think of ethical policy and ethical council, the document is intended to serve as a guidance for how the members should treat each other and what concerns the association's various activities.

We have now done some basic work that will make the Board's work easier. It is certain that we will need to revise our documents, but there is no immediate urgency to do so. We are also investing in sustainable development in our guidelines.

We have worked with an auditor as the association's bookkeeper and we intend to continue doing so. We will of course have to compensate the auditor for the work, but it is really worth the money. This also means that the treasurer's job at Strömstad Academy has a slightly different character than most treasurers, when the treasurer does not have to book transactions. This is a very common way of working in associations today. The treasurer's job will also be easier to fill in this way.

Book Fair 2025 – a delightful story – Peter Währborg's fine initiative

Editorial Board Chairman Peter Währborg is working to ensure that Strömstad Academy gets a place/booth at the book fair in Gothenburg. It has been on the agenda for a long time.

Now it seems to become a reality thanks to Peter's hard work. In 2017, Åsa Morberg proposed to the then board that Strömstad Academy should participate in the book fair. Åsa Morberg then justified this by saying that the book fair is an excellent forum for marketing and selling books, reports, etc. It is a high cost for our own stand/booth, but the award for the Academy's participation can motivate us to pay this. There is also the possibility of giving seminars at the fair. It took many years before the proposal was launched.

It is absolutely excellent that Strömstad Academy is participating in the Book Fair 2025. Peter's work is invaluable for Strömstad Academy. The commitment will certainly be fruitful for the work of Strömstad Academy. Hopefully, many visitors will come to our stand/booth. But there is also a lot of inspiration to be gained from the book fair. If we get our booth near the researchers' square, it could provide exciting and interesting contacts.

Why is it so quiet about higher education? What do the members of Strömstad Academy think should happen? Should we write an article for the university magazine?

Most of us keep in touch with our universities and we like to discuss what is happening with higher education both in Sweden and internationally!

Higher education is not only an under-reformed area, but it is also an under-discussed area. Higher education is very important for the development of our country. In the higher education debate that is taking place, most people agree that the higher education sector as it looks today needs to be reformed and developed.

First and foremost, we need a new resource distribution system. Later this spring, the new policy for higher education will be launched. The members of Strömstad Academy are all kind of experts on higher education after many professionally active years.

Together, we different actors with solid knowledge and a lot of experience can provide different perspectives and opinions on what should happen in higher education. We can have a multifaceted discussion that includes different perspectives from different parts of the higher education sector and that we believe can be the key to success!

We can all write about higher education and make our voices heard! There is a web-based journal about higher education, and it accepts articles. Who could be responsible for an article? Who wants to participate? Åsa Morberg is expected to lead a thematic group about school, but I will add higher education as well. Expressions of interest are welcome.

Websites about higher education:

SULF: https://universitetslararen.se/

SACO: https://www.saco.se/opinion-fakta/sacos-rapporter/

SUHF: https://suhf.se/

Tidningen Curie: https://www.tidningencurie.se/ (almost research)

Universitetskanslersämbetet: https://www.uka.se/

UKÄ:s rapport 2024: https://www.uka.se/download/18.2ca0d3f8190a6afec6e5b/1723630581119/UKA%CC%88%20a%CC%8Arsrapport%202024.pdf (lots of statistics)

Finally, a reminder

We would like to remind you of the membership fee: 600 SEK for member, 200 SEK for supporting member which can be paid in the following ways:

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If you have PayPal and don't want to pay the high cost for bank transfer, please e-mail me (per.flensburg@stromstadakademi.se) and I will send you an invoice you can pay via PayPal.