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

Vice-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg and **Educator and Chairman of the Board Åsa Morberg** inform about Strömstad Academy news. Flensburg presents the program for the Strömstad Academy science festival in Strömstad on 2-4 June.

Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg and **spine surgeon Peter Fritzell** present a recently formed natural science/medical theme group within Strömstad Academy.

Pediatrician Gudmund Bergqvist emphasizes the importance of recruiting younger researchers to Strömstad Academy.

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 May issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 May 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.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

About the annual meeting, the book fair, membership in the association, and a little bit of everything

Now Easter is over and it's time to switch to “summer tires”. It's been summer-like temperatures, the scillas outside the UB in Lund have withered and fall is approaching. But before that, we will have our annual Science Festival on June 2-4. The program is largely finished and Per will write more about it elsewhere. And we expect you to come!

Pay the membership fee

First and foremost, we will discuss membership in Strömstad Academy. We have a membership fee of 600: - per year and the membership fee must be paid before the annual meeting. The tradition in Strömstad Academy has been such that even if you have not paid your membership fee, you have still been allowed to remain a member of the association, even if the fee is both one, two and even three years overdue. That is not OK. We cannot continue disregarding the statute. If you do not pay your annual fee, you cannot keep your membership status, it is as simple as that. The Vice-Chancellor writes a letter to the members when it is time to pay, and if you did not pay, then you get a reminder. After that, if you have not paid, you are considered to have left the association. This is nothing strange at all. It applies to all associations. If you do not pay the membership fee, you are considered to have left the association. We have sent out a final reminder about membership fees and on May 15th we will draw the line. Due to John's health issues, Per has temporarily stepped in as an assisting treasurer and is keeping an eye on the budget and membership register. There is an article about the latter elsewhere. We are also keeping our fingers crossed that John will get better.

Book Fair 2025 – The Nordic region's largest cultural event

There has been a proposal that Strömstad Academy would participate in the Book Fair in Gothenburg already in 2017 and it has finally become a reality now in 2025! Our chairman of the editorial committee, Peter Währborg, has done a fantastic job to ensure that we, from Strömstad Academy, can participate in the Book Fair. Members of Strömstad Academy can also present their own books for a certain fee. We already have three registered. The Gothenburg Book Fair is the largest cultural event in the Nordic region and one of the largest book fairs in all of Europe with over 80,000 visitors, 800 exhibitors and 300 seminars. The book fair is an excellent forum for marketing and for selling books, reports and more. The book fair has been discussed in the Academy on and off since 2017. So far, no member has been against it. Åsa has participated in the Book Fair several times representing other associations. It costs money to participate with your own booth, but the pay off really justifies it. There are also excellent opportunities to give seminars or workshops or lectures! Peter Währborg has chosen a booth next to the researchers' square. It is an excellent location. Many researchers move around the researchers' square and some of them may certainly be interested in Strömstad Academy. Peter Währborg sends out information about the book fair via email. We all need to help each other out here. Our booth has to have at least 2 persons working there every day. We all need to help out making this happen.

The annual meeting on 04/07/2025 will be followed up

The annual meeting of Strömstad Academy took place recently. One month later than the first announcement. This was due to the fact that certain documents were missing. The de-

adline could not be met and comments were made to the responsible executives. The lack of the documents was due to technical problems and illness.

Information about the annual meeting was published in Strömstad Academy's calendar, which was available online. The annual meeting has also been announced on the website. All documents have been available on the website, except for a financial appendix. (In another association, where I have been the Chairman for a long time, we have largely the same procedures. Some documents are ready and available beforehand, while other documents are distributed at the annual meeting.) The Board will now decide how the announcement of the meeting will be handled. It will be written into the association's statutes how the notice will be served.

The annual report has a slightly different look this year. We still received a request for a supplement at the annual meeting. The lectures that were arranged were to be mentioned in the minutes. The activity report is not a one-man job, but we all have to help each other in the Board and Working/Executive Committee.

The activity report should include the name of the association, a specification of the financial year, information about the composition of the board, also the composition of the auditor, the number of members in the association and information about the activities that have been carried out in the association. It is based on the business plan and the association's minutes.

The budget work should continue by the new Board and the Annual Meeting meant that it should be balanced, i.e. not run a deficit. The Vice-Chancellor has already worked out three different budget alternatives that will now be processed in the Working Committee. All of them give a small surplus. Severely limited resources and unforeseen fluctuations are our challenges. We have not increased the membership fee, but it is an issue that absolutely must be discussed. We will raise a discussion in the Board. The budget is the responsibility of the entire board.

The Academy needs more money and we need to try to apply for funds from foundations and other financiers. During the annual meeting, our eminent meeting Chairman suggested that the corporate membership should be zero kronor while the companies should instead pay for the connection to the association. Sven Moosberg and Lars Broman will investigate this.

The archive policy has been decided, as well as a minor change to the statutes because of this. It is an area that the Board must continue to work on. We need to have both an informative webinar where the archive policy is reviewed and we also need to appoint one or two archive managers. We need to have order and clarity on what should be saved and what does not need to be saved.

The Nominating Committee

We need to create routines for the election of new members. The Nominating Committee should meet with the Working Committee first and then the Board. The nominating coordinators are Gudmund Bergqvist and Arne Fagerström.

The process of the Nominating Committee work can be roughly as follows:

1. **Investigation**: Discuss with the Board and other officers to get facts, views and suggestions.

2. **Analysis**:

1. **Determine the starting point**. Who is resigning? Who will stay for another year? Who is running again?

2. **Clarify** which positions and functions will become vacant.

3. **Determine requirement profiles**. Which officers will be needed and what qualities and skills are needed? As individuals and as a group?

4. **Obtain proposals** for candidates. This should be done well in advance of the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee can of course also have its own candidates.

5. **Check candidates**: Make a list of all proposed candidates. Check that everyone is actually running. Interview the candidates if necessary or ask them to fill out a survey.

6. **Analyze** the candidates' strengths and weaknesses and compare with any requirement profiles.

7. **Choose** the most suitable ones. Make sure that the proposal is balanced. Write a justification for each of the proposed ones.

8. For democratic reasons, the Nominating Committee's proposals should be sent to all members before the annual meeting together with any other annual meeting documents. Members should be given time to think about the proposals and possibly be able to prepare their own to present at the annual meeting.

9. **Present and justify** the proposal at the annual meeting.

Well-organized associations have special guidelines for the Nominating Committee's work. In such cases, these should be established by the annual meeting. Anything to think about?

It is good association practice for a Nominating Committee not to propose its own members. If a member of the Nominating Committee runs for office, he or she must first leave the Nominating Committee.

Administration

Per made a New Year's resolution: Not to whine, complain and criticize this year. So far it has worked reasonably well but now he has a complaint:

> My duties at the Academy are: To be the Vice-Chancellor, to do layout on 12 news forums/year, to do layout on anthologies that we publish, to help members with layout on their works, to update the website with the help of Marylou, to design new websites, to update and check the member register, to be assisting treasurer, to convene three theme groups, to be part of another three, to be editor of the magazine TvärTänkt and the think tank Tvärtänkt, to write referrals and also to write my own articles. It is a full-time job. Most of it is fun and stimulating but I would like to have a life too. Therefore we have to help each other and share the administrative parts and administer as little and as efficiently as possible. It requires a certain amount of work from everyone. For example, the layout work can be made much easier if the members use the template I have prepared (http://stromstadakademi.se/Mall.dotx). In fact, a variant of the second law of thermodynamics can be invoked here: It requires a certain amount of energy to maintain order, but without order, even more energy is required to use the chaos that arises.

Getting permanent contributions to the administration is almost impossible. However, when it comes to project funding, a portion of that can be allocated to administration. We

are certainly aware of this from our time in the state educational system. The administrative overheads of universities and colleges are a constant issue of dispute. In our anthology "Research careers", Per tells how Växjö University had problems with too much surplus funds due to, among other things, incorrect handling of overhead. Our idea is to apply for research funding to finance research, of course, but also parts of the administration. For limited projects, such as the establishment of a searchable, digital library, one could perhaps get money from a private foundation. What is required is that someone has an idea and writes an application. The website has a list of possible funds for this purpose (http://stromstadakademi.se/Fonder.docx). There is a lot on the website, but it requires that you set aside some time to study it quite carefully. It is all too easy to send a question or perhaps just complain in general.

Recruitment

We have got some new members: Johanna Deinum, associate professor in biophysical chemistry, is a member of the overpopulation and climate theme, Karina Vamling is a professor of Caucasian languages, specializing in Georgia, and Hanna Kjellgren is a new supporting member. Including our honorary members and professors, we currently have 80 members. There should be a few more in the final round. And as Gudmund points out elsewhere: There is nothing wrong with younger members at all!

Gudmund Bergqvist: Young Scholars

Young Scholars

Gudmund Bergqvist

It is essential for Strömstad Academy that it also recruits younger researchers. Such an example is our supporting member Emma Bergqvist who on April 9 defended her thesis in epidemiology: Immunologic and household-level influences of post acute sequelae of Covid -19.

Try to discuss with younger colleagues what possible benefits a membership in Strömstad Academy has. You can get support from older colleagues who can broaden the aspects and provide other entry points as well as provide meaningful contacts. Here, the Academy, with its interdisciplinary focus, has a lot to offer with the different backgrounds that our members have. Young scholars can have their preliminary results published in our preprint series in order to in that way get views and comments from other researchers.

New group on Natural Sciences/Life Sciences

Announcement of a new group with theme focus on Natural Sciences/Life Sciences

The Theme Group was initiated by the Academy members Pharmacologist Marylou Wadenberg and the Spine Surgeon Peter Fritzell.

The group has so far had 2 digital meetings for 1 hour start-up discussions.

The format has been suggested to have brief presentations along the lines as stated below:

- My area of expertise
- Current status

- Current challenges
- Future developments in the field/analysis
- Q&A + discussion

In addition, the group plans to invite scientists in relevant fields for presentations on recent interesting and cutting edge findings.

The group will also address issues on how to connect in general with scientists and students in natural sciences outside the Academy, as well as on how to find funding when needed for planned activities.

Next meeting will be in May with Marylou W presenting her area of expertise (experimental psychopharmaclogy/drug discovery) and 2 recent publications on interesting new findings in the field.

We will circle back with reports on our activities in the group and welcome additional individuals interested in being part of the group.

Best, Marylou & Peter