STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

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

Monthly report from Chairman and Vice-Chancellor

By Per Flensburg, Vice-Chacellor and Åsa Morberg, Chairman

It was a very good discussion about the development of Strömstad Academy. We received many ideas and suggestions to consider in the continued work of our association.

Now we will work actively to develop our association. What really emerged from the discussions in Strömstad was to increase the commitment of our members. Our colleagues in Strömstad Academy have the freedom to identify areas that need development, create a plan for the development, implement this plan for the development and then evaluate.

What we have already managed to do is to develop the administration. We have a new charter. We have an ethical council and an ethical policy. We have a program for digital development. We have an archive policy. We will discuss this a

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little further at the next board meeting. Sten Philipson will manage part of this together with Bode Janson. Then we have a proposal to establish a foundation that manages funds for the development of the Academy and for scholarships developed by Peter Währborg. We already have a memorial fund of about SEK 10,000. Its purpose has not been determined, but it could be the foundation for a development fund. This will be discussed at the next working committee meeting.

We also need to be clear on how to organize the calls for the annual meeting and the science festival. Currently, we are not. CG Hammarlund appeared as the “Old Man in the Box” before the last annual meeting and this time complained about the procedures for sending out notices. So there is reason to review the procedures for sending out notices. A notice is needed to all members and then the documents for the meeting should be available online. We just need an easily accessible place, but we must be able to arrange that. We will decide on how the notice should be sent out. How far in advance it should be sent out and what it should contain can be found in the by-laws.

We have not had time to visit the Ministry of Education. Now we have an exchange of ministers and then it will take some time before they get started. Currently, Simona Mohamsson is the Minister of Education and Integration. She will be responsible for preschool and primary school. Lotta Edholm is the Minister of Upper Secondary Education, Higher Education and Research.

The construction may seem strange. Linking integration to school is not obvious! The school can never be solely responsible for integration. It is a large and comprehensive social issue. But Mohamsson wanted to be in charge of integration issues. Another strange thing is to have pre-school and compulsory school in one ministry but high school in another.

Now we have a research minister who is not a researcher herself. Lotta Edholm has a Bachelor's Degree in political science from Stockholm University. A minister responsible for research should be a researcher herself.

How we at Strömstad Academy should approach this is not obvious. What we will inform about actually affects both ministers. We probably won't have time to approach both at the same time. It is possible that we could take one at a time. It depends on how budget responsibility is divided. This is not clear from the division of work that is available online and can be read. We can of course ask the secretaries about this. It will take some time before the new division of labor is launched and works. We have not had an audience before, but we can sharpen our request and talk about our broad expertise. We are now about a hundred professors and associate professors covering all faculties and who usually have 30-40 years of experience. We know how education and research work, we do not believe, and we have not an opinion. We have knowledge, we know!

The Ministry of Education is responsible for a number of important issues that concern the entire educational system, from preschool to research. The ministry's work includes, among other things, designing and implementing the government's education policy, ensuring equivalence and quality in education and promoting research and innovation.

You can subscribe to news from the Ministry of Education and then you can follow their work in more detail. The ministry takes on many issues today that are actually the responsibility of the professionals. This de-professionalizes teachers and principals. Politicians should provide guidelines, goals and means, not deal with detailed management. The governance system in Sweden is clear and straightforward. The professionals are responsible for the internal operations, i.e. what happens in the classroom should not be the concern of ministers.

We have fundraising at the top of the list of pressing issues. We need money and we know how to use it. We need to develop an administration, and we need money to run projects. We need to explore how and where we can apply for money. There is a lot of good advice online. They recommend that we use the County Administrative Boards' Foundation Search and Global Grant. They recommend that we always contact the foundations directly. There is a step-by-step guide that we might find useful.

Step-by-step guide:

1. **Identify the purpose:** Think about what you need the money for. Is it for studies, research, healthcare, culture or something else?

2. **Search for funds:** Use databases such as the County Administrative Board's Foundation Search and Global Grant to find funds and foundations that may be relevant for your specific purpose.

3. **Review the terms and conditions**: Carefully read the terms and conditions and requirements of each fund or foundation to see if you meet them.

4. **Write an application:** Follow the instructions on the fund or foundation's website. Usually a description of the purpose, a budget and possibly a certificate are required.

5. **Submit the application:** Submit the application well in advance of the application deadline.

6. **Wait for a response**: Processing times may vary, so be patient.

On our website we have a list of foundations that provide funding for research (https://stromstadakademi.se/Fonder.docx). We also have the option of applying directly to the government, something that Agneta Sundström pointed out to us. That is the kind of help that is needed.

Rappe Kalja: An evening song scented with steamboats in April

Rappe Kalja, avant-garde poet

The hedge shears glimmering flounder spike fronted in the blue-warm night twilight
The unbridled bunk drills treacherously sauntered after the parsley flakes that had been removed
Then a deep-rooted, contemplative, abyssal scream descended from the top of the screw cap
It was the whistled female devil's conical steamboat chisel

The curved rust hook shook brightly and belonged to its langyroot
The green twigs were immediately poured into a three-liter parrot hat
While the leaf swell kicked the refrigerator-flambed nutcracker
And the confidence-building measures were swallowed up in compulsive envelopes

In all this crazy elemental mess, a trio corpse recorded itself
And everything was stopped and expected
Candlesticks backlit and the steamboat quay departed with the waistband
While the assembly was muscularly gutted

Poor bastards!