STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

Content

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson 1
Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor 1

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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 December issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 27 December 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, per@flensburgs.se

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Report from chairman and Vice-Chancellor

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

Now we have almost reached the end of November, and it is time to get a new membership letter. November is the eleventh month of the year in the Gregorian calendar and November has 30 days. November contains the 305th to 334th day of the year. The name comes from Latin and means the ninth month. November used to be called the winter month in Sweden, and in Denmark it is called the slaughter month. November has an undeservedly bad reputation. For example, November has a beautiful light, and many photographers choose to take their photos in the November light!

We will soon have Advent and then the countdown to Christmas will begin. Actually, the countdown began a long, long time ago. Shops around our country have long been decorated for Christmas with extra lighting, decorations and goods to create a Christmas at-

mosphere that inspires Christmas gift shopping. Christmas music is already blaring out of the speakers.

Many stores have extended opening hours, extra Christmas hours during the weekends in December and some stores have special Christmas evenings with offers. This includes a variety of different types of stores, from grocery stores to clothing stores, electronics stores and interior design stores. And don't forget Black Friday! The Vice-Chancellor bought a new iPad and earned 500 SEK. Gingerbread cookies have been purchased as well as the Vice-Chancellor's mulled wine which is now ready to drink. Mulled wine mingling as a form of socializing is frequent! It is a shame that we cannot organize digital mulled wine mingling!

From the Board

We first worked on a **new charter**. The association's charter needs to be reviewed continuously. Things come up in the works that mean we need to adjust the charter. It is also important that we decide what we need to write into the charter as oppsed to what we can make decisions about on the board without changing the charter.

We **formalized the working committee meetings**, since there are such long intervals between board meetings. The working committee meets once or twice between board meetings. It works well. The working committee also prepares our board meetings.

We have an **ethics policy and an ethics council**, with an advisory function to the board. We have not had to use it so fare and we should be happy about that. Some funders require an ethics policy to accept an application, and now we have one.

We have worked on an **archive policy**, which we intend to establish at the next board meeting. We will also appoint officials for archive work. For associations, there are no explicit laws that govern all archiving, but they follow their statutes and practices. Actually, there are no real rules for an association like ours. But the key point is that accounting material should be saved for at least seven years, while minutes and activity reports should be preserved for their historical and documentary significance. To facilitate and secure the archive, we should appoint an archive manager. Our archive is important and the next board meeting will adopt an archive policy and appoint officials. We also need to collect documents from the early days of Strömstad Academy, and from the first board term of office, and put these documents in our archive. A working group has been appointed to prepare the matter. Decisions will be made at the next board meeting. We already have our documents online, as everyone knows.

The finances of Strömstad Academy are managed by our treasurer John Fletcher with support from Per Flensburg. This is due to the fact that the regular treasurer is on sick leave. We would particularly like to highlight that **the memorial fund**, that we have worked on for a long time, is working. We decided on guidelines for the use of the fund at the last meeting. If you pay into the fund, you will receive a memorial certificate.

It is still very much about how we can finance the operations of Strömstad Academy. We would need financial contributions to support the operations. We cannot cover operating costs to develop our operations. We need contributions, sponsorship and membership fees. We need to receive contributions from the municipality, regions, state authorities (Ex. Allmänna arvsfonden), funds and foundations.

Per Staffan Boström has taken on one of the most important assignments in Strömstad Academy right now! He has taken on the task of **getting the local chapters up and running**. We are so grateful for his work. We will ask him to write in the News Forum for the month of December and tell us about his take on his important assignment. He himself is **the coordinator for everyone who leads a local chapter**. Then he has taken on a

group himself in the Gothenburg area after Jens Allwood. Per Flensburg has listed which members belong to which local chapter. We have introduced theme groups, but they do not replace the local chapters. The local chapters provide the physical proximity that we all need in an organization. We are so happy for Per Staffan's initiative and wish him good luck with his important assignments.

We have addressed issues of order in our planning. Most of that has been addressed and now we can start to bring a little more focus to the meetings, as we have a fresh start!

Meeting with the municipality

The Vice-Chancellor had a digital meeting with the municipal Vice-Chancellor Magnus Widéen and Tove Meyer that resulted in the following ideas:

1. During the science festival, we invite politicians in Strömstad to a session with approximately the following title: What can Strömstad Academy do for Strömstad municipality and what can Strömstad municipality do for Strömstad Academy?
2. One of the things the municipality can do is sponsor us so that we can invite Gunnar Eriksson and one of his choirs. Tove thought that was a good idea.

Maybe we could start the whole festival with this and maybe even let the municipality act as the organizer. The program committee will have to continue to think about it.

Books

Otherwise, there is a lot going on within the Academy. Our book about why we started research is ready, Anders has published a book about an event in his family and we have another book, which is mostly finished. Per has done the lay-out and this has taken some time. In addition, he has had a cold and that has also taken some time.

But just these days the book about why we became researchers: “Straight tracks and crooked paths – The path to becoming a researcher” has come from the printer. It can be downloaded from the website and the individual authors can also download special editions of their chapters there. The book is in Swedish…

Theme groups

The theme groups are proceding very slowly, Per and Johanna have an article about growth in the works, Rune and a few others will comment on the Academy of Engineering Sciences’ (IVA) paper on 28 technologies where Sweden should be at the forefront in the world, a project about cultures around the Black Sea is waiting to be started and Dag has started a blog (https://www.stromstadakademi.org/befolkning/) about overpopulation. Feel free to comment! We also want the other themes to report what they have done.

New book project

One of the lessons from this year’s book fair was that we had far too many books, it was discouraging. We are now discussing writing a special book for the book fair, which should have an extremely selling title and be about a current topic. We are considering Rune's proposal about ageism, but everyone is welcome with suggestions and even more so with contributions. Please contact Per or Anders if you have ideas or want to participate.