STRÖMSTAD ACADEMY
Nordic institute for advanced studies

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News Forum Strömstad Interdisciplinary Academy

Editor's corner: Anders Gustavsson

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

Vi**ce-Chancellor and Information System Scientist Per Flensburg** inform about Science Festival in Strömstad 10-12 August 2026.

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@flensburgs.se.

I wish new contributions to the July issue of the Newsletter sent to my e-mail address with deadline on 26 June 2026: 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 anders.gustavsson@ikos.uio.no and the Reprint Series and the Free Series to: per@flensburgs.se, the video series SAV to gudmundbergqvist@hotmail.com.

June monthly letter from Vice-Chancellor and Chairman

We would like to wish our members a really nice summer. We usually have a summer break, but unfortunately that will not be the case this year. We have unfinished business that absolutely must be resolved. We have both working committee meetings, a board meeting and a remaining postponed annual meeting to carry out. Now we hope that this administrative work does not spoil the experience of the summer. We naturally regret this and our ambition was not to extend this activity. We had intended to just conclude the annual meeting and continue planning.

Redaktör: Anders Gustavsson
Layout: Per Flensburg

Why did it become like this then, one may naturally wonder? We give our view on this. It is the Vice-Chancellor and the Chairman who write the monthly letters together.

Adjournment of an annual meeting – rules and practice – we recapitulate what applies

Adjournment means that an ongoing annual meeting is either temporarily interrupted for a break or postponed to another date. It is the chairman of the meeting who adjourns the annual meeting. During the break, the meeting retains its formal status and aims to resume to complete the same agenda, rather than calling a completely new meeting.

The following basic rules and principles apply:

Decision and time frame: A break is usually decided by the chair of the meeting or after a formal request from a participant that must be approved (supported) by others. The time for when the meeting is to resume must always be clearly announced. In this case, the meeting would resume when all documents were available. No time could therefore be given.

Purpose of the adjournment: The break can be used for short breaks, meals or for the parties to hold individual discussions and consult their members or organizations. It can also be due to missing documents, as in this case. The audit report was missing, which would also be about the discharge of the Board. It is therefore on its way now.

Length of adjournment: Adjournment can last from a few minutes to several days. For example, in formal collaboration negotiations, there are often written restrictions, such as a maximum of 14 days. There is nothing written in the statute for Strömstad Academy that regulates this. This should be written into the statute, in my opinion, but that will be a later issue. This situation should not occur frequently.

New notice: If the meeting is postponed for a longer period of time, for example more than 4 weeks at association meetings, it is usually required that a new notice be sent out to all participants. We have passed the 4-week limit and we should call all members to a conclusion of the adjourned annual meeting.

Documents for the annual general meeting: The Board is always legally responsible for preparing and compiling all documents for the annual general meeting. Here it is now unclear how the division of labor is and how the Board's responsibilities are distributed? We have the Nominating Committee's assembly and our auditor, for example, who prepares documents. We are of course happy to have active members.

Reason for different division of labor: Because we had problems with sick leave with the treasurer, which of course caused some problems in handling the Academy's finances. The Chairman then asked Arne Fagerström to help out so that our new treasurer Sten Philipsson could take over without any problems whatsoever. Arne Fagerström is a professor of business administration and his role could be compared to that of a controller in the assignment. That is the assignment given by the Chairman of the board. The assignment resulted in a new Income Statement and Balance Sheet. The audit report from the auditor has been prepared and is on its way to the Chairman, the municipality's auditor has also already written a report that has been submitted.

Minutes: The entire process and the break must be entered into the minutes, and in union negotiations, for example, it can be regulated how many times the parties are allowed to adjourn. We have recorded the first part of the meeting. Those minutes are signed and ready. This means that the second part must also be recorded. The two minutes are then to be considered as Strömstad Academy's annual meeting minutes.

Some critical issues raised:

We make each other better at Strömstad Academy! If we are to be able to make each other better, it is assumed that we can talk about what is less good! This cannot be any problem whatsoever for critical academics!

Academics are used to seeing each other off by the balls of their feet! We all know that. The fact that academics are expected to be, and act, critical thinkers in all contexts is deeply rooted. The fundamental purpose of higher education is to learn to analyze and question information rather than accept it and we all take that with us into Strömstad Academy. Of course, we have critics among our members.

Fruitful criticism is that which leads to development, understanding and change. For criticism to be constructive and developmental, the following characteristics are usually highlighted: It should be specific and solution-oriented. Instead of just judging, it gives suggestions on how this or that can be improved. It is always objective and always free from personal attacks. The focus is on the action itself, never on the person behind it. It is also based on understanding. The critic has familiarized himself with what is being criticized and understands the context behind what is being criticized. The critic is receptive to dialogue. Fruitful criticism involves a mutual exchange where both parties learn something new!

One of the Academy's critics claims that the Board had not prepared for the annual meeting. The first board meeting of the year addressed all the points that were to be addressed at the annual meeting. The Board has had the opportunity to express its opinion at the annual meeting. It was clarified that the notice would be sent out to all members of the Academy, but that the appendices would be available online. This is because the Chairman has no administrative support whatsoever. The secretary on sick leave was a problem. This is the practice in other associations. It works very well. Having good foresight so that all documents could be processed by the Board has absolutely not been possible due to reported sick leave, treasurer and secretary. We in the management expect understanding for the situation that has arisen.

The same critics also claim poor democracy. This is apparently due to the fact that the working committee has made some financial decisions, which have then been reported to the Board. The primary role of a working committee is to prepare matters for decisions by the Board. The working committee also functions as an effective tool to relieve the Board and also always has the mandate to make its own decisions on minor or urgent matters. If a quick financial decision must be made and there is no board meeting in the near future, the working committee makes the decision and reports the decision to the Board. This is an accepted practice at almost all boards, but some members apparently do not want that order in Strömstad Academy, but we believe this should be included in the statute immediately. Such a small and insignificant association as Strömstad Academy should not deviate from an established general practice. It is hard enough anyway. It is definitely not a threat to democracy in our association. Then there is much more serious threats to democracy than the working committee making a decision and reporting this to the Board at the next meeting!

There has also been criticism of the Vice-Chancellor's way of handling the finances during John Fletcher's sick leave. As John Fletcher's sick leave came abruptly, the Vice-Chancellor took on the job of acting as treasurer. It was the only solution that we saw in the management and it was very kind of our Vice-Chancellor. I wonder how our eloquent critics think the finances should have been managed during John's sick leave? This was what was possible! The Vice-Chancellor received no introduction, no support, no opportunity to follow up with our sick leave treasurer and also unclear guidelines from the Board. The Board re-

ceived a financial report at almost all board meetings. No board member commented on the reports. No substitute treasurer could be found. The Vice-Chancellor's work was what we could arrange so that we still had operational support. Criticizing in this situation is extraordinarily bad. We have received support to sort out the finances from Arne Fagerström and a new treasurer has been elected who has good support in starting his assignment, thanks to Arne Fagerström's efforts. It was very generous of Arne Fagerström. We also thank him for that.

What are we waiting for then?

It is tempting to quote the title of the play: Waiting for Godot!

We have had plans to resume the annual meeting, as you all know. Since Sven Moosberg was the chairman of the meeting and the one who adjourned the annual meeting, Sven Moosberg needs to be involved and decide on the continuation.

What has now been preventing things from proceeding for some time is that Arne Fagerström and Bengt Johannisson have come up with a material called an operational audit, according to Arne and Bengt. Any member of Strömstad Academy can submit suggestions for improvements. We have also called for active members. We have a motion period in connection with the annual meeting, but this is not a motion because the motion period is over. This is a proposal for change.

They have written a new plan, i.e. redrawing the many squares of the Academy. This material will be sent out to the working committee and then to the board. They propose that this be decided immediately first by the Board and then brought up at a completely new annual meeting. Each change or revision, if you will, has previously been preceded by a careful evaluation, and by a broad discussion in the Academy, and the changes have taken time. The proposal also includes a calendar. We have had a calendar for each operating year, but since we have not concluded the annual meeting, the Chairman has not made a new calendar. The calendar has been changed and developed. The package also contains something called a year wheel, i.e. it is the year's activities listed in the order in which they are to occur. It is noteworthy that this proposal was presented orally to the Chairman only. The talk about a lack of democracy was very hollow! It should also be pointed out that both Bengt and Arne were asked if they wanted to take over the treasurership when John was on sick leave, which they did not want to.

However, we really appreciate that both Bengt and Arne have taken the time to prepare a proposal for reorganization so that similar problems are avoided in the future. But it should be treated according to our statutes and not implemented in the coup-like manner that the two proposers intend.

Instead of board meetings once a quarter as before, a board meeting every other month is proposed. The annual meeting has been moved to May. A working committee is proposed between the board meetings. The role of the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor has been completely changed. In principle, to a figurehead and everything is under the Board. Even the Editorial Committee. In Strömstad Academy, there have been two parts, an academic part under the Vice-Chancellor and a board part with a chairman. The plan provides a new structure and all activities are placed under the Board. The work is meritoriously carried out by professional members.

There will be a working committee meeting on 23/6. Sven Moosberg will participate as meeting chairman so that we will have a date for the annual meeting that he can lead. Arne Fagerström and Bengt Johannisson will present their suggestions later when we will prepare

the board meeting. Per Staffan Boström is also invited to the working committee as deputy secretary. The working committee will decide when we will have the conclusion of this adjourned annual meeting.

In summary, we regret the delay that has occurred and is occurring. We had hoped for a summer without meetings. That will not be the case. This will be a really messy summer that we can't really see the end of. It will be exciting to see what Strömstad Academy looks like after the summer.

We still wish you a really nice and exciting summer!

Science festival 10-12 August

This year's science festival takes place 10-12 August and is always in Fars sal in the City Hall, Strömstad. Registration for participation must be made no later than 15 July to Per Flensburg or Anders Gustavsson. At the same time, let us know if you want to participate in the festive meal on Wednesday evening. Accommodation in Strömstad can be found on booking.com. Book in time, because it is still high season in Strömstad at that time. Joint lunches are not planned, but there are many restaurants within walking distance and we usually agree on one. The registration fee this year is 500 SEK and you can choose a maximum of three books from the Academy's publications.

Every evening there are joint activities. Monday evening there is a mingle on the City Hall terrace from 5-6 pm and a buffet in the Guldtuppen café from 6-8 pm with a sandwich and some drinks, both with and without alcohol. Free of charge. Tuesday evening there is a mingle in Rosa's garden between 17:15 and 18:30. Even then, some light food and drinks will be served. Transport will be arranged. At 19:00 there is a concert in the church in Strömstad with one of Europe's best vocal ensembles under the direction of Gunnar Eriksson, honorary professor at Strömstad Academy. This also costs nothing. The last evening, Wednesday, is a gala dinner at Laholmen. But it costs 525 SEK excluding drinks and you have to pay for that yourself.

The easiest way to travel to Strömstad is to travel from Gothenburg. You will then change either at Torp outside Uddevalla if you take the bus all the way or in Dingle if you take the train. You can only get to Strömstad by bus or by your own car or by boat rom Sandefjord in Norway or with your own boat. Below is the program for the science festival. Note, there might be changes so check on the homepage where the actual program is presented.

Program

Each presentation is limited to a maximum of 20 minutes and is followed by 20 minutes of questions and discussion. Tuesday is allocated for more general presentations, while Wednesday is for the different themes. In principle, each theme has 80 minutes available and they can be arranged according to your needs. However, it is common to have three presentations and a discussion/questions afterwards.

There will be a chairperson for each session. A session is the section between two breaks.

Day	Pass	Subject	Person
Mon 10/8	14:00-14:1	Welcome	Vice Chancellor + org
	14:15-16:0	Development of the Academy	Vice Chancellor + debate
	16:00-17:0	Installation of new members	Vice-Chacellor, Åke
	17:00-18:0	Mingel	Terace
	18:00-20:0	Buffé	Guldtupp
Tue 11/8	09:00	Senior researchers -a resource for society	Anders Gustavsson
	09:40	Ageism in the Academy, what can we do about it	Åsa Morberg
	10:20	Coffe	
	10:40	The Arboga case	Per Staffan Boström
	11:20	The Church of the Brethren: Culture, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, 1750-1850	Martin Åberg
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	The first printed geometry books in Scandinavian	Alfred Holl
	14:10	User-driven business development	Gunnar Mosnik
	14:50	Coffe	
	15:10	The Hitler Stone during World War II	Thomas Magnusson
	15:50	Cultures around the Black	Sveza Daceva
	16.20	Report from a study visit to CAT, Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales in June 2026.	Lasse Broman
	17:15	Mingel	Rosas trädgård
	19:00	Rilkeensemblem	Gunnar Eriksson/Kyrkan
Wed 12/8	09:00	Overpopulation	Johanna Deinum: Why is family planning important?
	09:20	Overpopulation	Lucia Tamborino: How population size affects carbon dioxide in
	09.40	Overpopulation	Dag Lindgren: A future with fewer
	10:00	Overpopulation	Diskusssion: Moderator Gudmund Bergqvist
	10:20	Coffee	
	10:40	About the Technology Assessment Group	Rune Wigblad
	11:00	Breakthrough for Perovskite solar cells	Rune Wigblad

Day	Pass	Subject	Person
	11:20	Breakthrough for Sodium-ion batteries	Richard Arvidsson
	11:40	Discussion and questions	
	12:00	Lunch	
	13:30	Mentord	Per Staffan Boström
	14:10	Development	Per Staffan Boström
	14:50	Kaffe	
	15:10	Sustainable local	Arne Fagerström
	15:50	Sustainable local	Agneta Sundström
	16.20	Sustainable local	
	18:00	Gala dinner	Laholmen

The festival is organized with the support of

Strömstad Municipality, the Church of Strömstad, the Folkuniversitetet in Fyrbodal/Skaraborg and

Riksteatern Väst

STRÖMSTADS KOMMUN

Folkuniversitetet

RIKSTEATERN väst

Svenska kyrkan