

March 17th, 2020



This meeting was held in Swedish. The protocol, however, is written originally in English.

Protocol for the Extra Board Meeting of the Uppsala Association of Foreign Affairs 2020-03-17

1. Opening of the meeting

Present: Johan Bergman, Per Risberg, Clara Alm, Sara Ölander, Rebecca Bengtsson, Karin Kristensson, Isak Lefvert, Melker Hörner, Elliott Syrén, Ebba Berg Gorgén, Embla Holmgren, Miriam Lind, Alicia Nathanson Thulin, Gizem Tütüncü.

Absent: Rebecka Bjuremalm, Rebecca Rieschel, Sofia Hjerpe, Joakim Ydebäck.

Authorised signatories: Johan Bergman, Embla Holmgren, Clara Alm.

The meeting opens at 18.27.

2. Election of meeting secretary (1) and adjusters (2)

The board decides to elect Ölander as meeting secretary and Alm and Syrén as adjusters at 18.28.

3. Verifying the validity of the meeting announcement

The board decides to verify the validity of the meeting announcement at 18.30.

4. Approving the agenda after addition of miscellaneous matters

The board decides to approve the agenda at 18.31.

5. UF Uppsala's response to the updated recommendations

Bergman says that regarding the spreading of the Coronavirus/Covid-19, Folkhälsomyndigheten (The Public Health Agency of Sweden) and the Swedish Government have today stated a recommendation for all high schools and higher education, including universities, to change all education from in-person to digital. The vice-chancellor of Uppsala University has urged the same thing to the whole university. At the latest board meeting the board said that if the lectures at the university get affected, the board would take a new stand. Bergman says that at this meeting each

group will present how these new measures affect their activities, both external and internal events.

External events

Lecture Group

Syrén says that he and Lefvert have been in contact with many of our lecturers. Syrén and Lefvert want to cancel all lectures with an audience next week. A discussed alternative for lectures is to livestream and/or record and upload the lectures and do it without an audience whenever possible. After a meeting with the other co-arrangers, the lecture on Thursday, about the Coronavirus, will not be held with an audience but will be livestreamed and recorded to be uploaded. Since the interest in the lecture has been very high, Lefvert and Syrén are keen on going forward with it. For the livestream a smartphone with a good camera is needed, and probably there is a possibility to connect our microphone with an iPhone for example to get a good sound. Lefvert says to Alicia that a post with the updated information needs to be published preferably tonight.

To clarify Bergman asks if all lectures will from now on not be with an audience but live streamed/recorded when possible. Lefvert says yes but that they do not know for how long, it depends what guidelines the university will give in the future. Syrén says regarding the Thursday lecture that the university can help out with the recording.

Activity Group

Risberg brings up how the situation with the Corona virus affects the spring's UF Gasque. He and Lind have asked the ÖG nation, where the gasque was supposed to be held, and asked if they want to proceed with the event and if not, will UF be responsible to pay a cancellation fee. According to the contract that was signed, if we could cancel the gasque only 7 days before, the fee would be 10,000 SEK. 16 people have cancelled their tickets, probably due to the Coronavirus, so right now there are 74 guests instead of 90. Lind and Risberg have asked ÖG, without having received an answer, if we need to pay for those cancelled tickets, which would be a cost of 5,454 SEK, or "just" the cancellation fee.

Many of the attendees are still very excited for the gasque, and no one that has paid has cancelled their ticket. However, at yesterday's event "Chile Dinner Talk", many people cancelled, and a few expressed disappointment in UF that the event was not cancelled due to safety reasons. Lind and Risberg ask the board if we want to proceed with the gasque in the case that ÖG wants to, or if we want to cancel the gasque on our own, and thereby pay the cancellation fee. The best

scenario would be if ÖG cancelled since then we would not need to pay a fee. If we want to cancel the gasque we must do it tomorrow the latest, otherwise we get to pay more.

Berg Gorgén asks if the gasque can be moved to a later date. Risberg responds that to push it forward would be equal to cancelling it according to the contract. Tütüncü asks if the nation maybe would rethink about the cancellation fee since the situation is quite extraordinary. The career group could move Career Day to the fall for example. Lind says the biggest problem right now is that ÖG is not responding. Syrén also thinks the nation may be more flexible about cancelling, since they would probably not host another event anyway due to the Coronavirus and therefore not lose money. He also thinks that the most responsible decision is to cancel the gasque even though it is sad. People do not seem very interested in big social events, and to pay the cancellation fee would probably not be an issue since we have more money than planned from MUCF, UFMUN is cancelled etc.

Lind does not think that we would pay the cost for the DJ and wardrobe if we cancelled. Alm also thinks the best decision is to cancel it, and we have room in the budget for it, with the MUCF-grant and UFMUN and other events being cancelled. Lefvert agrees to cancel the gasque. There are some gasques planned this weekend but there is no updated information regarding Covid-19 in the events, and the events do not have much attention on social media. Ölander agrees to cancel. If the university has cancelled all lectures, it seems logical to cancel also the gasque. Holmgren agrees, if already 16 people have cancelled there might be more cancellations close to the event, and it is good not to take a last minute decision. Nathanson Thulin thinks it is sad since Lind and Risberg have put in a lot of work but agrees with the others, seems like the most responsible decision.

Lind says canceling the gasque is sad but also it would reduce stress for her and Risberg since the workload would probably increase to go through with it if more people cancel. Risberg concludes that the board agrees to cancel the gasque. He will call ÖG tomorrow and ask about the cancellation fee, but will pay it if needed. According to the motion where ÖG as the gasque venue was decided, the board has already agreed to pay the cancellation fee if we would cancel the gasque, therefore no new decision needs to be made by the board.

Career Group

Tütüncü has had an emergency meeting with the Career Day group and all co-arrangers. They have decided that the best decision is to postpone the event to the fall. Värmland nation is okay with it. They have contacted the participants. Many of them have shown interest in coming back in the fall. Have also contacted the sponsors. The problematic things right now are

- 1) Will the next Head of Career and Career group want to have the event in the fall?
- 2) What will the budget situation be? Now 11,000 SEK out of 15,000 SEK has been used from the budget. They will receive 1,500 SEK from each participant. Tütüncü will have a meeting with Bergman and Alm tomorrow about the budget.

If the event will be postponed to the fall, the same project group with the same areas of responsibility would work with the event, and the new group will not be affected by the event regarding responsibility.

Regarding Utrikespolitiska Akademien, two events have been cancelled, one at Ekonomikum and one embassy visit. One event in two weeks will be cancelled. The career group will wait to cancel the one after that, on the 15th of April.

Bergman says that UF's general practise (praxis) is to not book events for the next operational year. However, since the Coronavirus is an extraordinary situation, breaking the practise can be okay. Lefvert thinks that it is fine breaking the practise in this situation, since it is good to have the event later. Also, the lecture group always books some lecturers to the next operational year. The con is that the next group might be bound to an event, but it is important that the next head of career can cancel the event if they want to. Holmgren does not think it will be a problem with the handover from the current head of career to the next one regarding this event. Syrén thinks Tütüncü's solution is good. He mentions that regarding if the next head of career might want to cancel, it is possible for the next board to do that. However, another question is how the rules about booking and cancelling bookings of venues are. Could be good to have it in the fall since a lot of events happen in the spring. Nathanson Thulin asks if the old group would work with the event or if there will be a new one. Tütüncü says that the old group will work with the fall Career Day, and the new Career Day group will work with the spring event. Lind asks how the Utrikespolitiska Akademien group feels about having events during the spring. Tütüncü says they will have a meeting about it tomorrow. The events might be cancelled however, according to the circumstances with Covid-19.

Lind wants to clarify regarding the gasque, that if there is a possibility to have a gasque later, it will be later in the spring. She and Risberg will not plan a gasque for the fall.

Uttryck

Kristensson says that Uttryck is not much affected, apart from the brainstorm event which they are thinking about cancelling. Bengtsson says that Uttryck already works almost only digitally, so the work with the new issue will not be affected. They think it is sad to cancel things but also the most responsible solution.

Radio UF

Hörner says that the Radio Group will broadcast until Studentradion closes down their activities. However, many in the radio group are exchange students that might have to go home. It is important to communicate and that everybody stays home when they feel sick. In the worst case, if many get sick and have to stay home, one can be in the studio and the others can join on Skype. Will get more information from the Station manager about the possibility to broadcast due to the virus.

PR

Nathanson Thulin thinks to livestream lectures is a good idea. Good even though the quality might not be great. Good if people can write questions on Facebook. Regarding how we should reach out with the updated information due to the Coronavirus: some people have commented and asked about the safety issues with having the lecture on Thursday with an audience. She has responded with general answers to the comments. When we post the new information, Nathanson Thulin thinks we should do it in one post, and not respond again to the comments, and asks what the board thinks. Moreover, the meme that a meme account connected to Lund about the Corona Lecture on Thursday got 500 likes/reactions on Facebook. Could be fun to respond with something, after we have posted the new information. Otherwise the PR group is not affected by the new guidelines from the university, she and Bjuremalm will continue to work as usual.

Syrén agrees that we should do one general post and not respond to the individual comments. Suggests to go out with information about the livestream on Thursday as soon as possible. Lefvert says that one of the lecturers cannot come, but probably another expert can come. Nathanson Thulin suggests to do one post tonight about the lecture, without graphics, and one more general post tomorrow with graphics, regarding all of UF's activities. Bergman suggests that we write in the post that we have taken these decisions on the basis of the information from the University and the national authorities, and many in the board agree. Risberg says it might be good to post about the gasque soon as well. Bergman suggests that Risberg and Lind talk to ÖG first, and then we can do the post, and also that we should be careful with posting a meme on our own.

Travel Group

Berg Gorgén refers to the latest board meeting on the 15th of March, that the trip to Rwanda will not be further planned until Utrikesdepartementet (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) will make a new judgement, since it is not allowed at the moment to travel to other countries. Have talked to the travel group and they will try to have some kind of study circle about Rwanda if

people feel comfortable with it, and maybe have some webinars. Feels fun to do something with the group even though the trip planning is put on hold.

A summary of the actions taken regarding external events:

- No lectures as for now will be with an audience. Instead, when possible, lectures will be livestreamed and/or recorded
- The UF Gasque will be cancelled. The possibility to have it later in the spring semester will be evaluated further on.
- Career Day will be postponed to the fall (which is already official)
- The planning of the spring trip to Rwanda will be paused for now. The possibility to go through with the trip will be evaluated again when there is a new statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the travel restrictions.
- The work with Uttryck and Radio UF will continue as usual

Syrén suggests to have a clear communication with the members, maybe we do not have to write that an event will be postponed when it is unsure that it will be. Lind and Risberg agree. As for the gasque, it is important to be clear that the gasque will not be postponed to next semester, but that it will be cancelled for now and the possibility to have it later this spring will be evaluated further on.

Internal events

Moving on from external events, Bergman moves on to the matter regarding internal ones.

Lind and Risberg will cancel their meeting on Thursday, since they were going to plan for the gasque. Many of their group members are international students and won't be in Sweden next week. Will look at the opportunity to do digital meetings, since they want to continue with their meetings. Then people can join even though they cannot/do not want to come to the meeting in person. Nathanson Thulin thinks it is a good idea: people should stay home if they feel sick, but it would be fun to still have the meetings. Bergman mentions that in some countries like Denmark groups of more than 10 people are forbidden, and we will follow if similar restrictions are to happen in Sweden.

Ölander says that the Member Appreciation Committee has had a suggestion to do an event together with active members, trustees and the board to get to know each other better, and asks

what the board thinks about those kinds of events. Holmgren says that the group meetings are good to proceed with but maybe not more than that. Lind and Ölander agree. Risberg asks if they should continue to do public events on Facebook even if the meetings are via Skype. Nathanson Thulin thinks it is good to post the events and write that the meeting is digital. Bergman suggests writing it in the title of the event. Kristensson asks if they should announce that the brainstorm meeting is cancelled in a specific way and if they should wait for UF's general post. Nathanson Thulin replies that they do not have to wait and that they can simply make a post about it in the event and explain that it is a consequence of UF's new measures taken due to the new directions from the university.

Bergman asks how the lecture group will proceed with their meetings. Syrén responds that they have now discussed it yet but digital meetings is one solution. Lefvert says that they will talk with the group about it, it depends on what the group members think. However, there are usually not more than five people at the meetings, so if they are positive about proceeding with the meetings in person then they can do that.

Bergman concludes that the groups will continue with their meetings, in person or digital. Social events for active members, trustees and the board will be put on hold for now.

Risberg asks how the purchases of songbooks that some people made together with the purchases for the gasque tickets, will be handled, now when the gasque is cancelled. Should we ask them if they want to keep the songbook and therefore not get the money for it paid back? Alm answers that for her it would be easier and less work if we pay back the whole amount (both the ticket and songbook price). Nathanson Thulin thinks it would be fun to acknowledge Bjuremalm's hard work with the songbooks, maybe to have a sale-event later on if possible where people can buy the book. Holmgren agrees but thinks that it might be better to sell them along with gasque tickets later on. Lefvert agrees with Holmgren.

Bergman says that he will write a full statement about the association's update on actions taken due to the new restrictions from the university and the authorities, together with Nathanson Thulin and Bjuremalm. They will post it tomorrow or on Thursday. The board agrees that it is okay for Bergman to do the post, and he will share it with the board on Slack before posting it to get input. It is important that everybody reads and comments as fast as possible.

6. Ending of the Meeting

The meeting ends at 20.13.

Adjuster: **Clara Alm**



Place/date:

Uppsala 22/3-20

Adjuster: **Elliott Syrén**



Place/date: Uppsala/28-03-2020

Meeting secretary: **Sara Ölander**

Place/date: Uppsala/2020-03-21