

16 April 2021



Dear members of SAIA

Here follows the Nomination Committee's nominations for the Swedish Association of International Affairs' operational year of 2021-2022 which will be addressed at the Annual Election Meeting on 8th - 9th May. Despite the extraordinary circumstances facing us all over the past year, the work in the organisation and its member associations have been ongoing and reoriented to a digital format rather than cancelled. The Nomination Committee is greatly impressed by the engagement and motivation shown by all applicants and is grateful for all nominations and applications received. During the application period, the Nomination Committee received a number of qualified applications resulting in a at times difficult task for the Nomination Committee. After a thorough process we believe however, that we can hereby nominate a group of candidates with valuable knowledge and experience, whom we also believe will complete each other and work well together. Nonetheless, we would like to stress that the Committee only nominates candidates. It is up to the eleven member associations to take the final decision during the Annual Election Meeting.

During the operational year of 2020-2021, the Nomination Committee consisted of four members: Miriam Steinwall, Aleksander Kranjc, Clara Thulin and Sakari Teerikoski. All members have been active and participated in Nomination Committee meetings throughout the year. The Nomination Committee had its first meeting in November 2020 and was thereafter in regular contact during the entirety of the spring. The most extensive work of the Nomination Committee took place in March when all the committee members processed all applications, conducted interviews, had thorough deliberations, as well as contacted all candidates over phone to inform about the Nomination Committee's final decisions. During the operational year 2020-2021 Miriam has been the convening member of the committee, and has thus been the one with the primary contact over email with candidates as well as with SAIA's presidium.

The final nominations for the operational year of 2021-2022 were decided during a digital meeting on April 7 after weeks of preparation, interviews, discussions and deliberations in order to ensure that the nominated candidates would be suitable Presidium members, Nomination Committee members, and auditors. Thereafter, all candidates have been informed about the Committee's choice, and the candidates who were not nominated have been given the opportunity to be listed as counter-candidates in this document. The Nomination Committee's suggestions for next year's Presidium are people with different experiences and backgrounds from various member associations. They share a great passion for SAIA and a strong will to maintain a good working environment and a sustainable engagement in its member associations. The Nomination Committee has also taken aspects such as gender balance and geographical spread into consideration when making its final decision.



Motivations

President

The President holds the utmost responsibility to lead both the work of the Presidium and the Board, as well as to ensure that the work of the association is done in accordance with regulatory documents and operational plans. Furthermore, the President is responsible for ensuring that SAIA works towards a long-term vision, and for developing its collaborations with other organisations. The President also summons to board meetings and is responsible for its preparations and process.

As the current president of UPF Lund and an active member in Global Shapers Malmö, Soha Kadhim has several years of engagement in the civil society in positions ranging from active member to board positions. This experience has formed a passion for Soha when it comes to organisational development, leadership and civil society engagements, a passion that will serve Soha well in the position as President. Furthermore, Soha has several years of professional experience in the service industry, which has ensured that she can effectively communicate and handle different kinds of people. As a leader Soha believes that her strengths of valuing effectiveness, as well as clear communication and strong drive for developing an organisation to run smoothly, will be useful within a position that will guide the SAIA board during the operational year of 2021-2022.

The Nomination Committee believes that Soha Kadhim will fit well in the position as president for the upcoming SAIA operational year, since she has developed leadership abilities as well as experience, both from civil society and work life, when it comes to interacting with different types of individuals to steer them towards a common goal. Her preparedness during the interview, along with experience of leading one of the member associations and a strong vision and eagerness to holistically strengthen SAIA's position as a facilitator for the member associations made Soha a strong candidate for the position. Moreover, it is the Nomination Committee's view that her individual traits and leadership qualities will work very well together with the other candidates for the upcoming operational year, ensuring a strong and competent board for the future.

The Nominated Candidate is: Soha Kadhim

Counter-candidate: -

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Soha Kadhim as the President for the operational year 2021-2022.



Vice President

The Vice President is - together with the President - responsible for leading both the work in the SAIA national board and the Association as a whole. The Vice President is also responsible for preparing and chairing the Presidium meetings. Together with the President, the Vice President is a main external representative of the Association.

Artem Angelchev Shiryaev is currently UpF Umeå's representative in the national board and has earlier been the Treasurer in UpF Umeå. Artem therefore comes with a broad knowledge about the work in SAIA and its Member Associations, in particular about the ongoing board work in the Association as well as the financial side of the operations. During his active years in the organisation on both local and national level, Artem has shown a great interest in the future positive development of SAIA, and this high level of commitment is clearly present in his visions for the organisation. Thanks to Artem's active contributions to the work in the national board during the 2020-2021 operational year, the choice of Artem as Vice President also effectively contributes to long-term continuity in the work of the organisation.

The Nomination Committee believes that all this makes Artem an excellent choice for the position as Vice President, and furthermore that the combination of him and Soha Kadhim as Vice President and President, respectively, with their respective experiences from the national level and the Member Association level that complement each other's strengths well, makes a strong pair for leading the organisation through the next operational year.

The Nominated Candidate is: Artem Angelchev Shiryaev

Counter-candidate: -

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Artem Angelchev Shiryaev as the Vice President for the operational year 2021-2022.



Treasurer

The Treasurer holds the general responsibility for SAIA's economy. The Treasures should, together with the employed administrator, ensure transparent budget monitoring and a stable administration of the organisation's economy. The Treasurer leads the organisation's strategic financial work, and should ensure financial stability and development. In addition, the Treasurer should lead the work in finding and applying for new financial assets.

Stephanie Kronvall has extensive experience of working in different student associations, professional experience as a teacher and in her spare time as a figure skating coach. She is currently the Treasurer of UF Malmö and has previously been part of the Erasmus Student Networks (ESN) in both Lund and Malmö, also as a Treasurer, and been active in the Nomination Committee on the national level. That she understands the complexity of the role as a Treasurer and SAIA as an association is to say the least. Furthermore, she has great knowledge and understanding of economic administration including budget proposals, working with grants and it is our belief that she and the administrator will work well together handling economic tasks. The Nomination Committee believes that Stephanie's varied experiences both from UF and ESN and her dedication makes her an excellent candidate for the role as Treasurer for the operational year of 2021-2022. In addition, we believe that the precision Stephanie puts into her work, clear communication and positive attitude will be advantageous characteristics for both a Treasurer and a member of the Presidium.

The Nominated Candidate is: Stephanie Kronvall

Counter-candidate: -

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Stephanie Kronvall as the Treasurer for the operational year 2021-2022.



Secretary

The Secretary is responsible to keep the meeting minutes during the board meetings of the association, ensuring the transparency of decisions and processes within SAIA. Moreover, the Secretary ensures that the protocols from the meetings are attested, signed and archived according to the by-laws. The accessibility, for SAIA members, of all protocols and additionally regulatory documents is well-managed by the Secretary that ensures that the documents are archived in a structured manner. Furthermore, the Secretary is tasked with keeping the regulatory documents of SAIA up-to with current changes, drafting new documents, translation if needed and that they communicate in a clear manner.

Joakim Ydebäck brings with him a couple years of experience within SAIA's member associations, particularly from positions within the Uppsala Association of Foreign Affairs, such as a Board member and Editor-in-Chief of Uttryck Magazine. Joakim works hard and likes to ensure that tasks are done properly with utmost effort, and he envisions that his contributions as Secretary will be to work proactively with the responsibilities that the position entails. Furthermore, his vision includes the retention of a strong transparency towards the member associations and to help contribute strengthening the facilitating role of SAIA. The Nomination Committee believes that Joakim brings with him significant experience, both professionally from his internship at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as voluntary commitments, of how to clearly communicate in text and handling official documents by ensuring that they are properly constructed. His personal traits gave the committee an impression of him being a reliable individual that will contribute to the composition of the upcoming SAIA board and work well with the other candidates. The Nomination Committee is certain that Joakim will contribute to the work of SAIA in a positive way and handle many of the tasks of drafting new documents as well as keeping the regulatory documents up-to date with utmost distinction.

The Nominated Candidate is: Joakim Ydebäck

Counter-candidate: Lucy Verdonk

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Joakim Ydebäck as the Secretary for the operational year 2021-2022.



Head of Communication

The Head of Communications is responsible for SAIA's communication, both internally towards the member associations as well as the external outreach towards the public and collaboration partners. Furthermore, the Head of Communications is responsible for the appearance, design and functionality of the association's website. They should also work to coordinate and develop SAIA's communication plan and strategy, including media platforms.

Julia Kavanto is currently the Vice President of UF Malmö, a position that has given her a significant and important insight into the works of SAIA. In this position she is used to, in collaboration with the president, take care of stakeholder relationships, which is an experience that we as the Nomination Committee believe will be useful for her as the SAIAAC. The role of the Vice President requires leadership skills and structure which will be helpful competences when taking on a position in the presidium as well as leading a committee. Julia has many relevant skills that make her an excellent candidate for the position as Head of Communications in SAIA. She has previously been the head - as well as the deputy head - of the PR Committee in UF Malmö, where she was responsible for the digital marketing of the association as well as updating the UF Malmö webpage. Julia has a strong interest in the use of language in digital channels and is especially interested in developing and furthering SAIA social media strategies. The Nomination Committee additionally believes that Julia will be a great addition to the board of SAIA with her dedication to the association, positive attitude and will to work closely with the rest of the presidium.

The Nominated Candidate is: Julia Kavanto

Counter-candidate: -

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Julia Kavanto as the Head of Communications for the operational year 2021-2022.



Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee is responsible for delivering a suggestion for a new presidium, as well as other key functions within SAIA. The Nomination Committee should look after the interests of the members, and act to ensure that the organisation develops in connection to the member associations. The Nomination Committee should also work to make sure that their work is done impartially and transparently, and keep in mind diversity, gender balance and geographical spread.

Nick Nguyen has a background in UF Stockholm where he has been engaged and active both locally and nationally, as the UF Stockholm communicator as well as the SAIA Representative. Nick's experiences from various positions within SAIA has given him an insight into how the organisation works and what characteristics active board members typically share. He is driven to work proactively with the recruitment of new presidium members which the Nomination Committee believes to be a great asset for ensuring and strengthening the continuity of SAIA's presidium. As Nick has experience of leading the work in a group as the previous president of Stockholm Model United Nations, the Nomination Committee is confident that he will also be a great candidate for the role of convenor.

Xhesika Gjollëshi has been an active member in UF Malmö through MUNmö, where she is currently the Head of Logistics. Her tasks include reading CVs and statements of team members, and the Nomination Committee finds her commitment to organisation and structure to be of great benefit for next year's election process. Most importantly, Xhesika understands and values the importance of working transparently and remaining impartial during the recruitment process which makes the Nomination Committee consider her a strong candidate to be a member of next year's committee.

The Nominated Candidates are: Nick Nguyen, Xhesika Gjollëshi

Counter-candidates: -

The Electoral Meeting is proposed:

to elect Nick Nguyen as a member of the Nomination Committee and its convenor for the operational year 2021-2022.

to elect Xhesika Gjollëshi as a member of the Nomination Committee for the operational year 2021-2022.

to elect two additional members of the Nomination Committee for the operational year 2021-2022.



Civil Accountants

The role of the accountant is to review the actions of the Board, the financial report, as well as control that the organisation has acted in accordance with by-laws and regulatory documents. The accountant's work should proceed throughout the year, and they should be available for potential questions. It is important that the accountant can remain neutral, and make their assessment objectively and on factual basis.

Aria Nakhaei was the SAIA President in 2013-2014 and has since then kept in touch and had active contact with subsequent boards of the Associations. Aria thus has a good overview of the long-term development of the Association over the past decade. He also represented SAIA in the board of Folk och Försvar during four years between 2015 and 2019. This, combined with his thorough knowledge in organisational and structural matters in general and SAIA's by-laws and organisational structure in particular, makes Aria the ideal candidate for the position of Civil Accountant.

The Nominated Candidate is: Aria Nakhaei

The Electoral Meeting is proposed :

to elect Aria Nakhaei as the Civil Accountant for the operational year 2021-2022.

to elect a Deputy Civil Accountant for the operational year 2021-2022.