

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE NORDIC SOCIETY OF MIDDLE EAST STUDIES, HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 23 2007.

1. The chair of the Society Bjørn Olav Utvik opened the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda was accepted.
3. Mark Sedgwick was elected chair of the Meeting. Marianne Bøe was elected secretary. Tuomo Melasuo was elected adjuster.
4. The secretary of the board Lena Ambjörn presented the Report on activities of the board 2004-2007. It was noted that the report did not include any of the failed or non-supported activities.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

5. The administrative secretary of the board Marianne Bøe presented the accounts of the Society and the revision by the auditor of the Society Einar Thomassen. It was noted that there was a decline in membership fees larger than the decline in members. The board should therefore remind members about payment of membership fees each year. Also, the three year cycle for student membership was questioned. However, no changes were declared.

The financial report of the board was accepted by the General Meeting, and a declaration of no responsibility of the board was declared.

6. Susanne Dahlgren presented future activities of the board 2007-2010. She proposed different ways of strengthening the Society:
 - Attract all possible disciplines to the Society. Dahlgren also suggested working for including Iceland as a member country. In addition she mentioned a cooperation with the Baltic countries in order to strengthen the financial situation of the Society.
 - Broaden the offers of the Society. Previously the Society offered an email bulletin and Dahlgren suggested that this activity was reinstated either in electronic form or printed version. She also noted that the Society should focus on the P.hd courses offered by the Society.
 - Enhance the cooperation of the Middle Eastern Centres in the Nordic countries and open up for exchange of researchers within the Nordic countries.
 - Arrange panels in conferences. This can be a good way to spread information about research activities in the Nordic countries.
 - Instead of board meetings, Dahlgren suggested to arrange telephone meetings as a means to save money.
 - Develop and broaden the multi-disciplinarity and cross-historical focus of the Society.

Other suggestions:

- Tuomo Melasuo: Increase the P.hd school in Alexandria and newly-established networks in the Nordic countries.
- Knut S. Vikør: focus on the conferences and also make use of Jacob Skovgaard-Petersen's position in Cairo and the Nordic centers in the Middle

East to arrange a semi-annual event of the Phd workshop. Regarding the bulletin, the board should focus on sending out an update on personal information, doctorats and publications twice a year to all members of the Society.

7. A new board was elected:

- Kjersti G. Berg (University of Bergen) and Jacob Høigilt (University of Oslo) from Norway. Høigilt is a newly-elected candidate.
- Pernilla Myrne (Gothenburg University) and Annika Rabo (University of Stockholm) from Sweden. Myrne and Rabo are both newly-elected candidates.
- Ulla Holm (University of Copenhagen) and Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (Copenhagen) from Finland. Both are re-elected members.
- Sylvia Akar (University of Helsinki) and Anitta Kynsilehto (Tampere University) from Finland. Kynsilehto is a newly-elected candidate.

A new candidate was suggested from Sweden, namely Annika Rabo. The election of the Swedish members were therefore conducted by secret ballot between three candidates; Bo Holmberg, Pernilla Myrne and Annika Rabo.

The results:

- Holmberg: 6 votes
- Myrne: 17 votes
- Rabo: 21 votes.

(4 only voted for 1 candidate).

Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen was elected Chair.

Election committee was elected, consisting of outgoing board members Susanne Dahlgren (Finland), Bjørn Olav Utvik (Norway), Lena Ambjörn (Sweden) and since there were no outgoing board members from Denmark, Connie Carøe Christianssen was elected (Denmark).

Einar Thomassen appointed auditor. Anders Bjørkelo was appointed suppleant auditor.

8. There were no other issues.

Marianne Bøe
Secretary of the General Assembly.
25-09-07