

Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS)

Minutes, General Meeting

September 30, 2018, 10.00–11.00

Location: Brantingrummet, ABF-huset, Sveavägen 41, Stockholm

Participants: Adam Hjorthén, Maria Holmgren Troy, Jenny Bonnevier, Eva Zetterman, Bo G. Ekelund, Oskar Nordell, Chloé Avril, Joel Frykholm, Markus Heide, Roman Kushnic, Adam Gilbert, Iulian Cananau.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of SAAS, Adam Hjorthén, opened the meeting.

2. Appointment of Meeting Secretary

Maria Holmgren Troy was appointed as meeting secretary.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved after the decision was made to deal with point 11 before point 9 in order to be able to elect deputy board members in keeping with the constitution.

4. Appointment of Scrutinizer

Chloé Avril was appointed as scrutinizer of the minutes.

5. Approval of Minutes from the 2016 SAAS General Meeting (attachment A)

The minutes were approved.

6. President's Report. President Adam Hjorthén presented the report of the board's activities, which was approved by the Meeting without further comments.

The Board has had nine meetings, of which five have been digital/online-meeting, and has during the term focused its work on three areas of activity:

1) administrative and organizational development: updating and adding to the SAAS website; using Google Docs for online board meetings; creating a digital archive for SAAS documents; streamlining the administrative process of collecting membership dues, and reporting membership lists to NAAS and EAAS; and proposing revisions to the SAAS Constitution.

2) the organizing and co-organizing of academic events: The main academic activity during the term has been the planning of the 10th Biennial SAAS Conference in Stockholm, on September 28–30, 2018, with the theme “Open Covenants: Pasts and Futures of Global America.” Moreover, SAAS has during the term co-sponsored two events arranged by SINAS in Uppsala: a January 2017 lecture by Jørn Brøndal, University of Southern Denmark, and a December 2017 lecture by Fredrik Logevall, Harvard University. The SAAS Plenary Lecture at the 25th Biennial Conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense on May 22–25, 2017, was presented by Professor Danuta Fjellestad, Uppsala University.

3) the work of the Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS).

(For the actual and more detailed President’s report, see attachment B.)

7. **Treasurer’s Report.** Treasurer Eva Zetterman presented the report, which was approved by the Meeting.

The number of paying members in 2017 was 33 (27 senior and 6 junior). In September 2018, the number of paying members this year was 79 (61 senior and 18 junior) due to the exceptional size of this year’s SAAS conference. At the beginning of 2017, SAAS had **61,536.61** SEK in its account. At the time of the conference in 2018, SAAS had **182,426.74** SEK in its account. The Treasurer estimated that after all the payments have been made for the conference, to *ASiS* and to *EEAS*, SAAS will have around 70,000 SEK in the account. (For more details see attachment C.)

The question about having to pay the SAAS membership fee in order to participate in the SAAS conference was raised. The President explained that this issue had come up at a board meeting late in the process of organizing the Stockholm conference. It is a question that the new board will address soon in order to possibly change this requirement ahead of the next conference.

8. **Release from Liability** (*ansvarsfrihet*)

The Meeting voted for giving the board release from liability (*ansvarsfrihet*).

9. **Election of the SAAS Board**

Iulian Cananau presented the Nomination Committee’s suggestion for the new SAAS board. The other two committee members, Anders Olsson and Liz Kella, were absent. According to the SAAS Constitution, the Nomination Committee suggested names for the different functions as officers: Adam Hjorthén for President, Chloé Avril for Vice-President, Eva Zetterman for Treasurer, and Maria Holmgren Troy for Secretary, as

well as names for the three additional members of the board: Jenny Bonnevier, Bo G. Ekelund, and Oskar Nordell. According to the changes of the SAAS Constitution approved earlier at the meeting (see point 3 and 11), the Nomination Committee also suggested that Joel Frykholm be elected as deputy board member. An additional deputy board member, Markus Heide, was suggested from the floor.

a. Election of President

Adam Hjorthén was elected as President.

b. Election of Vice-President

Chloé Avril was elected as Vice-President.

c. Election of Treasurer

Eva Zetterman was elected as Treasurer.

d. Election of Secretary

Maria Holmgren Troy was elected as Secretary.

e. Election of Board Members

Jenny Bonnevier, Bo G. Ekelund, and Oskar Nordell were elected as board members.

f. Election of Deputy Board Members

Joel Frykholm and Markus Heide were elected as deputy board members.

10. Election of the Nomination Committee

Iulian Cananau presented the Nomination Committee's suggestion for the new Nomination Committee: Iulian Cananau (Gävle), Anna Linzie (Karlstad), and Adnan Mahmutovic (Stockholm). The Meeting elected the new Nomination Committee as suggested.

11. Changes to the SAAS Constitution (see attachment D)

In June, the President sent out the Board's suggested changes to the SAAS Constitution's articles two, three, and four to the SAAS members in order for a decision to be made regarding those suggested changes at the General Meeting. The Meeting approved these changes.

At the General Meeting, the President also suggested the following changes, which he had drafted himself, to article six:

“At the General Meeting a three-person Nomination Committee shall be elected, the purpose of which is to submit recommendations **to the next General Meeting of nominees for the next Board and a new Nomination Committee. On completion of**

their term, all members of the committee will vacate their places. At the time of the election, registered members may **also** nominate candidates.”

After some discussion, it was decided that the new board should work on article six and that the President should send out the proposed changes to the membership at least three months before the next General Meeting where a decision will be made by the attending members. In other words, there will be no changes in article six before the next General Meeting.

12. Future Activities of SAAS

The President presented some thoughts on future activities: 1) an annual SAAS Newsletter, 2) a graduate student workshop for Ph.D. and M.A. students, and 3) further development of the cooperation with SINAS.

13. The 2020 SAAS Conference

The SAAS board worked towards having a joint conference with FASA in 2020, but it became apparent in the summer of 2018 that FASA would not be able to participate in a joint venture at this point due to a lack of support from the American Studies centers in Helsinki and Turku. This leaves the task of finding a location for the 2020 SAAS conference to the new board.

The question about whether to have a theme was raised and discussed. SAAS had chosen to have entirely open calls for a number of conferences in order to make it possible for all scholars in Sweden interested in things American to present their research at the SAAS conference. For the conference in Stockholm 2018, having a theme was reintroduced (in a non-exclusionary manner) to facilitate the application for external funding.

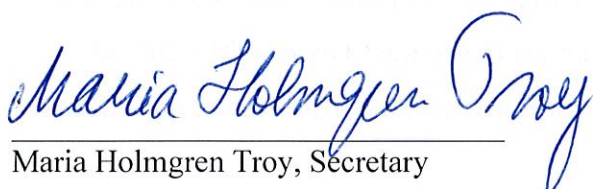
14. Any Other Business

Jenny Bonnevier thanked the board, and in particular the conference committee consisting of Bo G. Ekelund, Adam Hjorthén, and Oskar Nordell (as well as Ph.D. student Alice Sundman, Stockholm University), for a job very well done.

15. Closing of the Meeting

The President closed the meeting at 11 o'clock.

Place and date: Karlstad October 7, 2018



Maria Holmgren Troy, Secretary



Chloé Avril, Scrutinizer