

A Proposal to Defer Annual Board Elections to September

Proponent

§14 of the Statutes reads,

The General Meeting

1. *The General Meeting is the highest decision making body of the Association and shall be held in Uppsala annually in **May or June**.*
2. *xxx*
3. *xxx*
4. *Every General Meeting shall address at least the following agenda items:*

*g. **Election to the Board** for each Board position individually, followed by the election to the Audit Committee.*

Alumni Association member Nick Tobia, the proponent, has submitted a proposal to defer elections to the beginning of the Fall semester, or in September annually. The proposal recommends either (1) elections be held independently of the May/June General Meeting, or (b) the General Meeting be moved to the Fall semester as well.

The reason propounded is that a majority of the possible candidates from the Masters programme who would otherwise be present at the elections at the end of the Spring semester will be away during the summer and the Fall semester and will be writing their thesis in the following Spring. The trend in enrolment suggests that most Masters students prefer to take internships during the Fall term. Meanwhile, a majority of Masters students actually present in Uppsala during the Fall (i.e. new Masters students) are ineligible pursuant to §5 of the Statutes.

Arguing that the Board needs to be physically present in Uppsala in order to manage the Association, the proponent estimates that the pool for possible Board members sourced from the Masters programme would be much larger if elections were held in the Fall. To enable the pool of 50 to 60 new Masters students to participate, a corollary amendment is necessary to fully enact the change of election schedule. §5 on membership reads:

1. *Membership is open for persons who has:*
 - a. **obtained** credits in at least one course taught at the DPCR.

The proponent, thus, proposes an additional amendment by changing the word 'obtained' to 'enrolled'.

Finally, the proponent recommends elections be held on September 9, 2014.

Opposition

Alumni Association member David Ermes is a resource person on the intention behind the Statutes. On the matter of scheduling elections in May/June, he proffered that the end of the academic year was intended to be a time when the entire alumni membership would be convened in a 'homecoming'. In the future, when there are more active alumni, May/June would be an ideal season to gather back in Uppsala where alumni can meet together with the resident and graduating classes and the faculty. Moreover, all the Masters students and presumably, a majority of the undergraduate students are present in Uppsala in May/June.

He argued further that the functions of the Alumni Board do not necessarily require the physical presence in Uppsala throughout the year. At the very least, the department liaison, an appointed board member, will always be present in Uppsala. Since the pool of candidates for the Board is not limited to resident students, and none are required to perform functions in Uppsala (except for the liaison), then an election in May/June does not prejudice the eligibility of any qualified member to run for a Board position.

Issue

The issue can be reduced to whether or not running the Board requires the physical presence of members in Uppsala. The proponent answers this in the affirmative, thus justifying a change in election schedule to accommodate more resident students. The opponent answers this in the negative, thus supporting retention of the Statutes as written.