

Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies
Incoming Board Meeting, 24 September 2022, University of Iceland
Minutes

Present: Mark Sedgwick, Thorir Jonsson Hraundal, Charlotte Lysa ([link](#)), Olof Heilo ([link](#)), Laura Wickström, Kirstine Sinclair, Kjartan Orri Þórsson, Jacob Høigilt, Oliver Scharbrodt, Tiina Hyypä.

1. Opening (17:30 GMT)

Introduction round of board members.

- a. Election of interim secretary of meeting: Kirstine Sinclair.

Approval of the agenda: The discussion of the PhD courses is added in the agenda as point 4e. A question whether the board would consider launching a PhD Prize similar to the newly established MA prize was raised.

2. Election of officers

- a. Secretary: Laura Wickström.
- b. Vice-chair: Charlotte Lysa.
- c. Treasurer: Kirstine Sinclair.
- d. Media manager (not a formal office): Media team: Tiina Hyypä (FB and general coordination), Olof Heilo (Instagram).

3. Budget for 2022-23 (Mark)

- a. Discussion of accounts for 2019–22. Mark presented the accounts. We do not yet know if we will have a surplus from the 2022 conference, but we are hopeful.
- b. Discussion of budget vs actual for 2021–22: Presented by Mark. The board have no further comments.
- c. Presentation and approval of budget for 2021–22: The board approved the budget.

4. Coming events

- a. Location of 2025 conference: Oslo.
BRISMES has shown interest toward a joint conference. The board is interested in exploring cooperation, but needs further information.
- b. Location of 2024 PhD School: Istanbul
The Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul can provide infrastructure, probably including accommodation, for the PhD School in August week 34 or 35. Travel expenses are open and will be explored. A team of teachers will be put together

and since a board meeting will be held at the same time in Istanbul, board members can be used as teachers. Emphasis on local teachers as well.

c. 2023 MA workshop (and board meeting): Helsinki.

Tiina, Mark and Laura will be the core team preparing for the MA workshop. The date for the board meeting is April 21 and the MA workshop will take place April 22 (TBC).

d. 2023 MA thesis prize (and committee members)

The deadline for submissions for the 2022 MA thesis prize was extended to October 15, 2022. Charlotte will continue as the chair for the MA thesis committee, accompanied by Oliver and Laura.

e. PhD courses

The feedback from the last PhD workshop showed that smaller and more frequent online thematic courses might be considered in addition to the workshop every third year. Instead of the board deciding a theme the PhD students should be heard what they wish. This will be done by e-mailing the relevant persons. It was decided that Kirstine takes the coordination of the e-mailing and all board members help Kirstine to find the students.

5. Any other business

No other business.

6. Meeting ended (19:00 GMT)