

MINUTES

of the General Assembly of the Nordic Society of Middle East Studies,
September 24, 2016, Odense

1. The meeting was opened by Leif Stenberg
2. The Agenda was approved
3. Knut Vikör was elected chair of the general assembly
4. Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen was elected secretary of the assembly.
5. Activity report. Leif Stenberg presented the activity report for 2013-16. The funding (through Eurames) Mideast-Wire daily update which members receive was discussed. The PhD school in Venice was praised. The assembly discussed the relationship to the journal Babylon, and now a Danish (the Tidsskrift for Islamstudier) and new journal based in Lund. This will be taken up by the new board. The assembly approved the report.
6. Financial review. The membership has dwindled from 121 in 2013 to 113 (of whom 11 haven't paid). The assembly discussed the falling membership, especially given the increasing participation in the conferences. The new board will have to decide how to change the system of membership payment. The elected auditor has not had time to go check the accounts. The assembly approved the financial review under the condition that the elected auditor checks and approves the accounts for the first board meeting.
7. Election of board. The electoral committee reported that the members of Finland and Sweden want to continue, but the members from Norway and Denmark are withdrawing. New members from Norway and Denmark were proposed. No other candidates were proposed. For the first time an Icelandic member was elected to the board.

The new Board is thus

Leif Stenberg and Susanne Olsson, Sweden
Charlotta Lysa and Magnus Dölerud, Norway
Mark Sedgwick and Ulla Prien, Denmark
Hannu Juusola and Pekka Tuominen, Finland
Thorir Jonsson Hraundal, Iceland

Leif Stenberg was elected as chairman of the board.

Jonas Otterbeck was elected auditor, and Ehab Galal was elected assistant Auditor

8. A new electoral committee was appointed: Dietrich Jung (Denmark), Liv Tønnesen (Norway), Marianna Laanatza (Sweden), (Finland)Laura Wickström

9. Activities 2016-19 A number of proposals for the new board were fielded:
 - The assembly would like to see a new PhD course in the coming period. It could be expanded to a PhD school with regular activities, but that will require fundraising, coordination etc.
 - A Middle East media network was proposed.
 - The old membership list of the 1990s included information on research interests that could be used for calls. This could be revived.
 - An update of the website, which again is related to the issue of a secretariat.

10. Matteo Lengrenzi renewed an offer to host colloquiums in Venice.