

MINUTES

From the NSM Boardmeeting, Bergen, September 24, 2010

Present: Sylvia Akkar, Kjersti Berg, Jakob Høigilt, Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen, Annika Rabo and Pernilla Myrne.

1. Introduction and approval of Agenda
Referent Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen.
The agenda was approved.
2. Minutes of the Sept. 19, 2009 meeting
The Minutes from the meeting were approved
3. Brief reports from individual countries.
Finland: new director at the Finnish Institute in Damascus.
The position as professor of Semitic studies in Helsinki is announced.
Norway: the chair of Islamic Studies has been delayed, after the retirement of Kari Vogt.
Barbylon has got status as journal of level 1.
The Middle Eastern and Islamic Centre is losing its secretary, and the Centre and Middle Eastern studies courses will be reorganised. This will also have repercussions for the Society.
Some insecurity in the Middle East environment, even if the student attraction is fine.
Sweden: Lund has opened its MA course in English.
Denamrk: high activity in both Aarhus, Odernse and Copenhagen.
4. Status of the NSM, and the Board after 2010
 - a. JSP reported on the application to Nordforsk which was rejected with a number of comments and suggestions. The Board would like to recommend to the future Board to take up this plan again.
 - b. The Board has no full picture of the candidates for the future Board. It found that the introduction of substitutes would be a good idea, given the fact that Ulla Holm of Denmark was forced to step down for health reasons, and there was no substitute in place. The Board can also simply self-supply.

5. The financial situation. The Board is generally satisfied with the capital. Expenses for travel of members of the Board has been the most important, and reasonable, expense. A new Board might look into ways of reducing the bank fees.

The Middle Eastern and Islamic Centre is losing its secretary, and the Centre and Middle Eastern studies courses will be reorganised. This presents the most pressing issue for the coming Board. The secretariat handles the economy, the membership lists and the connection to the Eurames, including recently, the Middle East Wire. Sylvia Akkar reported that Eurames has bought it for another year and a half.

6. The Bergen Conference

a. Status from the organizers.

- A full-time secretary-organizer has been employed the last month, and the program and e-mails contacts with members have gone well.
- 120 participants, 99 papers.
- There is a good coordination with a Lebanon seminar.
- It has been well advertised.
- The balance will be approximately 250.000 nkr.

7. Any other business

Nothing was raised.