

Minutes of the Meeting of Nordic Chemical Societies Presidents in Helsinki 15 – 16.4.2005

- Time:** 15.4.2005, 15:00 – 18:30 and 16.4.2005 9:00 – 12:00
- Place:** Hotel Arthur, Vuorikatu 19, 00100 Helsinki, Finland
- Participants:** Anders Kallner, IUPAC UAC-member, S
Agneta Sjögren, Secretary General, S
Nina Aas, President, N
Nils-Arne Jentoft, IUPAC UAC-member, N (only 16.4)
Morten J. Bjerrum, President, DK
Sven Harnung, IUPAC UAC-member, DK
Leif Ramm-Schmidt, President, FIN
Matti Näsäkkälä, IUPAC CCE-member, FIN (only 16.4)
Helena Visti, Secretary General, FIN

1. Introduction of participants

Each participant introduced him/herself. A short presentation of each Chemical Society was given.

Anna-Maria Tivert, new President for the Swedish Chemical Society, was on her way to the meeting, but had to send her apology for being unable to come due to delayed flights.

2. Förlagsföreningen Acta Chemica Scandinavica (FACS)

The Nordic internal agreement (dated March 2004) in accordance with the decisions at the previous Presidents Meeting in Copenhagen in 2003 was reviewed and discussed. Prof. Sven Harnung from Denmark has held the office of the common Nordic FACS representative during years 2003 and 2004. In addition, Prof. Lars Ivar Elding has held the position of FACS advisory member at the Dalton editorial board until 31.12.2004. Finland has nominated Prof. Pekka Pyykkö as the next representative for years 2005 – 2006. His nomination was unanimously approved by the meeting.

The primary duties are to represent FACS in the RSC Journals Committee, to report to all four Nordic societies about the outcome of the meetings and to promote Nordic authors to publish scientific articles in the RSC journals.

A letter will be sent to RSC by the Association of Finnish Chemical Societies informing that Pekka Pyykkö has been elected the new FACS representative.

The ACTA on the web-project was discussed. No progress was made since our previous meeting. The primary reason is lack of money. The Journal comprises 60 years of chemical science in the Nordic countries. The participants agreed that the project should be brought forward.

Based on the previous estimate by Sven Harnung the cost is in the range of 500 - 600.000 DK (65 - 80.000 EUR). If shared by the four societies, each should raise funds of about 16 - 20.000 EUR. Funds could possibly be applied for from scientific organizations in each country (type The Academy of Finland). In order to seriously approach these organizations an updated approach of the project with new cost estimate is needed. Sven Harnung promised to do this update.

3. RSC-issues

The next meeting for the PCCP ownership board is held in Copenhagen this year. The agenda includes a proposal to increase the number of participating societies on the board. The present number of societies is now 14 with 16 delegates.

Sven Harnung presented his proposal on the new structure. Meeting every year with the full number of delegates is unnecessary frequent, in particular as the number of topics is low. This creates excess travelling and time spending.

Subscription prices had been raised by 5% without approval of the board. This is in contrary to §7.4 of the agreement, and has to be addressed at the meeting.

Sven Harnung got full support by the meeting to bring forward his proposal.

Sven Harnung also brought to the attention the problem of rejected papers from Nordic authors in particular in the Dalton Transactions. This can ruin our good relationship with RSC. The matter was briefly discussed, but no concrete action was taken.

4. EuCheMS

The Nordic societies had recently agreed to support the nomination of Dr. Tor Hemmingsen from Norway as candidate for EuCheMS Executive Board.

Membership fee: There was not yet any info on the budget for the new constituted EuCheMS. It was agreed that the Nordic societies want to limit the membership fee to max. 1 EUR/member.

Budapest 2006 Conference: The call for papers to the conference will start in September 2005. It would be positive to have speakers from the Nordic countries participating. Sweden has decided to give travel grants to speakers and young scientists participating in the conference. Each society will make its own advertising of the conference.

5. IUPAC-issues

Nordic proposal: The Nordic proposal from year 2001 to reorganize the structure of IUPAC was discussed. The contents of this were well summarized in the pre-distributed draft prepared by Anders Kallner. There had so far been low response to the proposal and it has not lead to any actions. It was decided that a short new letter signed by all Nordic societies shall be written and presented at the IUPAC conference in Beijing. The letter will be discussed with Leiv Sydnes first.

Matti Näsäkkälä gave a brief presentation on educational activities within the CCE committee. Educational material and equipment is collected to be sent to third world countries. These are given away free of charge or for low cost.

Company associates and COCI: Agneta Sjögren presented the company associate membership program of COCI (Committee on Chemistry and Industry of IUPAC). Very few companies in the Nordic countries are members. Finland does not have a single member. The cost and benefit of the membership were discussed.

6. Nordic cooperation

Baltic cooperation: The need for increased cooperation with the Baltic states was discussed. If we want to increase cooperation in the Baltic states, a Baltic Forum could be jointly arranged. A lead topic could be environmental issues. Also student exchange was proposed.

Membership: Problems with decreasing membership was discussed. It is good to share information on different actions taken in the various societies to increase the membership. Sweden has had positive results of a campaign, where free membership was given for the first year. A leaflet describing this together with all membership benefits had been distributed to students of chemistry.

7. Next meeting

The next Nordic Presidents meeting will be hosted by Norway in year 2007. A suitable timing is early April.

Helsinki 19.8.2005

Leif Ramm-Schmidt