

150 YEARS AND COUNTING

**Crown Council Report
May 2012
Swedish National Advisory Board**

Swedish National Advisory Board Overview

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These are a very enthusiastic pair of groups, one in Sweden and one based in Minnesota, comprised (as of the first meetings) of alums of the Scandinavian Studies department and/or with significant experience in Sweden and Swedes who studied at Gustavus, are married to Gustavus alums or a parent of a Gustavus student.

This NAB, given its uniquely international focus, has two subgroups—one that meets in Sweden and one that meets in Minnesota. Members are welcome to go to any meeting, but it is not reasonable to expect people to travel internationally. Each group has met once. The Sweden group met at the Bonniers Konsthalle (Galleries) in Stockholm in April 2012 and the Minnesota group at Gustavus in May 2012.

Summary of Discussion Topics

- As it was the first meeting, significant time was given to acquainting and reacquainting with one another. The initial focus was to describe each person's interests in and experience with both Gustavus and Sweden and to identify their reasons for wanting to participate on this NAB. All were deeply engaged, enthusiastic and excited about the founding of this group as everyone was passionate about Gustavus needing to deepen and broaden its ties with Sweden.
- The strategy, structure and staffing of the Scandinavian Studies Department was reviewed and discussed—and past and current members celebrated for their commitment.
- Materials were provided and discussion ensued describing Gustavus current relationships with Sweden.

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- How can we work to raise the profile of Gustavus in Sweden and to increase the number of Swedes studying at and visiting Gustavus?
- Philanthropy tends to be viewed differently in Sweden. Average Swedes generally don't give money to organizations such as colleges and universities, but they will (as this group shows) give time and effort.
- Identify, connect and engage all alums in Sweden—including those Swedes who may only have studied at Gustavus for a short time—through social media and opportunities to connect with Gustavus representatives whenever they visit Sweden.
- Include other friends of the College in the network, e.g., former visiting artists, professors and researchers.
- How to best leverage the exciting new presence of Gustavus at the American Swedish Institute's new Nelson Cultural Center?
- How can other departments besides Scandinavian Studies be better engaged with things Swedish, especially areas with strong connections to modern Sweden such as Environmental Studies, Econ/Mgmt, Gender Studies?
- How can the Semester in Sweden program be further enriched and expanded?
- How can the Nobel relationship be expanded and/or leveraged for a higher profile for Gustavus?
- What other Swedish institutions do we want to/ought we build exchanges with? Currently there are three: Uppsala University, Linneaus (formerly Vaxjo) University and Mora Folkuniversity.

Emerging Opportunities, Challenges, Future Discussion Topics

- Simply continuing to build relationships, connections and engagement amongst alums and friends of the College is a high priority. Sharing names and contact information—especially for those in Sweden, expanding an existing Facebook group, ensuring that representatives make time for gatherings with alums and friends of the College whenever and wherever in Sweden they may visit.
- Can we have participation by a Gustavus student in the parade of university banners that occurs during the Nobel ceremonies, i.e., a Gustavus banner amongst those representing all of the universities in Sweden? Dawn Comstock, a Gustavus biology major, has been awarded the Swedish Council of America's Glenn Seaborg Award to participate in the International Youth Conference associated with Nobel, so there may well be an excellent opportunity to do this this year.
- Commit to having a Gustavus presence at education fairs in Sweden.
- Streaming Christmas in Christ Chapel, Nobel, and other events so that Swedes can experience them.
- E-newsletter

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- Reciprocal interests in exploring roots, as recent TV series have popularized.
- How can we create internships for Gustavus students in Sweden? Summer is difficult as most Swedes take holidays, so autumn after graduation would seem most practical.
- Scholarships and stipendia were crucial to the Swedes present being able to study at Gustavus.
- The relationship with Sweden and Scandinavia is crucial to the historical identity of Gustavus and to its international, environmental, social and cultural goals. It is very important that the Scandinavian Studies department is fully staffed and has adequate resources to further strengthen these bonds in the future.
- Find someone in Sweden with the resources to support raising the profile of Gustavus in Sweden, to support students coming from Sweden to Gustavus to study, and to support the Semester in Sweden program.

Ideas for Collaboration with other NABs

- Athletics NAB: Tours of Sweden by Gustavus athletics teams would be a great way to give visibility to Gustavus. As one member said, “It would be fascinating to see how Swedes reacted to coming out on the ice to play a team with three crowns on a black & gold jersey!” This would be a way to give visibility to the College amongst Swedish students who would love to both study at a university and play sports—which they must choose between in Sweden.
- Gustavus Library Associates: A celebration of the Nobel Prize in Literature held both at the ASI in Minneapolis and at Gustavus could highlight other humanities and the work of the library.

NAB Operational Highpoints or Challenges

It was wonderful to gather together a group of alums from many different years with passionate interests in Sweden, as it was likely for other groups. Finding relevant campus or campus-related events to correlate NAB meetings with is recommended, as was done with the SCA Glenn Seaborg award presentation to Dawn Comstock at Gustavus on 10 May. This group feels that linking with things like the Out of Scandinavia writers series, the Royal visit, etc., is a good way to encourage and inspire participation.