

**Scandinavia National Advisory Board
Crown Council Report
April 2014**

Summary of Meeting Discussion Topics and Emerging Ideas/Future Discussion Topics

The Gustavus Scandinavia Advisory Board discussions are continuous works-in-progress and so I am placing these topics under both the “Summary” and the “Emerging Ideas” rubrics. The GSAB has focused on the following topics:

1—The Gustavus Office at the American Swedish Institute:

When the ASI expanded two years ago, Gustavus committed to creating a more intentional partnership between Gustavus and the ASI. This was manifested by Gustavus committing to have an office suite in the new ASI campus building. Significant programming collaboration and event presentation by GA has been done at the ASI, but the Edward and Patty Lindell Office Suite has been primarily used for just that, an office suite. The GSAB feels that the GA presence at the ASI has been a very successful collaboration. It is something that GA alums who are actively engaged with the ASI have long dreamt of and argued for, so to see what a fabulous space it is, and so centrally located in the new Nelson Cultural Center, is wonderful.

That being said, the GSAB feels quite strongly that the space is underutilized and, as currently labeled and “Office” underrepresents its potential to serve GA interests. As the office is generally open only from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday – Friday, hundreds of people (at least dozens of whom are GA alums) pass by it on weekends and during evening special events and only see this urban portal to Gustavus as a closed door. Ironically, rather than inviting interest in all the amazing things that GA is doing this is rather off-putting.

This was one of the major topics for discussion at our 31 January meeting. Megan Myhre, the Alumni and Parent Engagement person who staffs the office when it is open, met with us to discuss this subject. On that note, the GSAB in no way impugns the work of Megan, but feels that GA needs to make a clearer and stronger institutional commitment to really engaging constituencies through this portal, perhaps better described as “Gustavus Urban Gateway” than as an office suite. We believe that whenever the ASI is open the GA facility ought to be open. We discussed staffing, programming, alum engagement and numerous related ideas for how the experiences both of destination and walk-by visitors can be best enhanced to provide an engaging and positive impression that they will be very interested in sharing with their friends and families. These include renaming the office, reconfiguring the office, presenting student and faculty research and creative work, having two volunteers staffing the suite during non-regular business hours, rotating exhibits from GA, exhibits and programs complementing ASI exhibitions and programs, highlighting Semester in Sweden and the Scandinavian Studies Department and other connections to Sweden, doing programs and outreach to urban youth in south Minneapolis as part of enrollment efforts, highlighting seasonal programs on campus such as Nobel and Christmas in Christ Chapel, and a long list of many other brainstormed ideas. The possibilities are infinite as to how casual and intentional visitors to the ASI and the GA suite could be shown the amazing things GA is up to and how to easily engage with GA in the city.

At our May meeting the group will review the ASI event calendar for 2014-2015 and choose specific times to have the GA suite open, discussion volunteer staffing, and an engagement activity for visitors.

2—Internships in Sweden:

Last year Gustavus was awarded a significant amount of money to support developing student internships in Sweden. Three students had extremely positive J-Term internship experiences there this year. Will Metcalf who was at Green Tech Park in Skara, Ellen Krueger at Cambio Healthcare Systems in Stockholm and Elizabeth Johnson at Friends Agenda in Stockholm. Our GSAB members in Sweden were very instrumental both in finding these internships for them and in providing housing. This will be a wonderful continuing opportunity for GA students for the foreseeable future. It does wonders to also engage our alums in Sweden and to inspire more students to build personal and professional relationships in Sweden.

On a very different but quite interesting internship note, Joel Jönsson '13, has been interning at the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm. He mentioned to his supervisor that President Jack Ohle, VP Thomas Young, Search Committee Chair Warren Beck and Board Chair George Hicks were going to be visiting Stockholm in March. Joel's supervisor mentioned this to Ambassador Mark Brzezinski who then invited them all to lunch at the Ambassador's residence. Good incentive for having more students and graduates intern in Sweden!

3—Uppsala Collaboration:

The Uppsala Friendship Committee (Uppsala-Minneapolis Sister City Committee) is an official committee of the Board of the ASI. One of their main initiatives for the past ten years has been a highly successful educator exchange between the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Uppsala schools. Each spring from ten to twenty teachers and administrators from Minneapolis travel over spring break to Uppsala where they visit classrooms, meet with colleagues and stay with teachers there. In October a similar contingent comes from Uppsala to Minneapolis with a similar agenda.

The Committee is very interested in starting an exchange of student leaders, too. Their thought is that this could coincide with the Nobel Conference. They presented their proposal and were wondering if Gustavus would be interested in partnering on such an exchange. They were rather startled by the unanimous, immediate and enthusiastic response that they received from the entire GSAB, including Thomas Young and Barb Larson Taylor! This is very much a win-win situation for all concerned. It engages GA with top students from a very diverse background in Minneapolis, introducing them to Sweden, Swedish students and GA in a very personal way by bringing a bright, talented and lively group of prospects to campus.

Gustavus students could be matched with pairs of Uppsala and Minneapolis students as they visit campus for the Nobel Conference. This would be a wonderful opportunity for GA to build connections with prospective students, both from Minneapolis and from Uppsala. The Friendship Committee will move forward with planning this. They intend to implement it in fall 2015.

4—Scandinavian Studies Updates:

Student demand for Swedish language classes is flourishing—a third section of entry level Swedish had to be added in fall 2013! This bodes very well for our continuing to build long-term relationships between Gustavus and Sweden. It also bodes well for the Semester in Sweden program that is set to go again in spring 2015. It will be led by Jeff Jeremiason and his family. They have already

done a sabbatical year in Sweden and Jeff is passionate about environmental issues, so it ought to be a most inspiring trip for all concerned.

Due to his extensive experience on the island, the GSAB chair has been approached about helping to develop opportunities for the program on the island of Gotland, which has committed to being energy self-sufficient by 2020. Gotland University in Visby was merged into Uppsala University as its “Campus Gotland” in 2013. The campus is focused on liberal arts education (a new tack in Swedish higher education). Thus this visit provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen GA’s relationship with Uppsala University while giving students some very valuable peer mentoring roles with the Swedish students. All while studying and living for a month in a magical World Heritage Site city!

The Out of Scandinavia program will leverage the current great popularity of Scandinavian crime fiction novels by hosting crime fiction writer Jan Arne Dahl (Arne Dahl) from 12 – 17 May. His visit will include a lecture at the ASI and a reading at the Once Upon a Crime bookstore in Minneapolis, thus nicely engaging the Twin Cities constituencies in the program.

5—Swedish Council of America:

The Swedish Council of America annually awards three categories of scholarships. Recipients must be nominated by the president of one of the six Swedish-heritage colleges in the U.S. (Gustavus, North Park, Bethany, Augustana, Bethel, and California Lutheran). The three are the Glenn Seaborg Award to send a student to participate in the Nobel Ceremonies in Stockholm via the Youth International Science program, a Humanities Scholarship to support study in the humanities in Sweden and a Swedish Language Scholarship to support official credit-bearing study of Swedish in Sweden. This year a senior Gustavus student, Zach Blinkensop, was the Swedish Language Scholarship awardee. Zach will be studying in the Uppsala University Summer Sessions and attending graduate school in Scandinavian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, next fall.

In addition, the Carlson Family Foundation has provided funds to the SCA to support students from Uppsala University or Lund University to come to Gustavus for up to one year. This program has been dormant for a few years but will now be fully resuscitated with the arrival of one student from Uppsala for the entire 2014 – 2015 academic year and two students for the spring 2015 semester. This is a very exciting development that will bring ever closer relationships between GA and these prominent Swedish universities. It will help us to inspire a new generation of students on both sides of the Atlantic to appreciate the opportunities presented by GA’s close ties with Sweden.

6—American-Scandinavian Foundation Swedish Visiting Lecturer:

Dr. Henrik Bohlin from Södertörn University in Stockholm, as the ASF Swedish Visiting Lecturer at the College of St. Benedict/St. John’s University this spring, was in residence at Gustavus during the first week of March. During his visit, he visited with colleagues, attended classes and presented a very well-received public lecture entitled “From Equal Access to Marketization: Swedish Higher Education Reform Since 1993.”

Henrik’s mother’s father, Arne Tiselius, was the 1948 Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry and was President of the Nobel Foundation from 1960 – 1964—when Nobel Hall was built. As we toured campus, he was delighted when his wife, Marianne, noticed that one of the two large individual portraits in the NHS was of his grandfather! Overall he had a most positive experience at GA and he and his wife are very much looking forward to visiting GA again to attend our next GSAB meeting and the Scandinavian Studies Department’s student research presentations on 10 May.

Two very tangible outcomes of their visit merit reporting. First, as Henrik is on faculty at Södertörn University, we are discussing study abroad and exchange opportunities there for our

students. Their International Programs Director, Besime Uyanik, is very interested. Second, Marianne Bohlin is in the mental healthcare field in Sweden and was enthusiastically hosted by the faculty of the Nursing Department at GA. She was so delighted with her visit and the reception she received that she has worked with them to set up internships for nursing students and sabbatical research and faculty exchange opportunities in Sweden!

7. At the May meeting the group will be in discussion with the Admission staff about ways to more intentionally recruit students in the United States who have Swedish connections and interests.

Items Moving Toward the Board of Trustees for Review

The GSAB has no formal proposals to present to the Board of Trustees for review at this time. However at the 10 May meeting, the GSAB will be discussing and brainstorming further prospects and possibilities for reconceiving and better utilizing the GA suite at the ASI. Given that significant resources have already been committed to this facility, and given the great potential that remains to be developed there, the GSAB suggest that the President's Cabinet consider how it would like to see the ASI suite to be best utilized to leverage GA's presence in the Twin Cities, to expand awareness of GA and its programs in the Twin Cities, and to be a promotion and enrollment magnet in the Twin Cities for the campus.

Members

Elin Ahlden '98 – Sweden
Mark Anderson '66 – U.S.
Linnea Leaf Asp '81 – U.S.
Martin Bertilsson – U.S.
Chelesa Bowen '11 – U.S.
Chris Carlson '86 – U.S.
John Clemedtson '84 – U.S.
Paul Cole '79 – U.S.
Craig Engwall '86 – U.S.
Kristen Gray '83 – U.S.
John Hasselberg '74 – Chair
Joel Jönsson – Sweden
Glenn Kranking '98 – Campus Facilitator
Amy Herbert Leval '97 – Sweden
Lars Löfgren '58 – Sweden
Daniel Lundberg '98 – Sweden
Henrik Nordström '88 – U.S.
Julia Paraskova '99 – Sweden
Elise Peters '91 – U.S.
Magnus Ranstorp '85 – Sweden
Jenn Strömberg '05 – U.S.
Linda Wallenberg '75 – U.S.
Aaron Zierdt '10 – U.S.