

Annual general meeting of the Icelandic Ecological Society 2025

Meeting minutes

Date: May 23. 2025

Time: 18:20-19:30

Board members attending were Freydís Vigfúsdóttir (chair), Isabel Barrio, Bryndís Marteinsdóttir, Haseeb Randhawa and Sandra Grandquist. Absent board members were Filipa Samarra (treasurer) and Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir. In total 23 members of the society attended the meeting.

Snæbjörn Pálsson was appointed as meeting chair (and accepted by the meeting) and Sandra Grandquist was the meeting secretary.

As per the Society's statutes the AGM should cover following items:

1. Stjórn félagsins gerir grein fyrir störfum félagsins.
2. Stjórn leggur fram endurskoðaða reikninga félagsins.
3. Lagabreytingar, ef einhverjar eru.
4. Kosning stjórnar og varastjórnar.
5. Kosning tveggja skoðunarmanna reikninga og einn til vara.
6. Ákvörðun árgjalds.
7. Önnur mál.

The board asked the chair to switch meeting items so that the election of the board would be at the end of the order of schedule, after the Önnur mál (other items). The chair and the meeting accepted that change.

1. Annual report of the society

Freydís explained financial activities in 2024-2025 and summarised the main jobs of the board during the year of 2024-2025 (since the last ATM), as summarized in the Vistís Annual report. At the last AGM meeting, Haseeb Randhawa and Bryndís Marteinsdóttir were appointed to the board, while Guðbjörg Ásta Ólafsdóttir and Starri Heiðmarsson stepped down from the board. In addition, a student representative, Michelle Valliant, was appointed. Edda Elísabet Magnúsdóttir (vice chair) stepped in as chair in the absence of Freydís Vigfúsdóttir (chair).

The board has had nine formal meetings during the year. The total number of members is currently 108, which is a decrease of approximately 31 since last AGM (?). This year, as approved by NSO, 22 MSc students and 3 BS students have been granted a one-year free membership to join the society. The current year is the 15th year of the society and Freydís mentioned that the society has accomplished a lot during that time.

Finally, Freydís summarised the contributions of board members to the Vistís Annual meeting 2025.

All attendees at the meeting approved the report.

2. Financial report audited by elected auditors.

Bryndís presented the financial report for the year 2024, in the absence of Filipa Samarra (treasurer). The report was signed by the accountants Hildur Magnúsdóttir and Ragnhildur Guðmundsdóttir. Copies were not printed out as handouts.

A question was asked regarding the reason for the society having such a high amount of savings and how these would be used. Freydís replied that this is money that the society has acquired a long time ago and that ideas for how to use it would be taken up under Other items.

All attendees at the meeting approved the financial report.

3. Changes to the societies' statutes if any were received formally.

No changes to the statutes were suggested formally in advance to the meeting (2 weeks notice is a minimum). Therefore, the statutes cannot be changed at this stage.

It was mentioned that statutes that are now available on the webpage are not up to date.

The document currently available is missing one change that was made in 2019. The current board will look into this and upload the right statutes to the webpage.

Isabel suggests that we should send out a reminder to members prior to the AGM, to explain that suggestions on changes in the statutes need to be sent to the board at least 2 weeks before the AGM.

4. Board election

Three seats in the board are open for election (seats of Edda, Filipa and Isabel). These board members have all volunteered to continue. All these board members were re-elected by the society. Michelle stepped down as an ECR representative. Three attendants of the meeting offered to represent the students: Alessandra Schneider (alessandra@holar.is), Zaw Myo Win (zaw@groftp.is) and Kaylin Nickels (kra53@hi.is)

The board members mentioned that they want to continue to invite NSO representatives to board meetings and the attendants of the meeting agreed that this is important.

5. Election of the auditors for the next year's audit.

Hildur Magnúsdóttir and Ragnhildur Guðmundsdóttir were re-elected as auditors of the financial report with full support of the meeting attendees.

6. Decision of the annual fee amount.

Haseeb asks why the amount for the annual fee was changed although it was decided in the last AGM that it should be kept the same. The board needs to have discussion with NSO if this is acceptable.

7. Other issues.

The statutes of the society were discussed at length.

The latest version of the statutes was shared by the former chair of the society. She first mentioned that the statutes are not translated into English, which she suggests should be

done due to the large number of non Icelandic speaking members. It was suggested that more focus should be put on [2.gr](#) (d) “Stuðla að faglegrri þjóðfélagsumræðu...”, and further discussion should establish how to do this best. It was agreed that members should be able to raise their voice regarding important issues, while emphasising that a large number of members today are employed by governmental institutes and are in a difficult position to take part in opinionated discussions on some delicate issues. It was suggested that the role of the society should only be to raise awareness among our members but not take the lead on forming opinions. One way of raising awareness on ongoing matters could be that the board calls for panel discussions. In addition, it was pointed out that the society could do better at raising awareness and disseminating ongoing issues within the society. It was suggested that, before the next AGM, guidelines for future Vistís board members be written down regarding the procedure on how to deal with 2gr, item d. The board can delegate some of its tasks to members.

Regarding the surplus money in Vistís bank account, the society should discuss how to use the money. Further, members were reminded about the NSO grants that students can apply for. One idea is that we have a student workshop every year. It was mentioned that we haven't yet spent the surplus from the OIKOS meeting held in 2020. Michelle sent out a survey earlier this year regarding what the students want to focus on and suggests she will send this out again. Results from the survey showed that students are highly interested in advanced stats courses (exercise and lecture based), where people are provided with data prior to the workshop. In addition, timing of the course and fee are relevant issues. Freydís thanks Michelle for the useful work on this.

Some of the money could go to the organization of workshops outside Reykjavík, while others suggested that some of the money could be used to support students outside Reykjavík, to enable them to travel to the annual conference.

It was suggested that the society should add to its statutes that early career representatives should be included in the board (before next year).

The meeting ended at 19:30.