

**Minutes of General Meeting of the Norwegian
Association for the History of Science (NVF)
Bergen, Friday 7 November 2025**



**NORSK
VITENSKAPSHISTORISK
FORENING**

Agenda

1. Election of meeting chair, secretary, and minutes signatories
 2. Approval of the notice and agenda
 3. Information item: Annual report (Norwegian version attached)
 4. Approval of the financial statements for the year
 5. Discussion and resolution item: Budget 2026–27
 6. Discussion and resolution item: Change of wording in the English version of the Statutes
 7. Information and discussion item: Considerations regarding the potential participation of researchers from conflict zones in our conferences
 8. The next Norwegian History of Science Conference (2027)
 9. Election of the new board and an auditor. The candidates briefly introduce themselves
 10. Open item: Feedback on this year's conference or other input for the board
 11. Any other business
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1. Election of meeting chair, secretary, and minutes signatories

The following were elected:

- Meeting chair: Annette Lykknes
- Secretaries: Hege Roll-Hansen and Solveig Siem
- Minutes signatories: Jon Kyllingstad and Thomas Brandt

2. Approval of the notice and agenda

- Notice and agenda approved.
- No items were submitted under “Any other business.”

3. Information item: Annual report

The board has consisted of: Annette Lykknes (chair and treasurer), Hege Roll-Hansen (secretary), Roland Wittje (webmaster), Magnus Vollset, Peder Roberts, Gregory Ferguson-Cradler, and Solveig Siem (board members).

The most important tasks of the association during its first working period have been:

- The association was established and formally registered in the Brønnøysund Register.
- 37 members were registered (and paid their fees) in the period 2024–25.
- A logo for the association was developed (designer: Trine Kvarud).
- A new website was set up by board member Roland Wittje, hosted within UiO's domain.
- An email list was established to serve as an open forum for the history of science, technology, and medicine in Norway. The list is open to all.
- Annette has served both as president and treasurer; for the upcoming board these functions should be separated.
- International representation: According to the statutes, NVF is responsible for representing Norway in DHST - Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST)- under the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST). Roland Wittje has been our representative in DHST with Peder Roberts as deputy. Annette Lykknes was elected in 2025 to the DHST Committee for Respectful Behavior.
- The main task in the period 2023–2025 has been organizing the present 10th Conference of the History of Science. The local organizing committee was led by Magnus Vollset.

4. Approval of the financial statements for the year

Annette presented and explained the income and expenses. There were no comments, and the financial statements were approved.

5. Discussion and resolution item: Budget 2026–27

Due to a doubled annual membership fee in DHST, the association is facing a deficit amounting to NOK 9,000. To address this situation, the idea has been introduced to invite

institutions to become members of NVF. Opening for institutional membership would require an amendment to the statutes, approved by the General Meeting of the Association, and cannot be effective until after the next General Meeting (2027). In the meantime, institutions can be invited to provide a monetary contribution to the association. A few institutions in Trondheim, Bergen, and Oslo have been approached so far and have responded positively to the idea of institutional membership and/or monetary support based on a suggested annual fee of approximately NOK 1,000.

The meeting discussed the premises for possible institutional membership. Eligible institutions should be limited to museums and academic institutions. The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters (Trondheim) were mentioned as relevant institutions that have not yet been approached. International examples of similar arrangements were also referred to. The following were also mentioned as possible organizations to approach: the Helsehistorisk Forum and the National Library of Norway.

The meeting was positive toward opening for institutional membership, but several questions need to be clarified, such as how such membership could benefit the institutions in question, which additional advantages could be offered, how this would affect voting rights at the General Meeting, and what the membership fee should be (NOK 1,000–1,500 suggested). It was proposed that the board should examine whether such memberships are regulated by Norwegian legislation and how similar arrangements have been made by organizations elsewhere.

In connection with membership fees, an international member asked whether PayPal could be introduced as a payment option, due to high fees for international bank transfers. The board will look into this.

The budget proposal was approved with the intention of seeking financial support to prevent a deficit over the next two-year period.

6. Discussion and resolution item: Change of wording in the English version of the statutes

The suggested change from *steering committee* to *board* was approved.

7. Information and discussion item: Participation of researchers from conflict zones in our conferences

Annette Lykknes informed the meeting about the principled discussions that arose after an Israeli colleague submitted an abstract to the conference. All present agreed that the situation requires special consideration, but opinions diverged significantly regarding what policies the association should adopt.

The phrase “researchers from conflict zones” was questioned, as it may suggest a false symmetry between parties in relevant conflicts. (For example, the reasons for excluding Russian participants would not automatically apply to Ukrainians.)

Differences of opinion were expressed. Several members argued for the principle of academic freedom and the importance of resisting censorship based solely on nationality. Others

expressed that they were in favor of exclusion policies targeting Israeli participants, as well as potential others involved in similar conflicts in the future.

The meeting agreed that including general guidelines in the statutes would be problematic, given the complexity and varied contexts of both current and future conflicts. Decisions about excluding participants or offering non-flag participation should be left to the board and the organizing committee when and if similar situations arise.

The current situation also highlights the question of whether a code of conduct or looser set of guidelines should be developed for the association. Given the differing opinions and the seriousness of the issue, the meeting discussed the possibility of establishing a task group to investigate the matter and propose recommendations. The board was given the mandate to determine how to proceed.

8. The next Norwegian History of Science Conference (2027)

Roland Wittje informed the meeting that colleagues in Oslo have taken on the responsibility of hosting the next conference. Roland Wittje and Jon Kyllingstad will lead the local committee and have already begun mobilizing other members within relevant research environments. A potential theme for the conference will be discussed by the committee and the board.

The local committee of the 2025 conference will distribute an evaluation survey, including an option to propose topics/themes for the next conference.

The dates for the next conference are not yet set; several possibilities were discussed. If held in January 2028, it would coincide with the 20th anniversary of the conference and could be an occasion to mark the anniversary.

In connection with the discussion, one member emphasized the importance of the conference and the association being open to participation by members without institutional affiliation and how that consideration should be continuously included in the language used internally and externally in the association. It was always the intention that independent scholars should be welcome, and the chair thanked for the reminder to keep this group in mind, for example when recruiting board members and formulating calls for papers for the next conference.

9. Election of the new board and an auditor

The General Meeting elected Annette Lykknes as chair, and Magnus Vollset, Roland Wittje, Hege Roll-Hansen, Solveig Siem, Dunja Blazevic, and Marie-Theres Fojuth to the board.

Vera Schwach was elected as auditor for the next two-year period.

10. Open item: Feedback on this year's conference or other input for the board

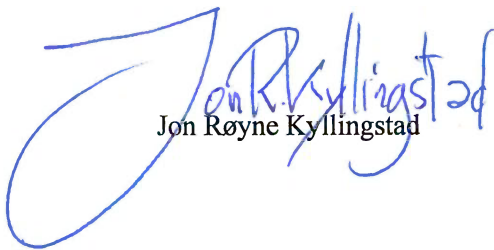
The general opinion was very positive toward the conference that was about to conclude. Members stated they appreciated the relaxing atmosphere and felt the event was perfectly

organized and communicated, proving that a lot can be accomplished without a large budget.

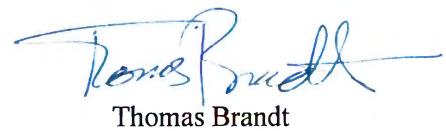
11. Any other business

No other business was discussed.

Protocol signatures



Jon Røyne Kyllingstad



Thomas Brandt

