Activity report of SULF/ Uppsala 2026

Membership Overview

Below the data are broken down by several categories and compared to the same month of the previous year.

	September 2025	September 2026	Change
Total	2050	2041	-0.4%
Doctoral students	363	363	0%
Retired members	13	2	-84,6%

Membership numbers and participation in annual meetings can be found in Figure 1.

Board Composition, Roles, and Responsibilities

The SULF/Uppsala Board for 2026 consisted of:

Chair

Linnéa Idling Vilmunen

Vice-Chair

Elena Kalmykova

Regular members: Jacob Bull, Aleksandra Halaim, László Karóly, Maria Kopsida, Sharon Rider, Saskia Rughöft, Silvia Triguis

Alternatives: Juliana Baranova, Mert Can Yilmaz, Marco Chiodaroli, Francesco Foggetti, Valentina Montesano, Nadja Visser, Caesar Al Jewari

Furthermore:

Auditors: Lars-Göran Sundell (ordinary) and Gunilla Ransbo (deputy)

The association's representatives and alternates to SDF's ombudsman meeting was Emiliano Peña Ayala and Sai Viswanadha Sastry Upadhyayula.

Election committee: Michael Papenbrock (Convener), Caitlin Mc Evoy, Kumari Ubhayasekera

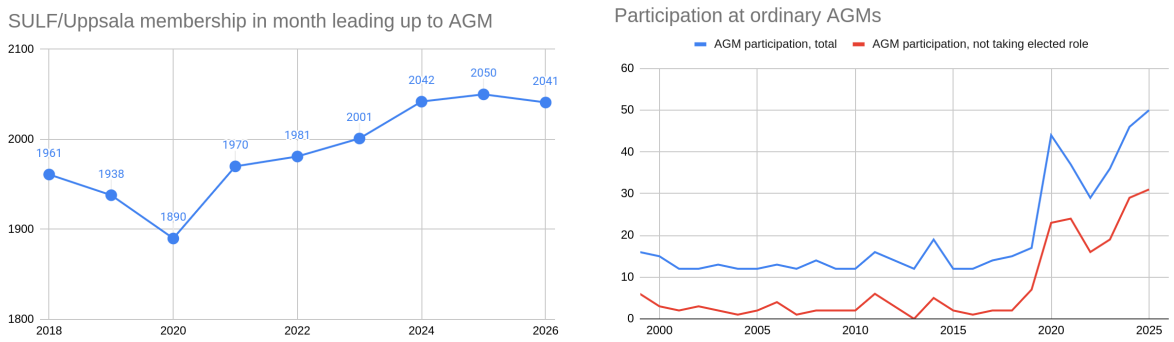


Figure 1. Membership and participation in annual meetings in recent years.

Board Activities and Strategic Focus Areas

During the year, the Board held ten board meetings. In addition, the Board organised a half-day workshop dedicated to preparations for this year's SULF Förbundsråd and strategic planning. Two representatives attended the annual national SULF Förbundsråd.

We also worked to strengthen our presence at Campus Gotland, with two Board members based in Visby. We also organised SULF Day at Campus Gotland, which resulted in the recruitment of new members from the campus.

We worked to improve our media presence, including news articles, Facebook updates, and updates to our website.

At a time when academic freedom is under threat, we have sought to establish close cooperation with other SULF local associations to foster solidarity across a broader network.

SULF/Uppsala's activities were organised into three main areas, each led by a dedicated working group:

- **Equal Opportunities** (Convenor: Silvia Triguis until May, followed by Mert Can Yilmaz)
- **Working Conditions, Work Environment and Academic Freedom** (Convenor: László Karóly)
- **Recruitment and External Communication** (Convenor: Marco Chiodaroli)

Previously, these activities had been organised into four working groups. However, when planning the work for the year, there was insufficient interest in the Professional Development

and Career working group. The Chair therefore proposed dissolving this group and redistributing its responsibilities among the remaining working groups. The Board supported the proposal and decided accordingly.
The working groups met regularly in conjunction with Board meetings to plan and implement their initiatives. In addition, the Board actively worked to improve its internal procedures and strengthen cooperation with various organisations at the University, including Saco-S, the Uppsala University Doctoral Board, the Uppsala University Postdoc Association and Junior Faculty, other SULF local associations, such as SULF Gothenburg and SULF Stockholm, and SULF's national office.

Key Activities and Events During the Year

- Board meetings: 10
- Seminars and lectures: 5
- Meetings with other associations: 3 (one visit to the University of Gothenburg, one meeting with Stockholm University, and one meeting with Umeå University)
- Presentations and participation in panels, events and symposia: 3
- Opinion articles and public appearances: 2
    - Uppsala University is threatened by a spiral of constant budget cuts
    - Reduce the administrative burden on academic staff
- Language cafés: 3
- Coffee with SULF (SULF Day): 3 (including one at Campus Gotland)
- Recruitment meetings: Numerous
- Participation in national SULF meetings: National Council meeting
- Participation in Pride parades: 2

Working Group Activities

Equal opportunities

The Equal Opportunities working group in 2026 focused on three areas: maintaining the Swedish language café initiative, organizing a webinar on discrimination in academia, and making SULF Uppsala visible through participation in the Pride parades in Stockholm and Uppsala. The group consisted of Mert Can Yilmaz, Marco Chiodaroli, Silvia Triguis, Francesco Foggetti and Valentina Montesano. In April, Mert Can Yilmaz took over the role of convener

from Silvia Triguis.
The language café initiative, started at the end of 2023 as a recurring event co-hosted with the Equal Opportunities groups of different departments at UU, continued with three events in 2026: on 25 March, 21 April and 27 October. Around 10 people joined the first café and more signed up for the April one. The March and October cafés were held at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, and the April café was co-hosted with the Equal Opportunities group of the Department of Surgical Sciences at Akademiska sjukhuset. To reach beyond our existing members, the group asked the board's Recruitment and External Communication groups for help with advertising.
On 20 May the group organized the Zoom webinar "Discrimination in academia: ethnicity, language and the limits of inclusion", a follow-up to the 2025 seminar on racism in academia. Nafiseh Mousavi (Linköping University) spoke on language, exclusion and the experiences of international faculty at Swedish universities, and Suruchi Thapar-Björkert (Uppsala University) on racialised knowledge production in the Swedish academy. During the summer and autumn, SULF Uppsala marched in Stockholm Pride on 1 August and in Uppsala Pride on 26 September under SULF Uppsala rainbow banner.

Working conditions, working environment, and academic freedom
1. An article was written and published in Universitetsläraren to bring attention to the results obtained in the previously conducted survey on administrative workload for UU employees in 2025.
https://universitetslararen.se/2026/10/01/minska-den-administrativa-bordan-for-akademisk-personal/

2. A seminar was organized on Academic freedom (a critical discussion on university, governance and hierarchy)
Date: 25 May 2026, Betty Pettersson lecture hall, Blåsenhus
Speaker: Shirin Ahlback Öberg (Professor of Political Science at Uppsala University)

Recruitment and External Communication
The working group for recruitment and external communication has organized several events to increase SULF's visibility at Uppsala University, participated in introductory events hosted by

other organizational actors, and held individual recruitment meetings with new employees throughout the year.

The group carried out the following activities:

- The group gave a presentation at a seminar organized by the IT Doctoral Council on December 4, 2025.
- A member of the group was interviewed by The Local for an article on working conditions for researchers; see https://www.thelocal.se/20260216/we-cant-take-academic-freedom-for-granted-in-sweden-so-what-needs-to-change-and-why-tlccu .
- Members of the group gave a presentation at an introductory seminar for doctoral students, organized by the Social Sciences Doctoral Council on March 26.
- The group hosted a webinar on pensions on April 10 (main speaker: SULF ombudsman Anna Ekenberg).
- A member of the working group gave a presentation at an information day organized by the Doctoral Councils for Medicine and Pharmacy on April 23.
- The group organized a seminar on new migration regulations on May 5 (keynote speaker: SULF Chief Negotiator, Robert Andersson). Pizza was served during a casual mingle after the seminar and participants also got a chance to talk with the speaker about their individual cases.
- An introductory session for new employees was held on October 6 (webinar, main speaker: SULF chief negotiator, Robert Andersson).
- The working group organized several instances of fika with the union around SULF-day (October 7, 8 and 9), including one on Campus Gotland.
- A union “happy hour,” with beer and other beverages, was organized on October 8 at Williams Pub in Uppsala.
- The group managed the SULF/Uppsala Facebook page.
- Group members followed up individually with seminar participants who expressed an interest in becoming involved with SULF.

Other Activities

The Board was formally constituted on 18 December 2025 and decided to continue the activities and priorities established by the outgoing Board, with some modifications.

Recruitment of new members has been a priority, including the establishment of joint recruitment activities with Saco-S at Uppsala University.

The Board has established close cooperation with Saco-S on individual cases and broader initiatives.

The Chair maintained regular email contact with individual members who had contacted SULF/Uppsala regarding problems they had experienced at the University. We have designed our events partly based on feedback received from our members.

The Board actively proposed topics for discussion at this year's SULF National Council meeting, and two representatives attended the meeting in Stockholm.

The Board organised and held meetings with the President of SULF, UUPA, the Doctoral Students' Association, Saco-S, and a Vice-Rector of Uppsala University.

The Board met with representatives from SULF Gothenburg.

The Board has made efforts to increase member participation in the Annual General Meetings.

The Board also continuously addresses issues relating to its internal organisation and its ability to work strategically across multiple terms of office. The former includes matters such as professional development (including training provided by SULF at the national level), multilingualism within the Board, further development of the SULF Uppsala wiki, and coordination, particularly with Saco-S.
The latter includes discussions with the Nomination Committee to identify the skills, expertise and interests that may be relevant for future Boards in relation to long-term plans and objectives.



Linnéa Idling Vilmunen, Chair SULF/Uppsala

Uppsala, 8 November 2026