

Pareto Yearly Report, 2011



This yearly report documents the activities of Pareto from February 6 2011 to March 18 2012.

A meeting to replace the old board was held on September the 18th 2011, in which current board was elected. Some seats on the board have been filled since then.

President: Fredrik Söderqvist
Vice President: Verena Kurz
Treasurer: Karl Andersson
Secretary: Eduard Moskalenko

Board members with areas of responsibility:

Information: Ellinor Fältgård-Back
Lectures: Jakob Dlohý
Contact Secretary: Sara Mikkelsen (replaced Goumin Lou in February)
Activities: Emma Jonsson (filled vacancy in February)
Social activities: Erik Örvell (filled vacancy in February)
PhD Representative: Niklas Bengtsson
Inspectors: Vacant.

Accountants: from the yearly meeting 2011 – Hannes Beckman and Tomas Guvå.

Election committee: Johan Arntyr

General Activities of Pareto in 2011

Economy

See separate attachment for the economic report.

Secretary

The secretary's tasks include writing protocols for meetings, which are then available to all members per request.

Activities for the Specific Posts:

Activities and Contact Secretary

Emma Johansson filled the vacancy in the activities post in February. The previous Contact Secretary Goumin Lou, left his post due to other obligations at the same time, and was replaced by Sara Mikkelsen. The posts have planned a "labour market event", for 29th of March at Ekonomikum, to which they have invited a few former economics students from Uppsala University to share their

experiences working in different professions. The purpose of this is to inspire students and members about future career opportunities.

Educational quality

Pareto formally took up the work on educational quality as one of its objectives as the election meeting the 18th of September 2011. The aim of the work on educational quality is to improve the economics education at the department, both in terms of organization and quality and to establish a permanent contact to exchange opinions with the department. To achieve this, on the 13th of September a meeting with interested students was held, defining the most urgent questions to work with, which turned out to be: Working on improving the informational flow between the students and the department, improve the guidance of students through the elective part of the Master Programme, increase the flexibility in the statistics education, and improve the preparation for the thesis work. These issues were discussed on the 5th of October with the coordinators of the Master Programme. As a result, a thesis introduction workshop was held on September the 26th and a library workshop in January. Another issue that came up during the semester was the one of course evaluations. The current evaluation structure can be improved and we discussed possibilities for improvement with some students at a meeting the 22nd of November. The suggestions were then discussed as well with the course coordinators and the responsible for the evaluation process at the department and some suggestions have already been implemented.

To find out more about current problems in the Master Programme, a survey for the first-year students was designed and handed out the 27th of February. The results of this survey will contribute to the future activities on educational quality.

Lectures

Pareto has under the current board hosted four lectures: the first with Fredrik Borgström from Quantify Research, who talked about health economics. The second lecture concerned topics of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Economics winners, and was held by Professor Nils Gottfries a couple of days before Christopher Sims visited Ekonomikum for his Nobel Prize lecture. The third lecture concerned international trade in theory and practice, and was held by Uppsala alumni Karl Backéus, who now works for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The fourth lecture concerned the Austrian School of Economics, and was held by Klaus Bernpainter, Senior fellow of the Von Mises institute.

Future lectures to be held this spring concern the Tobin Tax (Mikael Bask from the Uppsala Economics department), obesity and expected life income (Paul Nystedt of Linköping University), and a lecture of how political preferences are formed (Sven Oscarsson from the Uppsala Political Science department).

A survey has been made where members and visitors of lectures can express their expectations, suggest lecturers, and express their opinions about Pareto.

Information

The information- member has communicated events and other information of the board to members, and non- members via email, the website, and Facebook.

Social activities

This post has recently been filled. A pub- round will be held in March, and a case-contest is being planned for later this spring.

Tutoring

A new activity, for which there is no formal post, and is primarily organised by the President, is tutoring for undergraduate students. Lectures are being held for B-level students, where they once a week can come and get help from a tutor with problems they are facing in economics. This presents an opportunity to recruit new members to Pareto, and creates goodwill with the department, who is already running a mentor-programme for A-level students. A possibility is to merge these in the future.

Closing remarks

The main goal of the second board of Pareto has been to find new members and active members to fill the many roles left vacant after the last board. I believe we have succeeded to some degree, especially in reaching out to students not studying at the master level.

Although the new board took some time to get started, we have managed to host some appreciated events for our members, which we will be able to do more of this spring, as posts more focused on events have been filled.

Pareto has also added new activities and responsibilities, primarily aimed at improving the quality of education received at the economics department.

We at Pareto would like to thank everyone who comes to our activities, help us with surveys, tutoring and all other activities that make studying economics in Uppsala a little better!

Fredrik Söderqvist

President (Ordförande) Pareto samhällseconomiska förening, 2011-2012.