

# Minutes - DS Board Meeting

## #VT15-4 2015-05-13

Participant list is attached.

§1. Opening of meeting: Check.

§2. Election of meeting officials: Check.

- a. Chair – Oskar Thulin.
- b. Secretary – Alexandra Bergman
- c. Adopt the minutes – Maria Ekström.

§3. Approval of Agenda: Check.

§4. Meeting notice in due order: Check.

§5. Minutes from previous meeting: Approved.

§6. Short news and information from the Chair:

- a. Outreach to departments – Latest news

We want to initiate local phd-councils at all departments. Signals and systems management are supporting the idea – but don't want to select representatives. Have discussed a meeting with the PhD students supported by the department management as a way forward to create a PhD student council that is constituted by the PhD students themselves. They currently have a local PhD-student representative selected by the "department council". We will try to get a S2 member to the DS board for next year that can help in this matter.

- b. PhD-student representative in KUL – per capsulum decision – future strategy:

The administration of the KUL conference has asked us to approve a PhD student for the council committee. A representative should generally be chosen by us. KUL is not our core business to get involved in. We expect him to report to us if there is anything of relevance for us PhD-students. The decision goes (Swedish): *"Doktorandsektionens styrelse godtar Eriks kandidatur som doktorandrepresentant för programkommittén för KUL. Godkännandet kommer med bivillkoret att vederbörande rapporterar till doktorandsektionen på ett adekvat sätt både i samband med programkommitténs sammanträden såväl som i diskussionspunkter i allmänhet där doktoranderna vid Chalmers berörs."*

The PhD student's name is Erik Sterner. He argued his way into the committee. KUL didn't see the need before this. Erik is combining a teaching education with doctoral studies at Chalmers and is seen to be a good candidate to represent PhD students in this matter.

It is an issue that Chalmers officials appoints a representative for PhD-students without checking with us – PhD student representatives should always be selected by the students (DS/local councils) since we are the organization selected by the

PhD students to represent them. DS aim to push Chalmers research management to tell all instances that need/should have PhD-representatives should turn to DS/local PhD council directly. Dependent on what is appropriate.

- c. Review of the board's work
  - i. Similar to most boards, it is appropriate to do an internal review of the board's work and working procedures. Oskar will send out an email with a document we can all fill in, rating of how the board has worked. Don't be afraid to speak up. All are expected to fill in this form and it will be handled anonymously. This is an internal process for the board in order to work better together and will not be published outside the board. Will lead to an internal summary that will be shared with the board members.
- d. Strategic and Long term questions to address for next year
  - i. If there is anything you think DS should address and work with next year – please inform Oskar with an email.
  - ii. Oskar – will look into IT tool where we can store and edit documents and have discussion. In order to work more efficient. Comment: make sure it works on all platforms!

Have been addressed that the current mailing board steals too much time. A new system is aimed to ease this.

- iii. Individual study plan – discuss further how it can be used, take it a step further, improve to make it more useful for all. If you don't have a problem you don't really see the need, but really good IF a problem occurs, especially between supervisor and student.

In FUN – they will probably change the study plan – it is good if we come with input! Used as a tool for evaluating research education. The change is addressed centrally – but good that we have it on our agenda to follow up. It is a question mark how Chalmers will be able to make “it happen” in all departments (all departments are now updating their own system, etc...). In FUN – suggested to have a central system valid for all departments, and database where all are stored. It should be a generic system.

#### §7. Financial and economic update

- a. Some committees have started late, will take more money from the budget, but looks good so far. 500 SEK fee due to late payment – decided to be covered by DS since it was an honest mistake. Financials not done since the year has not ended, but would be good to distribute a document where it states how many hours +- we currently are per activity.

#### §8. Key topics from committees

- a. AJK (Maria) – accessibility discussions. If something happens due to lack of accessibility Chalmers can be fined. Chalmers campuses

have to change. Maybe good to start talking about it in the department to raise awareness that these changes has to (and will) be made.

- b. Chalmers AB Board (Oskar) – past two meetings, not really any research education questions. Venture creations – 500 MSEK to get more venture creation projects. All PhD-students that want experience in entrepreneurship should be able to take advantage of this as well. The money is still not perfectly budgeted - some freedom. Oskar will continue to push for this over Chalmers.

Ownership of the buildings in Chalmers Fastigheter (CF) was discussed. It was moved to the foundation. CF will focus on the operative part.

We will be more involved in Sahlgrenska Science Park, next to Johanneberg- and Lindholmen Science Park.

- c. Chalmers Research Fund (Matteo) – nothing new.
- d. Charm (Alexandra and Ronja) – nothing new.
- e. DS homepage (Fatemeh) – Peak in viewage of homepage when supervisor of the year (150 views).

Addition of support for PhD-students tab. “Feel good” is now added next to the DOMB text. Is it possible to have more information about DOMB on the homepage? It is not obvious for other people. Will address this in future.

How does it become more clear what we do? We will look into including information about the different committees that we are representatives in – maybe one two sentences on each.

Document tab is not up-to-date all the time. Will be addressed before GA.

Let Fatemeh know if there is news to be added.

Tell PhD-councils to get administrative rights on own local PhD student councils on Insidan if they do not have that already!

If there is any information about meetings/events relevant to PhD-students, tell Fatemeh and she will post it on Webpage/FB.

- f. SFS-DK (Ragnar) – meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> with SFS-DK ÖKÅ remiss-svar. Criticizes design of the Individual study plan review.

From SFS-DK: not all Universities have good rules for “PhD-student representation”. Do we have suggestions on how to fund such activities? Argue Department duty? → Can be rejected. Sideline activity? One can argue that it is union-work (cannot be rejected by employer). However – even if it is formally ok – it still creates friction. Think about this.

- g. Fakultetsrådet (Alexandra) – Mainly discussions about the new decisions taken by Chalmers President in April regarding "New allocation model of department funds". One thing that could be relevant for PhD-students is the alterations in future career options at Chalmers:

The overall decision guarantee faculty positions to be funded to 75% from departmental funds. This restricts how many faculty positions that are available at Chalmers in total. Due to this limitation, and the large proportion of private funding at Chalmers (approximately 2/3), there is a need for senior research positions that are not part of the faculty. Therefore, it has been decided that special employment tracks as specialists/researchers shall be available. They will pretty much correspond, on experience basis, to current faculty positions, but they have to be part of a larger research group. Name and specifications will be presented in future decisions. To summarize – it will be harder to enter into the faculty through the conventional track from assistant to associate professor, but senior positions will be available.

Part of departmental funding that is based on key performance indicators is in new decision set to be 20% upon graduated PhD-students – a fact that might pose a threat to some of the students that get a main supervisor that has too many students. However, in current/old system there is still an incentive to do the same.

- h. SACO (Eskil) – Related to Faculty council-discussions about DI-project. Problem: new system make it harder to "get in to" faculty – many departments/groups went around the system and before decision was taken, new hires went in as assistant professors – booked for permanent positions in the next coming years.

Unavoidable that there is no good structure on the DI-project yet: neither old or new system has clear definitions - transition period. Somebody should take on the task to clarify what is actually decided so far. Eskil will look into the details more closely since this is something he should do anyway to keep up with the discussions in SACO.

- i. FUN (Oskar) – Treating your cited article authors well: mail the authors that are most "affected". Now added into the "career planning".

Have discussed challenge in finding grading committee – e.g. professors asking their "buddies" to step in – if they cannot say no to being on the committee, could they really say no to graduating the student? Trying to make straight rules on who could be opponent/grading committee. This will support vice head of departments.

Copyrights – The cover section called kappa's should be on CPL. It has been discussed if more can be included.

Common homepage for the PhD-student courses – work in progress. Also a homepage for all GTS-courses.

Math department mention that they could create generic PhD classes in math.

Contract period. Seems to go over to:  $1+2+(1+x)$  years. In Oskar's department they want to have a "schablon" system. Fine, if it is fair and one can account for the hours one do. Feed-forward loop would be good in that case (should be mandatory). The employment time change is only going to be implemented for new students. On FFF-page: very clear agreement on what duties should account for how many hours. Default values are necessary in order to make budget, but yes, feedback of actual values should be stressed. Will have to monitor this.

- j. Introduction days (Alberto) – Francesco made the last presentation, upgraded, interactive to stay in mind of the students – video.

No DOMB was involved during the presentation – no time scheduled for him. No one contacted him. Address this to the person responsible for the introduction day – always invite the DOMB!

- k. Library Council and Repub (Erik) – how to publish the PhD-thesis on CPL. The last year only 65% was published on CPL. People who leaves are not contactable, cannot be published. Should be an easy fix – like when sending the document to repro-service, tick a box.

Web of Science – base for the money given out based on "performance". Not all publish here – problem.

- l. Newsletter – decided to keep this to the mailing thread. Should be in time before GA.
- m. Research misconduct (Matteo) – decided to keep this short here, one case but no PhD-students involved directly.
- n. Satisfaction in PhD-studies (Virginia) – trial presentation (sent as email) at FFF and Shipping and Management technology, as lunch seminar, interactive.
- o. Supervisor of year (Alberto) – interview of the winner, will go into newsletter.

#### §9. Next year's board

- a. Lack of people in election committee – should **collect** candidates for the GA to elect upon. Check the statues. Eskil, Matteo, Naghmeh together with Ragnar will do this.
- b. Current list presentation:
  - i. Oskar is interested in continuing on in chair.

- ii. Virginia will step down from vice chair – will continue on as a board member if nobody else is interested (but might not be able to take a full year)
- iii. Maria is interested in taking over a vice chair
- iv. Erik steps down – three names available in his place.
- v. SMT – we have not found anybody new from there yet.
- vi. Emma from CEE found Jonas Sundell (2<sup>nd</sup> year).
- vii. TME – problem due to maternal leave (august-jan), nobody wanted to take it on from the department. Will continue, the board decided to work around it.
- viii. Alexandra steps down – Linnea Qvirist steps up (also part of PhD-student council).
- ix. S2 (promising), SMT (problem)
- x. Also, Virginia, Eskil, Ronja and Alberto needs to find substitutes from next year, since they will enter their last year and needs to focus on their studies – will be more inactive in the board.

§10. New PhD-student representative in KUL visit - Erik Sterner,  
 a. PhD student at energy and environment, looking into climate change, gone down to half time, other time, taking master program pedagogics and leadership. Has been attending the pedagogic conferences KUL for five years – good place to exchange ideas, improve our education. It has apparently not been obvious for the KUL-committee that PhD-students should be there – we do more or less half of the teaching is done by us! Annual conference in January. We should really promote this to the PhD-students. Workshops, “round-the-table-discussions”. Only had one meeting so far. Will keep us updated.

§11. Discussion point: “How to support PhD students in need of help”

§12. Other issues –

- a. Maria: Chalmers-survey – regarding psychological/environmental problems, PhD-students and administrators are the ones that have the most problems (and are the worst off when they come for help). What will they do about it? “It is under investigation”. Has probably not changed since last year.
- b. They really want us to give comments on the GTS courses – good and bad. Forward to Ronja or Oskar.

§13. Meeting was closed.

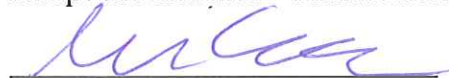
Chair - Oskar Thulin:



Secretary – Alexandra Bergman:









Adopt the minutes – Maria Ekström:



# Attendance list

DS Board Meeting #VT15-4, 2015-05-13

Name	Department	Signature
Oskar Thulin	AM	
Virginia Claudio	AP	Virginia Claudio
Ronja Thies	FP	Thies
Erik Lindskog	PPD	Erik Lindskog
Toni Gutknecht	K	
Eskil Varenius	ESS	Eskil Varenius
Naghmeh Deilami	TME	Naghmeh Deilami
Ragnar Larusson	AM	Ragnar Larusson
Francesco Baldi	SMT	Francesco Baldi
Emma Qingnan Zhang	CEE	Emma Qingnan Zhang
Matteo Moleni	MW	
Maria Ekström	MC2	
Alexandra Bergman	B	
Fatemeh Ayatollahi	CSE	
Dinesh Mallipeddi	MMT	Dinesh
Ceena Joseph	MMT	Ceena Joseph
Alberto Alamia	EE	