

DS – Board Meeting 2013.09.26

Time: Thursday 26th of September 2013. 09:00 – 12:00

Location: 2.205 Grupprum 3, Student Union Building.

Present:

Board Members:

See attached list.

Guests:

Jana Sochor, Postdoc at Department of Product & Production Development, Chalmers.

Cecilia Svennberg, head of Educational Affairs

§1. Opening of meeting.

Francesco Mazzotta, DS chairman opens the meeting.

§2. Election of meeting officials.

Francesco was elected chair of the meeting, Ragnar Larusson secretary of the meeting and Nojan Najafi and Ronja Thies as the sealers of the minutes.

§3. Approval of agenda.

The agenda was approved without changes.

§4. Meeting notice in due order.

The meeting notice was considered in due order.

§5. Minutes from previous meetings

This was the first board meeting 2013/2014. No previous minutes to review.

§6. Plan of operations 2013/2014

Francesco went through the OP and some improvements will be made. The improvements address the following:

Clear and transparent rules for PhD studies

Raise awareness of the Chalmers rules, which state that a PhD student can get a raise after 50% of PhD studies or when licentiate degree is finished.

Satisfaction in PhD studies

Rephrase statement in a way so that the focus is shifted from the actual survey to

the objective itself; that is, the satisfaction in PhD studies.

During the OP discussions several issues were also pointed out:

DS needs to find out how to interact with bodies to solve the “credit-monitoring” problem, the problem of PhD students not being able to print out records and registering for courses.

The FFF (Physic PhD student Association) could push for this too.

Regarding Non-Swedish speakers access to information: Some members of the board express their opinion that there is not enough support at Chalmers for students to learn Swedish. This could be solved with providing more courses.

Regarding feedback mechanism towards the DS board: This topic was briefly discussed; now there exists two main mechanisms. Feedback on a personal level with a department representative and at the general assemblies.

The possibility for having PhD student meetings on a department level was mentioned. This is considered up to each department and not to do with DS.

§7. Financial and Economical Update.

Ronja presented the financial status and the budget for next year. There is a small budget for non-core activities. There were suggestions about holding a seminar on some general PhD student related topic but nothing was decided. Francesco will present some ideas on next meeting about how this money could be spent. *Other board members can write their own suggestions to Francesco.*

The importance of not returning a budget deficit this year was stressed.

§8. (§10 on agenda switch to §8) Key topics from committees

Introduction day: The next introduction day is to be held on November 6th

Chalmers Board: Two meetings have been held so far. Francesco will write a report.

AJK: One meeting so far, a summary is available on the Box.

Faculty Board: One meeting so far, nothing special to report.

FUN: First meeting will be on the 2nd of November. Our representative will discuss the PhD students' problem with not being able to register for courses directly, and the issue of students finishing Licentiate late.

Supervisor of the year: Work will start in October/November.

CHARM: A new material for the DS stand on CHARM is needed.

Library council: First meeting canceled. New meeting next month.

SFS-DK: Jana Sochor spoke about that later in the meeting.

Research fund and research misconduct: Nothing to report.

Webpage: Everything on track.

Accounting: See §7.

SACO: One meeting so far, our representative could not attend.
DS will push for a flat percentage rate increase in salary for all PhD students; this was discussed and members on this DS board meeting did not object.

§8. Introduction to SFS-DK.

Jana Sochor is a Postdoc at Department of Product & Production Development, who finished her PhD at KTH three months ago. At KTH she was highly involved in their PhD student board. She was involved both at school, and organizational level, last year she was chairperson. She is now a rep in SFS-DK, the national PhD student council, which is a part of SFS (The Swedish National Union of Students, www.sfs.se).

Jana spoke in general about the role of SFS-DK.

SFS-DK recently had a meeting; there were three points they decided to focus on:

Establish connection network between unions. (second priority)

Jana is responsible for that.

Push for PhD employment (first priority)

Utbildningsbidrag is an issue (almost all universities are phasing that out)

Scholarships do exist but are rare.

Gather data about how many students are supported through utbildningsbidrag or scholarships.

Push for career path opportunity (third priority)

Modernization of the role of the PhD student.

Introduce courses for generic skills.

Get discussions going with industries about this topic.

Extra point: Push for the visa issue.

Foreign PhD students outside of EU have to renew their visa every six months and their stay does not count towards permanent residency.

A SFS-DK representative from KTH went to an IVA seminar

(<http://www.iva.se/en/About-IVA/IVA-in-Brief/>)

IVA and DK are going to write an article about this problem.

Other comments Jana had:

There is not much integration of DK into SFS,

There is a focus difference between the undergrads and the grads (not much shared interest).

There is also the issue of getting DK documents on the webpage. (As well as translating)

Chalmers DS has no representative currently on the SFS-DK board.

There is a spot opening soon and DS will send in an application.

If there are any question about this issue you can contact either Jana

(jana.sochor@chalmers.se) or Ragnar (ragnarl@chalmers.se)

§9. Introduction to the Student Union (SU)

Cecilia Svennberg, head of Educational Affairs of the SU and DS's contact to the SU, introduced the SU and spoke about its role and structure. The handout she brought with her explaining the structure of the SU is attached to the minutes. Cecilia works regularly with head of the departments at Chalmers. She is as well in FUN and would like to collaborate with DS there, perhaps a short meeting with the DS representative before FUN meetings.

She expressed an interest about hearing from DS what could/should be communicated in English within the SU (Documents and web content).

She also told us about the opportunity at the SU to apply for special funding for specific projects (on the order of 10 to 15 thousand SEK). Usually these grants do not cover salaries but that could be motivated however.

DS can contact Cecilia through her email uo@chs.chalmers.se

§10. Other issues

FFF (physics student board): They have seminars for physics students on various topics.

We can link stuff between Chalmers webpage and DS. (Eskil has the power)

If DS members want to apply for money for seminars or the survey, send it first to Francesco.

Nojan will contact CIRC (Chalmers International Reception Committee) . New PhD students could have the possibility to participate in CIRC activities.

§11. Meeting was closed

4/11-2013, Göteborg

Francesco Mazzotta, DS chairman.

Date:

Ragnar Lárusson

Ragnar Lárusson, secretary.

Date: 4/11-2013

Nojan Najafi, sealer of minutes.

Nojan Najafi, sealer of minutes.

Date: 7/11 - 2013, Göteborg

11/11-2013 Göteborg Thies

Ronja Thies, sealer of minutes.

Dates:

Attendance DS Board Meeting 2013-08-06²⁶

Name	Department
Rouja Thies	FF
Patrick Moldenhauer	EE
Erik Lindskog	PPU
David Gustafsson	MCZ
Amir Malakizadi	MMT
MATTEO MOLTENI	MV
Mohammad Reza Shoaee	S2
RATET KRISHNAN	S2
Nojan Najati	TME
Ragnar Larsson	AM
Es kil Varenus	ESS
Emma Zhang	Vol
FRANCESCO MAZZOTTA	AP