

# Minutes

## ~~Agenda~~, DS Board Meeting 2014-01-16

**Time:** 13:00-16:00

**Place:** 2.205 Grupprum 3, Student Union Building, Johanneberg

**Attendees:** Matteo Molteni, David Gustafsson, Stig Anton Nielsen, Gatemeh Ayatollahi, Viktor Andersson, Ragnar Larusson, Eskil Varenius, Francesco Mazzotta, Ronja Thies, Francesco Baldi

### *1. Opening the meeting*

### *2. Election of meeting officials*

- Francesco Mazzotta was elected chairman
- Francesco Baldi was elected secretary
- Ronja Thies was elected to adopt the minutes

### *3. Approval of the agenda*

The agenda was approved. Additional point added to the agenda was a discussion about the low attendance to the last DS General Assembly.

### *4. Meeting notice in due order*

The agenda was sent out on the 2014-01-09, one week before the meeting, and is therefore in due order.

### *5. Minutes from previous meetings*

Minutes from previous meetings (2013-11-20 and 2013-12-09) were approved.

### *6. Key topics from the committees*

#### **6.1 Introduction days**

Nothing to communicate.

#### **6.2 Chalmers board (Rapporteur: Francesco M.)**

One meeting has been held since last time. Discussions continued on previous points, in particular

- Safety of the IT infrastructure: a consultant was hired on this matter.

- Infrastructure: The responsibility for the purchase of new infrastructure is going to be moved more towards central Chalmers.
- Researcher financing: There is ongoing discussion to increase the percentage of the salary of researchers that is paid by Chalmers (and not by own financing)

### **6.3 AJK (Ronja)**

- New proposal of an "introduction to Chalmers" day, independent from the employment position, for all new employees, which is supposed to deal with practical matters. Expected to happen twice a year.
- Chalmers was proposed to become a sponsor to the West Pride. The option of giving support from the DS board to this initiative was discussed. It was suggested to go through the existing individual organizations at Chalmers.
- There is new information about Master Suppression Techniques (a video recorded at Chalmers). They will be uploaded on Insidan. DS will spread the information.
- Proposals about improving bike parking and showers for employees at the campus. Adding roofs to existing parking place was proposed. Showers are enough as they are. Discussion about a dry room.
- Alcohol consumption review: results were quite high, both for weekly and daily consumption. Results refer to undergraduate students.
- NOTE: a summary of last AJK meeting is available on Box.

### **6.4 Faculty Council (Stig Anton)**

- A comparison between university rankings has been performed. Chalmers is in a slightly lower position compared to previous years. KTH is improving, but they have an employee specifically hired for dealing with rankings.
- Departmental distribution model is being revised.
- Discussion about salary contribution from Chalmers. People do not come when they know they have to find their own financing.
- Discussion about MOOCs. Ongoing.

### **6.5 FUN (Ronja and David)**

- Ongoing work on update of Insidan has been discussed. A draft was proposed and evaluated
- SMT Study director proposed a tool for follow up management. It allows the overview of courses, tools about planning for new and old PhD students, and the setting of milestones. It was welcomed positively by FUN.
- A tool for the introduction of new PhD students to the department and research was proposed from applied physics department. It consists in assigning each student a 6-months project right after they start, which gives them the opportunity to get involved into department activity and to get started in their area. After 8.5 months there is a follow up. Comments were mixed, but in general positive
- An evaluation sheet to be used as support for the review of PhDs from supervisors has been developed at Applied Physics. It consists on a list of qualities/aspects in which the student is evaluated on a scale. The evaluation is performed both by the supervisors and the student independently, so that they can confront on the different evaluations and expectations. The DS

board reacted positively to the document, and the decision was taken to spread it further to all PhD students.

- The development of a new course for supervisors was discussed. The old one was taken by 97% of all supervisors. The new one, as far is now, is not expected to be compulsory. There was a discussion in DS on how to make it become so. This will be pushed forward in future discussions.
- Arbetsordningen. A draft of the new AO was discussed in FUN. Ronja and David will have a separate meeting with Affe and Ulrika Josefsson, after that meeting the draft will be sent to the DS members, so that they can check the suggested changes and make comments. The present suggested formulations were discussed. Main points which are subject to change are:
  - o procedure around licentiate
  - o conditions for dismissal of a PhD student
  - o change of supervisor.

The general trend of suggestions (not from DS) is to clarify the procedure around licentiate, to find working routines for dismissal of PhD students and to restrict the right to change of supervisor. DS is in favor of clarifications but sees problems with the protection of the PhD student.

- NOTE: Summary of the meeting are available on Box.

#### **6.6 Supervisor of the year (Francesco M.)**

- One nomination has come to Francesco. More are expected. The process is ongoing.

#### **6.7 CHARM (Ronja)**

- CHARM is going to be on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of February. There is some new material (new flyers, pens and candies). Those who want to volunteer for it are welcome.

#### **6.8 REPUB**

Nothing to communicate

#### **6.9 National PhD (Ragnar)**

Next meeting is on 2014-01-17. Main discussions will be about the resident permit for foreign students, internal communication in the council, and a survey about the type of contracts that PhD student have in different Swedish universities. The question about whether the 5 years of PhD count for getting Swedish citizenship count or not was asked. More information will come.

#### **6.10 Research misconduct**

Nothing to communicate.

#### **6.11 SACO**

- Chalmers employees are overloaded.
- There is an overhead issue.
- There is a discussion ongoing about salaries (but not for PhDs).

#### **6.12 Webpage**

Nothing to communicate.

### *7. Employee survey (Ronja)*

There is the possibility for being involved in the Chalmers survey. The conditions that Ronja set are that

- One of us should have direct access to results.
- Questions should also be in English.
- We should be able to propose own questions.

Wishes are

- Error bars for the statistical results.
- The possibility to see cross correlations between different questions.

The possibility to join exists, they want this to happen, and they get a very high response rate (over 50% compared to the 20% of the DS guild survey). The problem that, even when they answer, most of PhD students do not dare to complain, was discussed. The possibility of having more clear statements about the anonymity of the results was proposed. The fact that most people perceive these surveys as pointless was also discussed. There will be work for having a better communication of how results have been used to improve work conditions.

### *8. Election committee (Francesco M.)*

A group of DS board members will make sure that next year's guild is as complete as possible. Applications for taking part to this group are open; if you are interested, send an e-mail to Francesco M.

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### *9. Operations agreement with the Student Union (Francesco M.)*

Every section of the Student Union (SU) has an agreement with the SU, but DS. There are discussions about having one. Francesco went through the points of such agreement:

- SU membership fee is collected by the SU, and DS is not allowed to ask for more to students.
- SU supports the DS.
- SU can have a representative at our meetings.
- In case of big accidents SU is the contact for the press.
- DS has to follow SU sections regulations.
- DS has the right to use SU name.
- DS statute should not conflict with SU statute.
- The DS general assembly must happen once a year, and is the highest discussion body in the DS guild. Under well defined conditions special general assembly can be required.
- DS role is to check the quality of PhD studies at Chalmers.

10. Closure of the meeting



Francesco Mazzotta, ~~Chairman~~ Chairman



Francesco Baldi, Secretary



(6.2.2014)

Ronja Thies, Sealer of minutes

