

# Minutes – DS General Assembly #VT14

## 2014-05-15

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**Time:** 12:00-13:00

**Location:** HC1, Hörsalsvägen, Johanneberg

**Attending:** See the attached list.

**Number of pages:** 3

**Attachments:** Attendance list, presentation used through the General Assembly.

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### **§1. Opening of the meeting**

Francesco Mazzotta declared the meeting open.

### **§2. Election of meeting officials**

Francesco Mazzotta was elected chairman. Ronja Thies was elected secretary and Ragnar Larusson was elected sealer of the minutes.

### **§3. Approval of electoral register**

The electoral register was approved. List of attendees is attached.

### **§4. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved. No points were added.

### **§5. Meeting notice in due order**

It was approved that the meeting notice and agenda were in due order.

### **§6. Minutes from the previous meeting**

The minutes from the previous General Assembly (2013-12-09) were approved.

### **§7. Annual report and financial statement DS board 2012-2013**

The annual report and statement from the auditor were presented in the previous General Assembly. The missing financial statement was presented, see the attachment (slides 9-11). During the period 2012-07-01 -

2013-06-30 DS had revenues of 352498,65 SEK and costs of 329238,95 SEK, thus the result of that period is a plus of 23259,70.

It was decided that the board of 2012-2013 is free from liability.

#### **§8. Election of the DS board 2014-2015**

A summary of candidates for the board was presented, see slide 14 in the attachment. Oskar Thulin, candidate for chair of the board, introduced himself shortly. Virginia Claudio, candidate for vice-chair of the board could not be present and presented herself through slide 15 in the attachment. The position of auditor was still open and the question for candidates was raised. Amirreza Movaghar proposed himself, having several years of experience in accounting.

All candidates were elected to the board of 2014-2015.

#### **§9. Reports on current issues**

##### *New rules of procedure for graduate education (arbetsordning för forskarutbildning)*

There has been a major revision of the rules of procedure for graduate education. DS has put the new document (only in Swedish) together with an unofficial translation on its webpage (<http://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/2014/04/newrules/>). An official translation is in progress at Chalmers. The major areas changing are the licentiate seminar, the change of supervisor and the termination of education. DS has worked hard to make sure that point of view of the PhD students was presented and included in the new version of the document. However, the final decision does not lie with DS but with the Vice-Rector for Research Education. Two major changes were illustrated in more detail, see attachment:

- Licentiate seminar: slides 18 - 19
- Change of supervisor: slides 20 - 21

##### *Visa for non-EU PhD students*

This is an issues which DS has raised 3 years ago to SFS-DK (swedish doktoral student council), and has been monitored since then. There have been a lot of initiatives by different groups of students lately and even media coverage by newspaper and radio. The government has proposed a bill to the parliament and the voting is planned on it 17th of June 2014. The main point of the bill was shown in slide 23 with an unofficial translation.

##### *Outcome of the DS survey*

In June 2013 DS performed a survey among its members in order to find out which parts of their education need to be improved, i.e. to identify structural problems. The report by the working group

analyzing the report is available on the DS webpage

(<http://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/documents/2014/05/report-activities-findings-workgroup-satisfaction-phd-studies.pdf>). Parts of the results were presented by Nojan Najafi, see slides 25 – 34.

#### **§10. Other issues**


The PhD pub open to all PhD students in Gothenburg was advertised ( slide 37).

#### **§11. Closing of the meeting**


Francesco Mazzotta declared the meeting closed.



Francesco Mazzotta (Chairman)



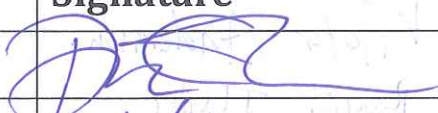
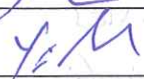
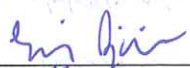
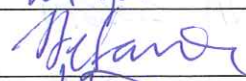

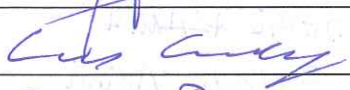

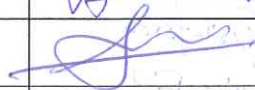
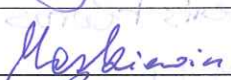
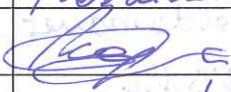
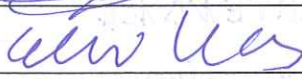
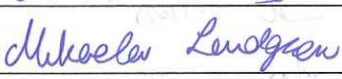
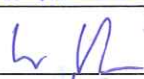
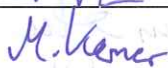
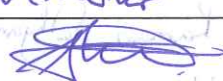


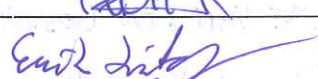
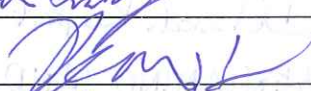
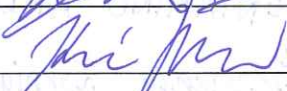
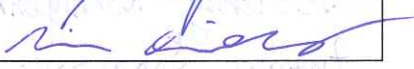
Ronja Thies (Secretary)



Ragnar Larusson (Sealer of the minutes)



## Attendance list – Genral Assembly 2014-05-15

Name	Department	Signature
Anne Clerud	TME	
YASHAR MANSOORI	TME	
Sima Ajdari	EOM	
Stefania Ask Gardasdottrir	EOM	
Isabel Ordoñez	PPD	
Lars Lundborg	MCZ	
Alexandre Bergman	KB	
Soheil Soltani	KB	
Anne Markkaria	WET	
Raquel Lieban	WET	
Eskil Varenius	ESS	
Mikaela Lindgren	KB	
Hampus Linander	FP	
Manfred Kerner	AP/KMF	
Nicolas Espinoza	Eefebrik	
Alexandra Paul	KB	
Bart van Delft	CSE	
Erik Lindskog	PPD	
Hamid Ebadi	CSE	
Karin Jonsson	KB	
Simon Lindberg	FP	

## Attendance list – Genral Assembly 2014-05-15

Name	Department	Signature
Victor Andersson	E & E	Victor
Rouja Thies	FE	Rouja
Nojan Najati	TME	Nojan
CEENA JOSEPH	MOT	Cumple
Dinesh Mallipeddi	MOT	D. D. Dinesh
ALBERTO ALAMIA	FOM	Alberto
Golnar Azimi	KB	Golnar
David Gustafsson	MC2	David
Dimosthenis Floros	<del>MAT</del> Applied Mechanics	Dimosthenis
Patrick Moldenhauer	E & E	P. Moldenhauer
A. LAUTENBACH	CSE	A. Lautenbach
Lu Sun	KB	Lu Sun
Shijun Xu	KB	Shijun Xu
Weizhen Xu	KB	Weizhen Xu
Sankar Raman Sathyanarayana	MC2	Sankar
Anh Hoang	MOT	Anh
Pooya Tabib Zadeh	AP	Pooya Tabib Zadeh
MAXIME VAN DEN BOSSCHE	AP	Maxime Van den Bossche
Deborah Rupert	AP	Deborah
BENIAMINO IANDOLO	AP	Beniamino
Yevgeniy Korniyenko	MC2	Yevgeniy
Zuzana Šabartová	MV	Šabartová



# General Assembly DS

2014-05-15

## Election of meeting officials

- Chairman
- Secretary
- Someone to adopt the minutes

# Approval of the electoral register

Make sure you sign the attendance list that is passing around

## Approval of the agenda

Other issues?

## Meeting notice in due order

The final notice and documents were sent to the members 2 weeks before the meeting

## Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes have been available on our website in the Documents section

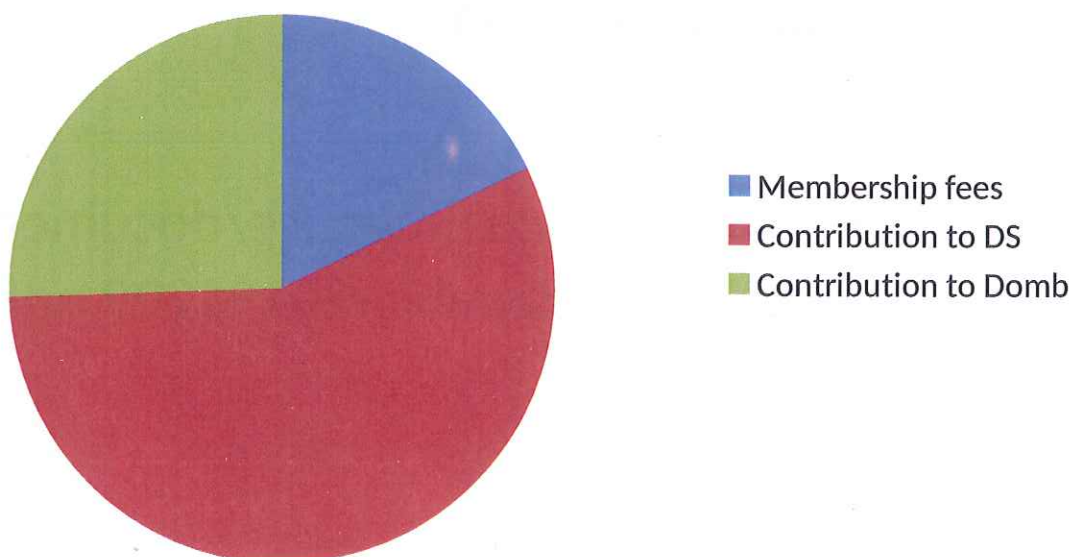
<http://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/documents/2013/12/ds-general-assembly-20131209.pdf>

# Annual report and financial statement DS board 2012-13

Decision of freedom from liability for the last  
year's board

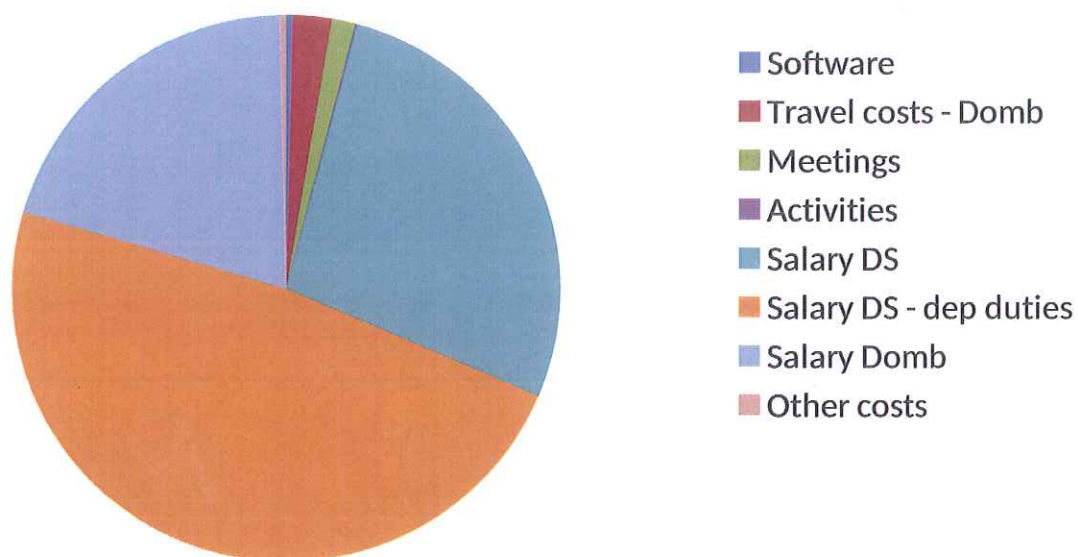
## Financial summary 2012-13

**Revenues - Total of 352498,65 kr**



# Financial summary 2012-13

Costs - Total of 329238,95 kr



# Financial summary 2012-13

Revenues 352498,65

Costs 329238,95

Result 23259,70

# Annual report and financial statement DS board 2012-13

Decision of freedom from liability for the last  
year's board

## Election of DS board 2104-15

Name	Department	Position
Oskar Thulin	AM	Chairman
Virginia Claudio	AP	Vice Chairman
Ronja Thies	FP	Member
Erik Lindskog	PPD	Member
Karin Jonsson	KB	Member
Eskil Varenius	ESS	Member
Nojan Najafi	TME	Member
Ragnar Larusson	AM	Member
Francesco Baldi	SMT	Member
Emma Qingnan Zhang	CEE	Member
Matteo Molteni	MV	Member
Maria Ekström	MC2	Member
Alexandra Bergman	KB	Member
Fatemeh Ayatollahi	CSE	Member
Dinesh Mallipeddi	MMT	Member
Ceena Joseph	MMT	Member
Alberto Alamia	EE	Member

## Virginia Claudio

[virginia.claudio@chalmers.se](mailto:virginia.claudio@chalmers.se)

PhD student @ Applied Physics (TF)  
Member of the Graduate Studies Group @ TF



Over the past years I have been actively discussing issues ranging from Graduate Studies education to work environment and equal opportunities.

I've been following the work of DS (and FFF).

I'm attentive to Chalmers policies and dynamics, and I'm interested in PhD students scientific and professional development.

I believe that each part of the whole counts in reaching work/educational goals, safe-guarding rights and promoting merit based opportunities.

# Election of DS board 2104-15

- Advisor?

## New rules of procedure for the graduate education

The document has gone through major revision and it has a strong impact on important topics like licentiate seminar, termination of the doctoral studies and change of supervisor.

## Licentiate seminar

The individual study plan should be defined in such a way that the PhD student, in normal cases, should reach the licentiate level after 50% of the PhD time.

## Licentiate seminar

The individual study plan should be defined in such a way that the PhD student, in normal cases, should reach the licentiate level after 50% of the PhD time.

A reminder about the licentiate seminar will be sent to the PhD student, the study rector and the main supervisor after 2 years and 6 months.

# Change of supervisor

New formulation:

”En doktorand som begär handledarbyte, och bedöms ha skäl till byte, ska få byte eller annan likvärdig åtgärd beviljat.” (A doctoral student who requests the change of supervisor, and is proven to have grounds to it, should have the change or another equivalent correction granted).

## Visa for non-EU PhD students

A bill has been proposed by the government to the parliament to tackle this issue and it will be voted on the 17th of June.

# Visa for non-EU PhD students

Directly from the bill: Ett permanent uppehållstillstånd får beviljas en utlänning som i sammanlagt fyra år under de senaste sju åren har haft uppehållstillstånd för studier som avser utbildning på forskarnivå.

(A permanent residence permit may be granted to an alien who for four years during the last seven years has had a residence permit for studies in doctoral education.)

## Outcome of the survey

# Workgroup on satisfaction in PhD studies

Report of activities and findings  
Nojan Najafi, Francesco Mazzotta, Karin Jonsson

DS General Assembly  
15/5 - 2014

## Why

- Doing a PhD is tough!
- Supervision is key!
- Many of us are dissatisfied!
- DS exists to:
  - “... improve terms for doctoral students at Chalmers university of technology by:
    - representing doctoral students in several key boards and committees at Chalmers;
    - identifying, preventing and eliminating structural problems;
    - becoming a hub for doctoral students.”
- Board meeting discussions, but are they enough?!
- The workgroup was initiated in 2011

# What

- 2012 – 2013:
  - Preparatory discussions
  - First draft: recognizing some basic problems
  - Conducting a survey
- 2013-2014:
  - Analyzing survey data
  - Combining with other data
  - Doktorandombudsman
  - DS representatives
  - Issues form KB
  - Identifying categories of problems

## Quantitative findings (1)

- Important for overall satisfaction:
  - Satisfaction: length of meetings
  - The availability of supervisor(s)
  - Satisfaction: Quality of meetings
  - Satisfaction: Frequency of meetings
- Important for satisfaction about the relationship:
  - Satisfaction: length of meetings
  - The availability of supervisor(s)
  - Satisfaction: Quality of meetings
  - Satisfaction: Frequency of meetings
  - Competence of the supervisor

# Quantitative findings (2)

- Frequency of meetings
  - No standard, but pays off!
  - Still, 78% of the happy ones meet more often than once in every 2 weeks
  - Minimums to be defined?
- Length of meetings
  - Not too long, not too short
  - A need for dialogue for adjustment
- Rough cut calculations on supervision meetings
  - 30% of the respondents: Less than 15 hours a year (<1%)
  - ☐ Further investigation is needed
- Master suppression techniques
  - 33% don't know what they are!
  - 15% answered YES!
- Departmental duties
  - Improved transparency can help, but not in all cases

# Qualitative findings (1)

- **Supervision: Social issues**
  - Problems regarding the relationship between the supervisor and the PhD student
    - Dictatorial supervision
    - Supervisor not interested in the PhD student
    - Supervisor views the PhD student as a competitor
    - Change of supervisor results in problematic relationships
  - Problems related to bad communication
    - Conflicting ideas in supervision
    - Not valuing the PhD student's time
  - Problems related to master suppression techniques
    - Harassment
    - Using information as a means of power
    - Hostile or problematic meeting environments
    - Humiliation
    - Other master suppression techniques

# Qualitative findings (2)

- **Supervision: content-related issues**

- Problems related to the competence of the supervisor
- Incompetent supervisor
- Lack of confidence between the supervisor and the PhD student
- Problems that directly cause hindrance in the PhD process
- Misuse of the study plan
- Lack of sufficient scientific discussions between the PhD student and the supervisor
- Ambiguous PhD project
- Lack of focus on the development of the PhD student as a researcher
- Problems regarding the prioritization and efforts of the supervisor
- Too limited availability of supervisor
- Too little effort by the supervisor

# Qualitative findings (3)

- **Organizational problems**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| – Intentional misbehavior   | – Problematic choice of supervisor  |
| – Violation of rules  | – Too many PhD students for one supervisor  |
| – Mutual problems amongst supervisors   | – The PhD student has to receive supervision from someone else than his/her own supervisors |
| – Problems related to intellectual property rights                                | – Supervisor was not assistant professor in the beginning                                   |
| – Problems related to publication policy  | – Supervisor not affiliated at Chalmers   |
| – Lack of evaluation of the supervision process and problem-solving procedures    | – Examiner and the main supervisor are the same person                                      |
| – Absence of director studies in follow-up meetings                               | – Unfairness in the conduct of departmental duties  |
| – Not finishing PhD within pre-set time-frame                                     | – Vague definition of departmental duties   |
| – Lack of utvecklingssamtal and medarbetarsamtal                                  | – Unequal departmental duties   |
| – Too slow pace of dealing with problems  | – Problematic change of supervisor  |
| – Students do not know where to turn in such matters                              | – PhD student does not get help to change/find a supervisor                                 |
| – Lack of possibilities to discuss supervision problems                           | – It is difficult to change supervisors because there are not many choices in some areas    |
| – Lack of a feedback and quality control system for supervision of PhD studies    | – When not able to change, the PhD student begins working closely with someone else         |
| – Problems with travelling and international collaboration                        | – Financial problems  |
| – Travel allowance hardly provided  | – Complex knowledge transfer situations   |
| – Lack of rules about travel funding  |   |
| – The division/department does not proactively encourage travels for PhD students |   |
| – Lack of support from the division/department on funding                         |   |

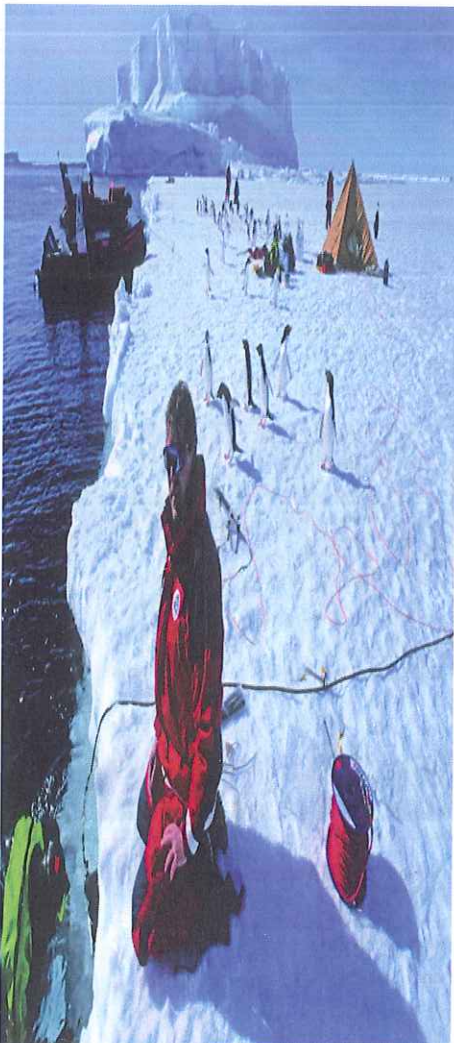
# The project

- Strategic directions:

- A. Gaining a better understanding of what needs to be improved in the Ph.D. students' work conditions
- B. Developing guidelines and suggestions for improving the Ph.D. students' satisfaction in their work
- C. Applying the findings
- D. Developing a mechanism for continuous improvement of the Ph.D. students' satisfaction in their work

A	Analyzing the results of the survey to identify the most important dimensions of problems that Ph.D. students experience or recognize	Identifying the problems questioned with the highest means
		Analyzing correlations among the problems questioned to identify if any groups of problems interrelate
		Analyzing the survey individually for each department to identify specific problems related to each department
	Comparing the findings of the survey with the university-wide survey 2013	Choosing the questions to focus on
AB		Identifying the highest means among the problems questioned in the university survey
		Qualitative comparison of the two lists of the most important problems
		Qualitative analysis of the departmental findings of the two surveys
	Milestone 1	Oral report (presentation) for the DS General Assembly
	Identifying further problems and/or possible causes of the problems	Qualitatively analyzing the comments of the two surveys
	Milestone 2	Detailed report on the identified problem areas
C	Anonymously studying certain problematic cases	Finding certain problematic issues and discussing them with the doktorandombudsman (focusing on finding possible solutions) Discussing the issues with the PhD students anonymously, if possible Analyzing the findings with regard to the results of the previous analyses (with a focus on finding possible solutions)
	Analyzing the results of the survey to identify possible opportunities for improvement	Discussing the results of all previous analyses and preparing preliminary suggestions for guidelines and improvements Finalizing the suggestions through discussing them with different bodies (the DS board, the ombudsman, experienced senior researchers, etc.) Updating the report with ideas on possible solutions and directions
	Spreading the awareness about our findings among different parties involved	Publishing the results online
		Providing the DS board members with overall and departmental analysis to present to their respective departments
		Possible information/discussion meeting with Chalmers vice-president for Ph.D. studies
	Aligning the DS policies with the guidelines developed by the workgroup Making this a routine!	Discussing the findings with DS representatives in different decision-making bodies and creating clear guidelines or points of interest to consider when taking part in discussions in their respective committees Developing guidelines for an annual revision of this procedure for the workgroup and DS to stay up-to-date Creating organizational routines for involving the workgroup or the results of its work in decision-making in DS Finalizing the report with guidelines for different parts of DS and other implications if any.

# Other issues



PhD Pub @ Haket tonight!

18:30, 15/5

Haket pub, Första Långgatan 32

talk:

*"Mercury research among penguins  
and whales*

-

*A winter trip to Antarctica"*

by Michelle Nerentorp



# Closing of the meeting