

Minutes, DS Board Meeting #VT19, 2019-04-10

Time: 14.00 - 17.30

Place: Room M Delta, M Building, Chalmers University of Technology

Opening of meeting Election of meeting officials

Chair – Giulio Calcagno

Secretary – Joakim Strandberg

Adopt the minutes – Raphael Ferreira

§1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved

§2. Meeting notice in due order

The meeting notice was found to be in due order

§3. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes are uploaded on the web, and were approved.

§4. Practical information

§5. Key topics from the committees and activities

1) Work group: University Evaluation

Anna

Anna updated the board on the current status of the self evaluation process.

2) Swedish national PhD council (SFS-DK)

Sobhan

Sobhan has been in contact with the election committee for SFS-DK to be voted in as representative for Chalmers next year. On a question to if we could have two members to not be without one when Sobhan finishes, they answered that the process may be changed altogether. A suggestion that is under evaluation is that members of SFS-DK will not be elected by the general assembly, but rather appointed by the board of SFS, which would solve our problem with non-aligned years of operation.

Next **SFS** GA is 3rd of May.

3) Supervisor of the year

Agin, Samar, Raphael

The process is just concluded and Johan Larsbrink from Bio has been selected as winner. He will be presented the prize on the doctoral promotion 18th of May.

The number of applicants for the prize is diminishing, and to next year it is important to work proactively to increase the number.

4) Student union board meetings (monitor)

Nothing to report.

JS

5) *Social activities*

Anna

Anna, Dan, and Giulio have organized a workshop for local councils. The themes were the relationship between DS and the local councils, as well as work environment with an appreciated presentation by Moyra McGil (DOMB).

Questions that were raised were that the local councils asked for better communication channels between each other and with the DS board. There will most likely be some sort of chat channel, either via Slack or via the DS-server.

The future of these meetings is unclear. Will it be held each year, or will it evolve into more informal meetings?

6) *SACO*

Joakim

Joakim reported that the current rule in the collective agreement stating that 8 year is the maximum length of a PhD student employment will be removed. It was based on a misunderstanding of the Swedish law Högskoleförordningen. However, for the students already affected and forced out under this rule there is not much that can be done.

There will also be a group from both the union and the employer working on analyzing why study times does not match expectations, especially to licentiate degree.

Later in the meeting another issue concerning work environment was brought up, under current rules the effect on vacation and vacation allowance of changing from full time to part time can be problematic and have a quadratic effect, especially for saved days at the end of the employment. Right now the only work around is to make sure to work 100% just before resigning. The issue is known by the union and is worked on.

7) *Research misconduct*

Nothing to report

8) *PhD portal*

Raphael

The work is progressing at a slow rate, but it has been decided that the new portal will be part of the new intranet.

9) *Newsletter + Facebook*

Mursalin, Nitesh

The last newsletter of the year has sent out, containing among other things an alumni interview. Giulio comments that the web page and the facebook-page should be connected to allow automatic cross-publishing in the future.

10) *Workgroup: Transfer of Master Credits*

A draft of a proposal for new guidelines/regulations for how and when to transfer credits to the PhD education has been drafted. It mentions a 3rd party (study director) being part of the process to make it fair. The draft also mentions decreasing the time to disputation if credits are accounted. Furthermore, it contains suggestions that the group of activities that can be counted as credits should be widened.

11) *Workgroup: Handling of PhD thesis failure*

Nadja

The proposed new rules are completed as of last meeting, but it has still to be discussed in FUN.

12) *Local PhD student council reach out*

JS

Nothing to report

13) *Introduction day*

Sobhan

GTS in general is being restructured and the schedule of the introduction day is also up for discussion. Sobhan needs feedback to send to Malena (head of GTS). Generally we want more time to focus on useful information rather than the strategic vision of Chalmers. We could also try to work with HR to collaborate on issues to bring up and work on ways to change the culture in academia.

14) *Institutional council*

Nothing to report. Maybe The student union can represent us in this forum, and forward relevant questions to us.

15) *Individual study plan*

Nadja, Anna

The ISP project is currently starting up a steering group and is looking for a swedish-speaking PhD student to take part. Later on feedback will be needed from several students with different backgrounds. Giulio wants to involve local councils in this to not put too much burden on the DS board.

16) *Faculty council*

Joakim

The faculty council has recently discussed the pedagogical portfolio which is needed for promotion in academia. PhD students are generally not aware of its structure and that they should start to record their teaching already during their PhD studies. The ESP may make this easier as teaching will most likely be recorded.

17) *Election committee*

Anton, Anand, Carlo

Several board members are leaving next year and need replacements. We also need a candidate for position as Chair. A brief discussion concerned the large number of people in the board and if we should aim for reducing the number in the board as not all departments need two representatives.

18) *DS homepage*

The transition of services to the new homepage is currently ongoing. In the future we plan to offer sites to all local councils that are interested.

19) *DOMB*

Giulio

Moyra feel that some try to work against her by discouraging students from contacting her. She has also reported an increasing burden, as more issues need to be solved. It is unclear if this is because work conditions have deteriorated or because she has become more visible.

We are currently in the process of prolonging her contract, and are in contact with SULF to clear out the legal details.

20) *CHARM PhD alumni event*

Already completed. Send feedback to Carlo.

21) *CHARM*

Completed.

22) *Chalmers AB board*

Giulio

A new external member has been appointed to the board, from another university, complementing the current external members from industry. The PhD education has been brought up as an important issue by the current chair, and the long time to licentiate degree is among the issues.

23) *FUN*

Giulio

FUN has expressed interest in the investigation of why licentiate degree takes longer time than expected, and Anders Palmqvist (Vice president for research and research education) want to take part in the process and is in favor of reintroducing the automatic raise at 2.5 years.

24) *Budget*

Anna

Some budget posts are over limit, but the general budget seems fine. The budget for DOMB is however a bit strained, and we might need to ask for more money from Chalmers.

25) *AJK and Focus equality group*

Maria

It is unclear what our role is in the focus group, and what they expect us to contribute. Maria will discuss with Anna Dubois before next meeting.

At AJK a report from Feelgood has been presented, identifying PhD students as a potential risk group. In response Chalmers will be making an online course about how to tackle problems in your work environment. They seek PhD students who have experienced and overcome some problems in their employment, and ask us for help to identify potential candidates.

§6. Presentations and discussion Session

1) *Doctoral student survey*

Anton

The results from our own survey shows some problems, for example with follow up meetings and PhD students general satisfaction. These are issues that can be brought to next years board. The results will also be distributed to local boards, but likely in a summarized form.

2) *Investigation of department duty*

Govindan

It is unclear and varying what is considered as department duty between different departments. The distribution is also uneven between, and even within, departments.

3) *Summary of self evaluation of graduate schools*

Giulio

Giulio has summarized the self evaluation done last year to find common themes among the schools. Based on this he has suggested a new routine for follow up of PhD studies, where a evaluation committee will follow the student through the process. We will continue to discuss our position on this suggestion, and come with suggestions.

§7. Other issues

§8. Actions for next meeting

- 1) Give feedback on introduction day to Sobahan, and on GTS in general on Slack (All)
- 2) Set up GTS channel on Slack (Giulio)
- 3) Contact student union about representation at the CLS institutional council (Giulio)

JS

- 4) Contact local councils for reference group for ISP.
- 5) Find an auditor.
- 6) Find students for film in work environment course.
- 7) Summarize and distribute doctoral student survey (Anton)

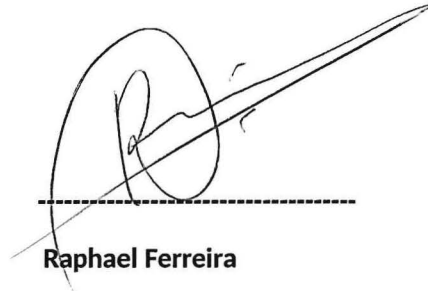
§9. Closing of the meeting

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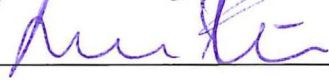


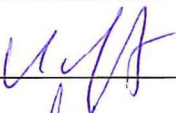


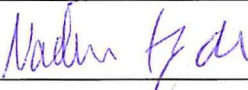
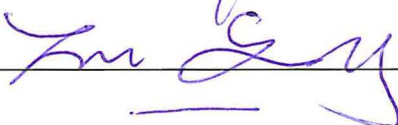





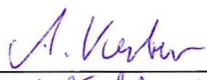
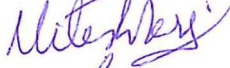
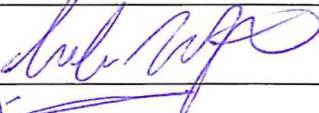
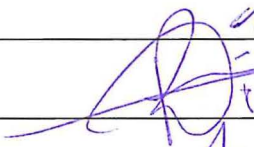
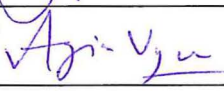



Giulio Calcagno

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joakim Strandberg', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Joakim Strandberg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raphael Ferreira', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Raphael Ferreira

First name	Last name	Signature
Giulio	Calcagno	
Anna	Köhler	
Siri	Jagstedt	
Tomasz	Kosinski	
Maria	Landqvist	
Govindan	Induchoodan	
Mursalin	Sajib	
Nadja	Holtryd	
Joakim	Strandberg	
Dan	Li	
Sobhan	Sepehri	
Jiacheng	Xia	
Anand	Harihara	
Ananda S.	Kannan	
Anton	Kersten	
Nitesh Raj	Jaladurgam	
Carlo	Negrato	
Raphael	Ferreira	
Agin	Vyas	
Julia	Orlovska	
Samar	Hosseinzadegan	
Johanna	Merisalu	

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