

Introduction

During the year 2017/2018 the Doctoral Student Guild (DS) board has been actively representing the doctoral students in several different committees and activities within and outside Chalmers. This report will briefly highlight what has been done in the different committees, as well as summarize the internal activities. General information about the activities and committees can be found on the DS webpage (<http://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/>).

During the year 2017/2018 the board consisted of:

Maria Ekström	Chair	MC2
Anna Köhler	Vice chair	SEE
Siri Jagstedt	Board member	TME
Tomasz Kosinski	Board member	CSE
Hanna Rydehell	Board member	TME
Jonas Sundell	Board member	ACE
Mursalin Sajib	Board member	Bio
Nadja Holtryd	Board member	CSE
Joakim Strandberg	Board member	SEE
Dan Li	Board member	IMS
Sobhan Sepehri	Board member	MC2
Marco Longfils	Board member	M
Anand Harihara Subramonia Iyer	Board member	F
Michael Saccullo	Board member	TM
Cristina Rigato	Board member	E2
Mikael Valter	Board member	F
Milene Zezzi Do Valle Gomes	Board member	K
Patric Kvist	Board member	K
Giulio Calcagno	Board member	K
Julia Orlovska	Board member	IMS

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Continuous activities of the DS board

Chalmers University Board (Chalmers Universitetsstyrelse)

The chair of DS is representing the voice of PhD students at Chalmers in the university board. The university board is the highest decision-making body within the university, and DS is given the right to have a person attend and speak, but not to vote. DS and the Student Union representatives have had preparatory meetings before each board meeting to discuss the current agenda and what to bring up. The university board discuss and take decisions regarding topics of strategic value to Chalmers.

Research education council (FUN)

During the year 2017/2018 the DS representatives in FUN was Anna Köhler and Siri Jagstedt. All meeting agendas and minutes can be found on Chalmers Insidan

(<https://www.chalmers.se/insidan/SV/utbildning-ochforskning/forskarutbildning/institutionsadministrati/organisation-och/fun>)

Some highlights from the year 2017/2018:

- The chair of FUN changed from Mats Viberg to Karin Andersson (acting vice president of research education) in late August 2017, and from Karin Andersson to Anders Palmqvist in May 2018.
- Roles regarding the research education has been discussed thoroughly throughout the year. The work of identifying how the different roles regarding the research education are similar and different among departments were initiated during the FUN-internat and revisited in meetings as well as in a half-day workshop (DS was participating with one representative, Anna Köhler). There is a description of the various roles regarding the PhD education and PhD students are encouraged to read the description. Also, PhD students are encouraged to share their experiences and impressions in this matter.
- There were three working groups formed in FUN this year, which worked intensively on 1) Making the objectives for the PhD education clearer, 2) reviewing the process of pre-evaluations of the thesis in different departments and 3) preparing for the internal evaluation of the PhD education. PhD representatives were wanted in most working groups and were coming from the whole DS board depended on interest and availability. However, DS' participation in all working groups was somewhat limited by the budget assigned to 2017/2018.
- Chalmers has initiated an internal evaluation of the research education. In the evaluation, also PhD students will be asked to share their view of the research education. In practice, this will be done for instance through engaging the local PhD councils (at research school/department level) and ask them for input about how the research education is perceived by the PhD students. This provides the PhD students an opportunity to contribute to the evaluation and provide feedback on their research education.
- To perform a popular presentation is mandatory. There have been difficulties finding an examiner for the popular presentation and the format and the information on the homepage is to be further developed. There were proposals on assigning credits to the popular presentation.
- A proposal for an Online individual study plan (ESP) has been developed by a working group (DS year 2016/2017). The status: the proposal has been forwarded to the

“verksamhetsstöd”, costs will be calculated of a potential implementation and a decision will thereafter be taken.

- Regarding transfer of credits from the master’s studies, different practices are applied at different departments. It is vital to make sure that the PhD studies remain at high level, including education both in terms of courses and research. The text on the homepage was reformulated to make this clearer.
- There is a new responsible for the GTS courses (Cecilia Järbur), who initiated several improvements to the GTS program. The descriptions on the homepage were revised. In August 2018 the long-time planned intensive Swedish course (camp at Visingsö) was held for the first time. The course was fully booked. A new/revised course on career planning with more focus on self-development and management is planned for the next term. During autumn 2018, a no-show fee was introduced for GTS courses. This is to prevent students from cancelling their participation late or not at all and make up for the high costs connected to this.

Work Environment and Equality Committee (AJK)

Julia Orlovska was representing DS in this position. AJKs’ main activities during the year were:

- Gender quality: Chemistry (as the department with the lowest numbers in gender equality according to the employee survey 2017-2018) works on improvement, evaluation in January 2019. Chalmers needs to build skills in the line to be able to continue with gender mainstreaming.
- Daytime guards on campus: Due to an increase of robbery and other unpleasant situations on campus, it was proposed increase the presence of guards also during daytime.
- #Metoo movement: A special edition of the Chalmers magazine on the topic has been published. New information on Insidan about what to do in case of sexual harassment was added. Information material has been prepared for the manager and employees regarding dealing with sexual harassment. Paul Walton was invited to Chalmers on Nov. 30 and had a lecture on gender equality that was highly appreciated "Moving towards Gender Equality".
- Working environment (Arbetsmiljö): Magnus Åkerström visited AJK, telling that AJK will from now on conduct internal audits instead of having external work environment engineers and occupational health services. Additional support for labs/workshops is included in connection with regular environmental audits. The management and management functions (within the work environment) for Chalmers and undergraduate education are now also included. Decisions: AJK welcomes this new way of working.
- Academy Health (Akademihälsan): Cases Akademihälsan has to handle has increased, almost doubled for international PhD students. More focus should be set to the psychological aspects rather than physiological (examples: Search Cases 2016/2017: 345/371 (international 32/60), Stress reports: 71/111, Anxiety, Downcast, Depression: 37/47, Muscle/skeleton: 27/13)
- Feelgood: Joel Cederholm is the new contact person. There are new internal guidelines for Chalmers use of Feelgood. A clear improvement in terms of costs taken centrally is visible. A new draft for the annual report has been voiced by Feelgood. The agreement has been extended until 2018-12-31. A new procurement will start in the spring.

- Employer survey: The questions in the employee survey tends to be too generic, which leads to (1) misunderstandings while answering the questions (e.g., “your nearest manager” questions), and (2) missing the PhD student specific topics/problems. We as DS both want to compare the satisfaction of PhD students with other groups in Chalmers and highlight PhD student specific questions. While updating the employee survey, these two points should be kept in mind.

PhD student committee of the Swedish National Union of Students (SFS DK)

Swedish National Union of Students (Sveriges förenade studentkårer, SFS) is the collective student voice in Sweden, currently acting as an umbrella organization for 47 student unions at Swedish universities. The PhD student committee of SFS (SFS DK) works as advisors to the SFS board, on matters of both research education and research in Sweden as well as on a European level.

Every year (usually April/May), SFS holds its General Assembly, which is the highest decision-making body where all the member unions are represented. Except for electing the board and deciding on the operational plan for the upcoming year, it is also at SFSFUM the SFS DK is elected.

During the year, SFS DK consisted of five members, and held eight meetings. An overview about the points SFS DK worked with:

- Defining the areas and extent of SFS DK’s work in relation to rest of SFS, expanding more responsibilities on research in general, but at the same time working closer to the Chair and Vice Chair of SFS. This resulted in a formal document, Rules of Procedure.
- Discussing what is considered good conditions for PhD students as a quality aspect, which was a basis for further work for the SFS board.
- Writing a policy paper to help SFS board to discuss PhD student issues with the government.
- Disseminating information by sending newsletters to PhD student groups in Sweden concerning ongoing political development of research and research education.
- Translation of several documents to English, to better involve international PhD students to the work of SFS DK.
- Discussing how to make it easier for PhD students to a continued academic carrier, including an opinion published in Svenska Dagbladet.
- Discussing research ethics, including replying to a governmental remit (betänkandet *Ny ordning för att främja god sed och hantera oredlighet i forskning*, by *Oredlighetsutredningen* on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research). The government is planning to implement a *Research Misconduct Board* that can make decisions, replacing the current *Central Ethics Review Board* that only is advisory to universities.
- Discussing sexual harassment in academia, following several funding agencies decisions to try to soon create monetary incentives to promote work against sexual harassment in academia.
- Discussing current rules concerning migration and international PhD students, preparing for a future meeting between SFS Chair and the Swedish Migration Agency.
- The government decided that PhD students that are funded by scholarships are getting better insurances as well as making employment mandatory. This was well received by SFS DK, and a text of approval was formulated and published.

Supervisor of the year

The committee for the Supervisor of the year award consisted of Thomas Kosinski, Marco Longfils and Mikael Valter. The award is based on the initiative from Chalmers centrally. The committee posts a call for nominations, and then evaluates all nominations, followed by thorough interviews with the PhD students of the nominated supervisors. The committee for the SotY award has nominated Christian Fager as supervisor of the year for the academic year of 2017/2018.

Institution council (previous Library council and REPUB)

Nadja Holtryd was representing DS in these activities. The main responsibility of the representative is to attend the meetings and report back any news to the DS board with an emphasis of issues concerning the PhD students. REPUB is the reference group for electronic publication at Chalmers and is involved in everything related to the administration of publications. The group was not active in the year 2017/2018.

Instead the Library council is now called Institution council and acts an advisory group for the Department of Communication and Learning in Science. The department consists of Chalmers Library, together with Engineering Education, Language and Communication, and Generic and Transferable Skills. The council typically meets twice each year, the next meeting of the newly found council will be in the autumn 2018.

Chalmers research foundation

The foundation (Chalmerska forskningsfonden) aims to financially support young scientists. The fund is one of several administrated by Chalmerska stiftelsen. A working group consisting of two representatives from the DS (this year: Milene Zezzi do Valle Gomes and Michael Saccullo) and a senior researcher is appointed to provide suggestions for how the fund should be distributed. This year the fund received 109 applications, and granted money to 64 applications, for a total of 1000000 SEK, plus 30000 SEK for purchase of equipment.

Ethics and Research Misconduct Committee (Etik- och oredighetsnämnd)

DS representative was Cristina Rigato. Chalmers' Ethics and Misconduct Committee addresses ethical issues related to research and education, as well as misconduct in research. The Committee offers support and advice on ethical issues related to research, education and utility, and it is available to all employees. The Committee also addresses cases pertaining to misconduct in research. When tasked by the president to do so, the Committee will investigate suspected misconduct in scientific activities that are or were conducted at Chalmers, and in single cases determine whether scientific misconduct has taken place. An increasing role in education for researchers is forecasted for the upcoming years.

Useful material and meeting notes are collected in a shared folder administered by the committee secretary, which is the one that has permission to add new members to it. New representatives should make sure to be added to the folder as soon as they become part of the committee.

Due to changes in the committee members and organization, only two meetings were held this year. Next meeting: beginning of September 2018. The workload of committee is expected to increase in the next year due to increasing requests from Chalmers. Key points from this year's activity:

- No issues were reported to the committee.
- There is a need for mapping all the departments and research divisions at Chalmers that are concerned with ethics questions in their research projects to be able to give better support and to monitor that good practice is followed. This will be done in a formal way by meeting with the heads of department, there is a document where the committee members can sign up for this. The DS board members were asked to help with a pre-investigating and report, what we know about our departments. So far, some division of the following departments were concerned: E2 (Signal processing and biomedical engineering), BIO (Food and Nutrition Science) and K (applied surface chemistry).
- The committee has commented on a recent governmental inquiry on new procedures for cases concerning the investigation and handling of research misconduct. Suggestions for changes have been sent to the governmental organs. The new procedures should be operative from January 1st, 2019.
- There is a plan of arranging informative seminars/workshops at each department, to educate researchers about ethical issues and good research practice. The first department will be IMS in the autumn 2018. The rest of the schedule and programme will be discussed during the next meeting.
- A new name for the committee is wanted, everyone shall come with suggestions.

SACO and wage negotiations

DS representative was Jonas Sundell. The Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations, is a trade union confederation of 23 affiliated associations out of which six are represented at Chalmers. SACO represents trade union members in issues like job security, rights, salaries and the working environment. The most important task for DS representative is to take part in the wage negotiation, which is held between Chalmers and the trade union organizations SACO and ST in the beginning of every autumn. The DS member is responsible for the views and opinions of the DS board and members in this negotiation. There are about six meetings per year. The DS representative also has opportunity to take part in education programs organized by SACO.

Faculty Council

DS representative was Joakim Strandberg. The faculty council is the representative body for Chalmers's teaching staff (i.e. Docent, associate professor, and full professors) and acts as an advisory body to the president and management of Chalmers. It consists of 2 members elected from each of the 13 departments, one PhD student representative, one undergraduate student representative, and the president and/or vice president of Chalmers attends the meetings. The Faculty Council is a forum where questions of long-term and strategic character, with importance to the development of Chalmers, can be initiated and handle. These can be raised both by the members but also by external parties wanting input. During 2016/2017 the most common discussion themes were regarding the change in department structure as well as the new finance model for faculty staff. Other themes have been how to improve the equality at Chalmers, and how to

prevent research misconduct. For 2017-2018 the focus shifted towards selecting project suggestions for the strategic founding call announced by the Chalmers Foundation. For more information about the council and to take part of meeting minutes, visit link below (in Swedish):

<http://www.chalmers.se/insidan/SV/om-chalmers/moten/fakultetsradet>

CHARM

To present PhD education as a potential career, DS is responsible for a booth at the Chalmers work fair CHARM. All board members in DS stands in the booth for one or two timeslots during the fair, so that there is always 2 persons present to talk to students and to answer questions. The PhD representatives explains about what PhD education is, that you are employed by Chalmers etc., and there are usually many students coming to talk to us. Joakim Strandberg, Dan Li and Giulio Calcagno were responsible for organizing the DS contribution to Charm this year.

The previous year's DS board initiated a *CHARM PhD alumni event* (a mingle event in the CHARM pre-week with Chalmers PhD Alumni from different departments), an idea of having a CHARM event dedicated to PhD students to improve the offers of CHARM for us. Giulio Calcagno was the responsible for the activity. This is the first year the event has taken place. It consisted of approximately 1-hour presentations session, followed by mingle/dinner.

Alumni from all the departments had been invited, through the effort of all the Board members and Local PhD Councils. Around 120 PhD students took part in the event and 10 Alumni came to share their experiences in 5 min presentations about their personal story, the companies and possible career paths for PhDs in industry. The 5 min format created a dynamic atmosphere, which avoided the typical power-point poisoning. This was followed by a mingle-dinner. It was very rewarding to see so many people talking and sharing their opinion in a relaxed environment. The event was highly appreciated from both the students and the PhD Alumni and DS decided to keep the event for next year.

Speakers: Bergek Jonathan, *Volvo Car Group*; Catic Amer, *Volvo Trucks*; Dombrovskis Johanna, *Powercell*; Fallahi Sara, *RISE*; He WenXiao, *Akzo Nobel*; Irukulapat Vishnu kanth Naga, *Ericsson*; Jilvero Henrik, *Stena Recycling International AB*; Kämpe Viktor, *Zenuity*; Rajesh Tilak, *Alten Sweden*; Razaznejad Behrooz, *Volvo Trucks*; Svahn Victoria, *Göteborgs Stad*.

DOMB

Our Doktorandombud (DOMB) Moyra McDill has had a busy year, which can be understood in two different ways: 1) many PhD students are having problems in their PhD education, 2) more PhD students find their way to her and can get her help.

As the DOMB is working under confidentiality, no specific cases or names can be communicated outwards, however, after two years in her position the DOMB's annual report represents a thorough and comprehensive report on her work, which got more attention on Chalmers centrally. Consequently, the DOMB was invited to the Chalmers AB board and FUN to present her report. The document which is found on DS webpage, where some statistics and typical cases are presented. The contact person from DS for the

DOMB has been the DS Chair Maria Ekström with the help of Hanna Rydehell, whom has also been involved in several cases where the DOMB and DS has been pushing for changes together.

We recommend reading the report, at least the concerns regularly expressed to the DOMB (page 5):

<https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/documents/2018/03/domb-annual-report-2017.pdf>

General Assembly meetings

During the year, DS has had 2 general assembly meetings. The minutes from the meetings are available on DS website.

December 2017: Carl Toller, the president of the student union is visiting the GA. The annual report and freedom from liability for the board of 2016/17 is decided.

June 2018: Election of a new board for 2018/19, where two candidates are nominated for the position of the Chair: Giulio Calcagno and Dan Li. Consequently, the voting procedure will be secret i.e. voting cards are used and 2 adjustors are elected to count the votes independently. The attendance list is the electoral register and only PhD students who have paid the student union fee to DS can vote. During the meeting:

1. The nomination committee will present the nomination and the motivation for the nomination
2. The chair of the meeting will open for nominations
3. The candidates leave the room and will be interviewed one at a time
4. The general assembly will discuss the candidates without the candidates present
5. The general assembly votes
6. The adjustors count the votes independently, compare and present the result

Giulio Calcagno was elected as the Chair for the year 2018/19.

Web page

This task involved updating and maintaining the DS webpage based on content supplied by other board members and occasionally the DOMB. This involved e.g. updating links, updating the website security, updating the process of obtaining the PhD student emailing list to include also non-student union associated PhD students.

This year the DS webserver was migrated to a new and fully independent setup, allowing for the addition of services such as DScloud, DSoffice, DSchat (to be finalized in 2018/19). Tomasz Kosinski and Anand Harihara were responsible for this task during the year.

Newsletter

For the current year, Mursalin Sajib and Giulio Calcagno were responsible for the newsletter. The newsletter is an important platform for sharing information to all PhD students at Chalmers. It covers information such as legalities, activities of various student councils as well as social activities. The contents of the newsletter were prepared with the help and approval of the other board members. A new more appealing format has been introduced, which was appreciated by the PhD students. Two newsletters were published for this year, one November 2017 and one in March 2018.

Topics covered in November newsletter were:

- Benefits as employed Ph.D. student at Chalmers
- Vacation rules
- Unemployment issues and insurances
- CHARM, General Assembly and Introduction Day for Ph.D. students
- Sign up for exams in Ph.D. Portal
- Ph.D. student's survey
- Call for Supervisor of the Year
- Interview with DS Chair
- Information on GTS Courses and Popular Presentation
- Miscellaneous (How to survive winter)

Topics covered in March newsletter were:

- Reminder for Ph.D. student's survey
- Updated information on FeelGood and Doktor.se
- CHARM event impression
- Reminder on different topics from previous newsletter
- DOMB report 2016/2107
- Interview DS Vice-Chair
- New Vice President for research, research education and internationalization
- Miscellaneous (Spring, The Swedish theory of love, perfectionism)

All newsletters can be found in DS Website: <https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/newsletters/>

Introduction Day

DS representative during the 2017-2018 academic year was Sobhan Sepehri. There were two introduction days (mandatory GTS task for PhD students): November 8th, 2017 and May 14th, 2018. For the first time Magnus Åkerström, Chalmers working environment responsible, attended the day and talked about important aspects of a good working environment with students. The PhD movie, which was prepared by Elke Miedema was shown as part of DS presentation. The presentation and the movie are now accessible through the GTS website and the introductory day webpage online.

Some students came forward who had problems with their student registration and paying to the right section of the student union. The issues were resolved by discussing with the student union.

Social Activities

This year's representatives were Cristina Rigato and Michael Saccullo. The activity is meant to organize social events for both the DS board members only, to improve the cooperation of the board members with each other, as well as for all PhD students at Chalmers, to get more PhD students involved in the work of DS. Two events were arranged:

- A mingling event early in the year (October) for the board members, consisting in a games night at the game arcade in JA Pripps pub in Kårhuset.
- A guided tour around Gothenburg after the introduction day for new PhD students, on November 8th. The participation was low; however, the event was appreciated by the ones who joined.

Ideas for future events:

- movie screening of the movies from PhD comics, see trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpZ5rS4KhOA>
- regular lunch meetups of the DS board members

Election Committee

Anand H. S. Iyer, Sobhan Sepehri, and Marco Longfils were elected as the DS election committee by the general assembly December 6th, 2017. The organization and the responsibilities of the committee are stated in the DS statutes. Article 2.7 of the statutes reads:

“The nomination committee prepares elections of board members and auditor by nominating candidates for these positions. At the meeting, free nomination is applied. If multiple general assemblies are held within one year of activity, by-elections can be held until all positions are filled.”

This year all the positions had a nomination prior to the spring general assembly where the next year’s board was elected. There were ten nominations for the 2018-19 academic year: Anton Kersten, Samar Hosseinzadegan, Jiacheng Xia, Govindan Induchoodan, Nitesh Raj Jaladurgam, Raphael Ferreira, Ananda Subramani Kannan, Carlo Negrato, Maria Landqvist and Agin Vyas

All were elected for as the board members by the general assembly.

The election committee nominated Giulio Calcagno during the spring general assembly and Dan Li nominated himself for the chair position. See more detailed information about the procedure in section “General Assembly”.

As new chairperson, Giulio Calcagno, was elected and the vice Chair Anna Köhler has been re-elected for another term. More details about the voting procedure can be found in the statuses of the Student Union (Chalmers Studentkår).

CKI (Not active)

The Chalmers committee for internationalization has not been active during this year, and according to the person in charge there is currently no plan to restart this committee during the upcoming year. Milene Gomes was DS representative of this year.

Local PhD student council reach out

DS representative during the 2017-2018 academic year was Sobhan Sepehri. According to point 1.1 of the DS statutes, DS should “[...] provide a forum for contacts between doctoral students at Chalmers”. We interpret this as both social activities (see the social activities committee), as well as facilitating good relations between the local PhD student councils in the different departments. The goal is to provide opportunities for the PhD councils to exchange information, to mingle and to make DS's work more visible to them. Different departments have very different setups regarding the local PhD student council. Some departments do not have a local council, although, due to the department restructuring in 2017 (from 17 departments down to 12), several new councils are formed in the new departments. In general, the local council should represent the PhD students towards the department and provide the department's PhD students with relevant information and provide a point of contact. Nevertheless, some councils have a

stronger focus on social activities, and some focus on local representation of students in the departments.

Since every local PhD council has its own email address and webpage which is necessary not easy to find, it was suggested that DS webpage starts hosting the local councils on its own web platform. As first steps, the contact information of all local phd councils are made as a main tab in the webpage.

The first local council, the newly formed MC2 council, was successfully hosted on the DS webpage. Some feedback was given and received during this pilot hosting. Some more work is necessary to give the local councils their own tabs and subpages to make it more dynamic website. The MC2 PhD council is available on:

<https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/mc2-phd-council/>

It is now possible to offer this service to all the other local councils and host them under the same umbrella, the DS webpage.

Doctoral student portal

On initiative from DS a while back, a doctoral student portal has been launched in 2016. The ownership and responsibility of the portal is not on DS, but on Chalmers centrally. It contains almost all the information about doctoral studies (previously only present in Insidan), the possibility to enroll to master courses exams, to create transcript of records, and to apply for doctoral degree. The portal contains direct connections to the DS Facebook page, the GTS courses and news. The implementation of Ladok 3 has allowed a better visualization of the courses and obtained formative credits. However, the Portal is not including all the suggestions written in the document (and follow up) written by Oskar Thulin, previous DS Board Chairman.

This year representative was Giulio Calcagno. The Chalmers contact persons are Marja Janusson and Sara Eriksson. The aim of this year was to meet Marja, share opinions and understand which, of the DS Board requests, can be fulfilled. The outcome of the meetings is a new follow up document containing the suggestions for the improvement of the DS Portal.

Electronic ISP

Upon request from FUN, a committee has been working with an electronic version of the individual study plan (ISP), harmonized for all PhD students. The platform would be called ESP, connected to the PhD student portal and to e.g. Ladok. A detailed proposal of functions and required material has been put forward by the committee (see below) and awaits implementation. It was expected that the same committee should work or at least be consulted with the development of the electronic ISP.

Specific and new activities of the year 2017/2018

Internal evaluation

This is a working group under the Board of Research Education (FUN). Dan Li was the representative. Since 2008, the graduate schools at Chalmers should be evaluated every four years, hence Chalmers should have conducted the evaluation during 2016. However, during spring 2016 the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) started a pilot run of evaluations, involving ten research educations in various fields (not at Chalmers). At this point, a new decision was made at Chalmers to postpone the 2016 internal evaluations until 2018 to incorporate possible experiences from the national pilot evaluations. During 2018, the graduate schools that are included in the contemporary ordinary national UKÄ evaluations are not included in Chalmers' internal evaluations.

The purpose of the evaluations of graduate schools at Chalmers are:

- To describe how the graduate schools, assure qualification of the national goals and the general study plan
- Contributing to the development of the research education's prerequisites, processes and results
- Examine how the research education is conducted in accordance to various policies
- Contributing to the continuous development of quality work in research education

The evaluation consists of three parts:

1. Self-evaluation
2. Collegial assessment
3. Follow-up

In order to prepare for the internal evaluations, it was decided to create a work group to update and revise the guidelines of the evaluation. During a couple of months (November to January), the work group met 4 times, with the main task of revising and updating the instructions on conducting the evaluations, that was then sent out to a remit round and later presented to the Board of Research Education.

Recruitment of the new Vice President of Research and Research Education

During the spring of 2018 the position of the Vice President was advertised at Chalmers. There was a rather high number of candidates applying to the position. The DS Chair of 2017/2018, Maria Ekström, was actively involved in screening the applications and in the interviews. Since May 2018, Anders Palmqvist is the new Chalmers' Vice President of Research and Research Education. In addition, he has a coordinating responsibility for internationalization among the vice presidents.

Work environment PhD students (w Helen Lejon and Magnus Åkerström)

The DAM project (doktoranders arbetsmiljö) has during 2017 investigated the doctoral student work environment by collecting available statistics from various sources, such as LADOK, the employee survey, and studies at Chalmers to name a few. Additionally, to strengthen the analysis of the available statistics, a workshop was held with HR, DOMB, and DS representatives. The workshops add valuable input when trying to understand the conclusions from the available statistics.

Further in development is an E-learning course with the focus on PhD student well-being. A meeting with DS present has been held to discuss important content for the course before production starts.

PhD Survey

For the year 2017/2018, a PhD specific survey was planned from the DS Chair of the year 2016/2017 (Linnea Qvirist) and the DS Chair of this year (Maria Ekström). This was initiated to catch important parts of the PhD employment, which are not covered by Chalmers employment survey, such as for example supervision, follow up of studies and teaching duties. The survey was drafted during the spring of 2017 and was sent out during the fall of 2017. The survey was drafted during the spring of 2017 and was sent out during the winter 2017/2018 to the PhD students (active in Ladok). Some highlights from the results of the survey:

- Departmental duties: it seems as it's not one of the main sources of stress and the situation overall seems good. It does not seem as the Swedish/non-Swedish PhD students get different number of mansions. However, often PhDs report that they have too much duties (understaffing). From the survey the impression was gained, that what is really needed is very clear and easily reachable rules on how to count hours and an official report from the administration that state how many teaching hours one has done.
- PhD students who are not fluent in Swedish show motivation to learn the language, in particular if rewarded with working hours.
- Working time, vacation, working while sick: On average, PhD students work more than they should (> 40 hors/week). A widespread bad habit is that of working during vacations. Many PhD students feel that they are expected to do so. Many PhD students answered, that they are working while being sick (example: cold, headache) instead of taking sick leave.
- Causes of stress: Overall, it is the research that is the main source of stress and most often it is the PhD students themselves (not the supervisor or colleagues) to have too high expectations on themselves.
- Conflicts: most of the conflicts are not resolved, especially those that are correlated to sick leave/high stress. This result is in line with the DOMB report: many cases are dropped before they are solved.

The results of the survey are further handled by the DS board of 2018/2019.

Final remark

This report presents briefly the work performed by the DS board during the activity year of 2017/2018. While some activities and projects are mandatory for the board to perform, as defined by the frame work agreement from Chalmers, others are electable for the board. Each new year, the new board decides on a Plan of Operations document, which more specifically decides which activities to work on for that year. Some years it is not possible to perform all projects that we have, mainly due to time constraints and a tight budget for the working hours for DS.



DS Vice Chair 2017/2018, Anna Köhler