

# DOCTORAL STUDENT GUILD

## PROTOCOL FROM BOARD MEETING 31 OCTOBER 2019

**Time: 14:01**

**Place:  $\delta$ -room, M-building**

### PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN	ANANDA SUBRAMANI KANNAN
SECRETARY	GUSTAV LINDWALL
REVIEWER	DAN LI
	MURSALIN SAJIB
	YASAMAN DABIRIAN
	STINA MÅNSSON
	GABRIELLA GATENHOLM
	ANIS MORADIKOUCHI
	ADRIANA CANALES
	CHRISTOPHER SAUER
	GEORGIOS MADEMLIS
	TOMASZ KOSINSKI
	GOVINDAN INDUCHOODAN
	ANTON KERSTEN
	JOHANNA MERISALU
	ELIN MALMGREN
	AGIN VYAS
	IDA KARLSSON
	JULIA ORLOVSKA
	JOAKIM STRANDBERG

§1 Opening Ananda opens the meeting at time 14:01,

§2 Chairman Ananda nominates himself as meeting chair. No objections.


**Decision:** To select Ananda as meeting chairman.

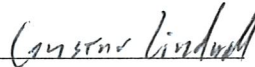
§3 Secretary Gustav Lindwall is nominated as Secretary. No objections.

**Decision:** To select Gustav as meeting secretary.

§4 Reviewer Dan Li is nominated as Reviewer. No objections.

**Decision:** To select Dan as meeting reviewer.

  
Ananda Subramani  
Chairman

  
Gustav Lindwall  
Secretary

  
Dan Li  
Reviewer

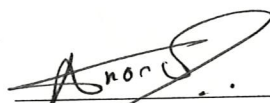
§5 Previous meeting notes Previous meeting minutes are approved.  
**Decision:** To approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

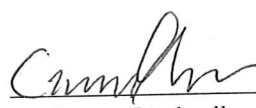
§6 Round the table

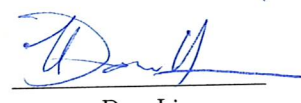
- **FUN:** Johanna and Ananda attended the FUN (ForskarsUtbildningsNämnden) meeting. They have sent notes from the meeting to the DS board this afternoon. A question regarding the PhD student survey is raised. The FUN group has expressed a desire to involve the DS board in the result from the survey. Local PhD councils have been contacted, but not everyone has been informed on this. Also, it has come to our attention that industrial PhD students were not included in the survey in the Chalmers employee survey. Many industrial PhD students do however spend the majority of their time at Chalmers.

Another FUN meeting is scheduled for later in November.

- **Accounting:** Mursalin announces that we have received money from Chalmers. We have a lot of money and need to spend it. We aim to spend these at CHARM events. One more thing; we have all received spreadsheets to keep track of our working hours spent on DS. Please remember to keep track!
- **AJK:** The meeting focused mostly on the situation of undergraduate students. There had been a survey among masters students. Some physical environment issues (such as the fact that this is a non-smoking campus, information about shutdown of buildings due to construction etc.) were discussed but nothing was really aimed at PhD students. Thus, the question if we have something to contribute to the next meeting is raised.
- **Chalmers AB board:** Ananda was there for the first time earlier this semester. He attended, along with the head of the Student Union as a representative for students. In the interests of the DS board, the advertisement and availability of doctoral courses was discussed. The AB board found this interesting and want us to come back with some data for them (and FUN) to work with. Christopher brings us some statistics, and an apparent lack of PhD courses compared to similar universities is brought up (~30 courses at Chalmers compared to ~170 at KTH!). Other things that were discussed were research utilization and sustainability. There is a new vice rektor for undergraduate studies as well.
- **Chalmers research foundation:** Scholarships have been given out! You should know it by now if you got one. In general, presenting at a conference and long-term stays at other universities were approved. Also, consider the environmental impact of your application before making it - flying to the USA for three days to attend a conference and not present anything is a surefire way to get rejected.
- **CHARM:** Gustav has been in contact with Carina Pettersson who is a Chalmers employee who helps with organizing CHARM. She was provided with some information. An idea about bringing something connected to your research (a poster, mini-experiment etc.) was brought up in order to make the stand more attractive. Everyone approved.

  
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- **PhD alumni event:** Christopher and Adriana are in contact with the CHARM people. They are trying to find speakers for the alumni events. They have confirmed three speakers. Speakers are to be from the industry, and not on a tenure track.

We are all encouraged to contact PhD alumni who are now in the industry to find more speakers.

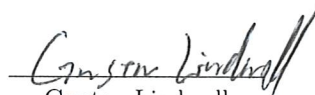
- **DS communication:** We've had a newsletter sent out. Most of the response has been great, but a strongly worded anonymous complaint was sent regarding the Swedish Theory of Lovedocumentary that was attached to the newsletter.

Some ideas about improving our communication channels were raised. Twitter handles, reviving the Facebook page etc. Nothing conclusive.

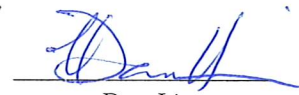
- **DS IT:** Please start using the DS Cloud, and DS Chat. For improved communication and cooperation. We are looking into the possibility to using CID to log in to our web services.
- **Nomination committee:** No news, nothing happening at this time of the year.
- **Faculty council:** Currently the faculty council is working on doubling down on its views on Chalmers' vision. Most other things that was discussed has also been discussed in this meeting already.
- **ESP:** Dan brings a two-slide presentation. The **E**lectronic **S**tudy **P**latform is a tool intended to support PhD students in planning their studies, but will *not* serve as a replacement for the ISP (as the ISP is required by Swedish law). The work so far has included a workshop, and recruitment of representatives to an ESP Committee. All departments except MS and CLS are represented. In the near future, the committee will first meet in December and the development will begin in January. A question is raised whether supervisors are involved in the development of the ESP. They are.
- **Introduction day:** There has been an introduction day. A lot of work was put into improving the day, and the response this year was the best ever! This year, the day was more interactive and the information flow was more focused.
- **CLS council:** The CLS council is the library's own council. There is a new prefect elected over there who want to integrate the library's activities into the education more. They want input on what we as PhD students want from them. We agree that they provide some useful things.
- **Local PhD council coordinator:** Next Friday there will be a workshop on PhD student communication across departments.
- **Chalmers ethics committee:** The ethics committee has implemented an education plan, with pilot department M2 already being subject to this education. IMS will be next. The next ethics meeting will be in December.



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- **PhD survey:** A skeleton of the survey will be available mid-November through the DS Cloud. We will see if the results from last years survey can be dug up.
- **SACO:** The wage agreement was signed this morning. We get a raise of roughly 2.3%. Discussions regarding the half-time raise are on-going. The agreement made in 2018 to discuss it this year has not panned out and the discussions will continue in 2020.
- **Social activities:** Us in the DS board should do something fruitful that improve DS visibility before the end of the year!
- **FuM:** Nothing of relevance for PhD students have been discussed in the FuM meeting. However, if we as PhD students want to do something nice for other PhD students or for the benefit of Chalmers students in general, *Teknologäskning* is always an option. It is a quick and easy way for members of the student union to get funding for some projects.
- **Supervisor of the year:** There were four applicants last year. We want more this year, so a *poster* has been designed. We shall put these up at our departments.

The winner last year brought up that supervisors receive very little training in how to supervise. A discussion blows up regarding how to improve supervision quality. First thing would be to bring it up in FUN.

- **SFS-DK:** Ananda could not go to the first Sveriges Förenade Studentkårers Doktorandkommitté meeting. Ananda provides a recap of what happened at the meeting. The first meeting introduced SFS-DK and how the organizational structure is setup. Next, Focus questions for SFS-DK 2019/2020 were discussed. The need to re-send the PhD student satisfaction survey (across Sweden) was identified, with focus questions for SFS-DK. Additionally, there were several other issues discussed during the meeting: focus on the forskningsplan, or research proposal for the coming years. SFS-DK is expected to give input on the Proposition for 2020, in accordance with the opinions of FUM. Several decisions were made with regards to this. These will be ratified in the next SFS-DK meeting during november.
- **Focus group equality:** The next meeting in this committee will focus on PhD students. Gabriella would really appreciate some input through e-mail before then.
- **University quality evaluation:** Dan has taken part in the project group for the current quality assessment by UKÄ. There has been interviews going on in the last few months. Our provided focus area from UKÄ is gender equality in the undergraduate education on mechanical engineering and architecture. The outcome will affect funding et cetera.
- **Swedish research policy:** Content of Chalmers' input was presented. Dan was on the committee formulating this input. The input was signed by Stefan Bengtsson on Oct 28 2019. Dan can send the full document to the board.

  
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- **Sustainability:** A quick note on the Chalmers Climate Strategy. There was a workshop a few weeks ago. Stuff like internal carbon tax and further incorporation of environmental science in education was discussed. Removal of parking spaces to make room for accommodation are already underway. A survey will be sent out in the near future.

§7 Workshop A workshop titled "*New changes to graduate education at Chalmers*" will take place online after this meeting. We should consider this homework. We will focus on the doctoral portal maintained by Chalmers in this workshop. The needed documents are available through the DS Cloud.

§8 Further questions Christopher was contacted by a PhD student who had been refused student discounts. This is hopefully not a systematic error.

§9 Next meeting The next meeting will take place in February 2020.

§10 Closing of the meeting The meeting was closed by Ananda at 17:09.



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Chairman



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Dan Li  
Reviewer

