

**Minutes DS General Assembly #VT20 – 2020-06-02,
Time: 13:15 – 14:15**

Place: Zoom Remote meeting

- **Opening of the meeting:**

Meeting is officially opened at 13:15 hrs.

The meeting was opened by DS Chair Ananda S. Kannan. The DS is introduced to the participants (what is the DS role in graduate education at Chalmers, what are its activities etc.).

- **Election of meeting officials:**

The following members of the DS Board were elected as meeting officials by the present General Assembly:

- Chair: Ananda S. Kannan
- Secretary: Georgios Mademlis
- Adopters of the minutes: Yasaman Dabirian, Adriana Canales Ramos

Decision: The chosen meeting officials were approved by the general assembly.

- **Approval of electoral register:**

Decision: The electoral register was approved by the general assembly.

- **Meeting notice in due order:**

The meeting notice was sent out in due time to all PhD students (at least 2 weeks before the meeting).

Decision: Approved by the general assembly.

- **Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes from the previous General Assembly meeting (2019-11-22) are available on the DS webpage: <https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/public/#GAM>

Decision: Approved by the general assembly.

- **Auditor for the current period 2019/2020:**

Sreelekha Etikyala from the M2 department is nominated to be the auditor for the 2019/2020 DS board. She has not been a member of the DS board in 2019/2020 and she is not elected also to be a member of the 2020/2021 board. There was no other nomination during the assembly.

Decision: The general assembly approved Sreelekha Etikyala as the auditor for the 2019/2020

- **Election of DS Board 2020/2021:**

A nomination committee was set up and elected by the General Assembly in November 2019. The committee nominated the following members as board members for 2020/2021:

Jonathan Cohen, Jannik Theyssen, Yasaman Dabirian, Christopher Sauer, Mareddy Reddy, Muhammad Waqar Azhar, Mads Rönnow, Masoud Bahraini, Artem Rodionov, Omkar Salunkhe, Sarah-Laura de la Torre Dolins, Gustav Lindwall, Elin Malmgren, Jayesh Khatri, Isabel Harrysson Rodrigues, Adriana Canales Ramos, Nitesh Raj Jaladurgam, Ida Karlsson, Andri Spilker, Stina Månsson, Gabriella Gatenholm.

Decision: There were no new nominations during the assembly and the suggested new members were approved by the general assembly.

- **Election of DS Chair:**

The nomination committee received a single application for the DS chair this time – Christopher Sauer, who has been a member of the DS during the 2019/2020 period as well. The committee decided to nominate him as the DS Board chairman. Anton Kersten presented the process on how the nomination list has been acquired and why the nomination committee reached the decision to select Christopher. Yasaman Dabirian (member of the board also during the 2019/2020 period) was nominated as the Vice Chair. Christopher made a presentation showing his and Yasaman's visions and goals for the upcoming year and presented himself. Yasaman also presented herself.

Decision: Christopher Sauer and Yasaman Dabirian were elected as the DS chair and vice-chair, respectively, by the general assembly.


- **Report on current DS activities:**

Ananda S. Kannan (the current chair) presented the main DS activities during this year and the role that the DS plays in different councils. The main contributions of the DS have been the following:

- *COVID-19:* The DS has collected feedback from all departments and has created a document summarizing the views of every department. The actions the DS has taken are:
 - Communication with the Vice rector of graduate education (Anders Palmquist) and the rector (Stefan Bengtsson)
 - Work with other universities at a national level (SFS-DK)
 - Organized a webinar to support PhD students (2020/06/01): 'Coping under COVID-19'. Over 60 people attended.
- *Economy in balance (EiB) discussions at Chalmers:*
 - The DS has been working in conjunction with the studentkår (in particular with Dennis Norman, chairman) to provide oversight on the decisions taken by the rector and other members of the steering group handling EiB discussions.
- *Rules of procedure:*
 - The DOMB has identified some issues with the current document and these issues have been discussed.
 - These issues have been rectified in the updated Rules of Procedure and there will be a new document which will be released soon.
- *Electronic Study Platform (ESP):*
 - This platform will be used in the future by PhD students to generate their individual study plan (ISP).
 - A minimum viable product (MVP) has been developed in conjunction with the DS and a steering committee consisting of local council representatives. This steering committee was chaired by DS representatives.
 - An infographic of the MVP was shown to the assembly. This MVP can be tested at: https://invis.io/SGX5FV1E64Q#/416362592_MVP_Overview
- *PhD student survey:* It has been quite successful this year with over 468 respondents. The key results of the survey were presented to the assembly. These results can be accessed at the link: http://web.student.chalmers.se/~jannik/DS_survey2020/chalmers_overview.html
- *Workshop navigate academia:* it is planned for the fall of 2020.
- *PhD Alumni event in 2020:* very positive response with over 100 participants and 9 speakers

- *CHARM PhD*: good response at the booth
- *Supervisor of the year*: this year the award is given to Prof. Lisa Göransson from the division of Energy Technology (Department of Space, earth and environment). An honorable mentions list consisting of all nominees for the award was forwarded to the departments and the vice rector to further recognize and promote good supervision.
- *Local council outreach*: the current board tried to improve communication channels with the local PhD councils. Several base frameworks are in place to enable better synergy between the DS and local councils and amongst local councils themselves.
- **Other issues:**
 - More information about specific plans regarding the Covid-19 situation were asked. Ananda mentioned that at Chalmers this issue will be handled individually for each PhD student.
 - Economy in balance: Ananda mentions that more information will be available soon to all employees of Chalmers which will clarify the situation better.


Meeting is officially closed at 14:15 hrs.



Ananda S. Kannan
DS Chair



Georgios Mademlis
Secretary



Yasaman Dabirian
Adopter of minutes



Adriana Canales Ramos
Adopter of minutes