

Pre-Minutes: DS Board Meeting #HT20-1, 2020-09-08

Time: 13.00 - 16.00

Place: Room Pater Noster 2034, Forskarhus 1, Chemistry Building, Chalmers University of Technology

Meeting opened 13:06

Following officiants for the meeting proposed by the Chair:

Chair: Christopher Sauer
 Secretary: Elin Malmgren
 Reviewer: Ida Karlsson

Decision: All have accepted nominations and where approved.

§1. Election of meeting officials and approval of agenda

The agenda of the board meeting was approved by the board.

§2. Meeting notice

Decision: Meeting notice was in due order.

§3. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from previous meeting are reviewed and signed.

§4. Introduction round

An introductory round where each member of the board introduced themselves where performed. The elected members are as follows (* indicates present at meeting):

| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Christopher Sauer * | Chemistry and Chemical Engineering | Chair |
| Yasaman Dabirian * | Biology and Biological Engineering | Vice Chair/ treasurer |
| Jonathan Cohen * | Architecture and Civil Engineering | |
| Jannik Theysen * | Architecture and Civil Engineering | |
| Mareddy Reddy * | Chemistry and Chemical Engineering | |
| Mads Rönnow * | Computer Science and Engineering | |
| Muhammad Waqar Azhar | Computer Science and Engineering | |
| Masoud Bahraini * | Electrical Engineering | |
| Artem Rodionov * | Electrical Engineering | |
| Omkar Salunkhe * | Industrial and Materials Science | |
| Sigma Dolins * (until §4) | Industrial and Materials Science | |
| Gustav Lindwall * (not §4-§7) | Mathematical science | |
| Elin Malmgren * | Mechanics and Maritime Sciences | |
| Jayesh Khatri * | Mechanics and Maritime Sciences | |
| Isabel Harrysson Rodrigues * | Microtechnology and Nanoscience | |
| Adriana Canales | Physics | |
| Nitesh Raj Jaladurgam * | Physics | |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Ida Karlsson* | Space Earth and Environment |
| Andri Spilker* | Space Earth and Environment |
| Stina Månsson | Technology Management and Economics |
| Gabiella Gatenholm | Technology Management and Economics |

§5. Practical information

A new structure for the DS board meetings are proposed by the chair. The aim is to lower the practical discussions on the meetings and free up time for more in-depth discussions.

The board is using the tools DSmail (function-based email), DSchat (for direct communication) and DScould. If you have any issues around the DS infrastructure, send an email to DS IT.

We have assigned meeting secretary and reviewers for all meetings. If you cannot attend the meeting please switch with another person or find a replacement for your task.

§6. Budget (see attached excel 'Budget and hours' file)

The budget containing working hours allocated to each task was presented by Yasaman.

If a member of the board uses more time on a task than allocated, we will go over budget, so please let us know in advance if you think you might need to go over budget. The board has some room for necessary action that requires more time, but we are each responsible for keeping track on our separate time budget. If several people share one task, the hours in the post needs to be divided as the budget for each task is for the total amount of work under that task.

Members will report their work at the end of each quarter and receive compensation either as departmental work or as salary, depending on their personal preference. If you have any questions, please contact Yasaman.

§7. Plan of operation (see attached 'POO' file)

It was decided to add to the document an action point on starting the process of recruiting a new DOMB with the aim of having a new individual in place by end of next year.

Decision: Approved according to the commented document in the DScould with one open issue regarding current responsible board members, with the addition “starting the process of recruiting a new DOMB with the aim of having a new individual in place by end of next year”.

§8. Introduction of the DOMB

Moyra McDill gave a presentation regarding the previous year's work and the current state of the PhD population regarding who comes to see the DOMB and what type of issues that are present. If

you have any issues to discuss or problems in your own education, please don't hesitate to contact her.

<https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/support-for-phd-students/>

We are encouraged to please make sure that we talk to our local representatives about decision that the appraisal talks should be performed by a neutral third party if our supervisor and line manager is the same person.

The contact rate with doctoral students continues to rise. The reason for this is not clear, as it could be due to better awareness of the DOMBs existence. Nonetheless, a significant portion of the student population has been in contact with the DOMB. See report for details.

The work commitment for the DOMB continues to rise despite a reduction in the numbers of PhD students. The work environment remains a major issue. This is qualitatively confirmed by material from Chalmers occupational health service Pe3.

The lessons learned by DS and the university at large from previous experiences with the Rules of Procedure and university decisions need to be brought forward to the new Regulations. Unless there is serious buy-in at all levels. This means that we in DS need to be conscious of how this document is interpreted and use locally and at university level.

§9. Key topics from the committees and activities

- 1) Accounting
 - a. Nothing to report
- 2) FUN
 - a. First FUN meeting on 16th of September 9-12am. There will probably be a pre-meeting to this together with Anders Palmqvist who is the head of research education.
 - b. Ongoing topics: New model for study follow up meeting,
 - c. Implementation of the new Rules of Procedure for doctoral education
 - d. Impact of Covid-19. If you have any specific information or problems that have arisen please contact our FUN representatives.
 - e. We wish there to be more available information on recommended courses to take for a PhD. Many are available, but in many Departments, they are difficult to find. A best practice example would be the following page provided by mathematics:
<https://www.chalmers.se/en/departments/math/research/postgraduate-studies/Postgraduate-courses/Pages/Postgraduate-courses-2021.aspx>
- 3) AJK
 - a. Presentation of the DS board's PhD survey to be held on the next meeting
- 4) Chalmers AB board
 - a. In an extraordinary meeting, the work and plan for the coming years of the Rektor Stefan Bengtsson was discussed
- 5) Chalmers research foundation
 - a. Nothing to report
- 6) CHARM
 - a. Nothing to report
- 7) PhD alumni event
 - a. Nothing to report
- 8) Media communication

- a. What information could be useful for PhDs? If you have any ideas for the newsletter please pass it on.
- 9) DS IT support and webpage
 - a. Nothing to report
- 10) Nomination committee
 - a. Nothing to report
- 11) Faculty council –
 - a. A new faculty council has started their elected term. The agenda for which questions, issues and goals the group is currently being set with the group. If there are any issues, we would like to be addressed over all at Chalmers we therefore have a chance to raise them here now. However, the faculty council is not a group with direct mandate over issues. The first meeting was on the first of September. If you want to know more about the council you can find it here: <https://www.chalmers.se/sv/om-chalmers/organisation/chalmers-ledning/Sidor/fakultetsradet.aspx>
 - b. If you have any issues regarding quality of the research education or research at Chalmers, please reach out
- 12) ESP
 - a. First steering group meeting was conducted on September 4th 2020. Next steering group meeting is scheduled for October 9th 2020. News about ESP development phases will be posted on the Intranet. The ESP committee will meet in either week 42 or 43 after the steering group meeting.
- 13) Introduction day
 - a. Next introduction day will be online the 30th of Sept. Working on how to do that in the best way and trying to add some specific info for new international students are the main goals.
 - b. Ideas for making this day more valuable are welcome as the next introduction day is being planned now.
 - c. Information on issues important for international PhDs coming on to Chalmers is currently lacking. We will investigate what information exists and how to distribute that information easily in the networks that currently exists such as local PhD councils.
 - d. Some questions regarding being an incoming international PhD student are answered here: <https://circ.chalmers.se/index.php/faq/>
- 14) Institutional council
 - a. Nothing to report
- 15) Local PhD council coordinator
- 16) Chalmers ethics committee
 - a. Enrolled, nothing to report yet.
- 17) PhD survey
 - a. Survey will be finalized next week according to plan.
 - b. Support needed on hosting the survey website. DS IT will look into this.
- 18) SACO
 - a. Currently discussing Ekonomi I Balans (EiB). Nothing that concerns the Ph.D. students at this point
- 19) Social activities/ PhD student outreach
 - a. Ideas for social activities are encouraged.
 - b. Andri will organize an outdoor activity, find a date and the information will be sent out to all PhDs through emails.
- 20) FUM – Student union board
- 21) Supervisor of the year
 - a. Nothing to report

- 22) Focus group equality
 - a. Nothing to report
- 23) GTS committee
 - a. The group is 'reorganizing' GTS and changing the mandatory courses and credits. Discussing also different possible options for having mandatory optional courses (or not having this at all...). This means a significant change for the PhD population, and the work forward to ensure the quality of the research education will be important. The work is progressing quickly and interlinks with how we at Chalmers views the research education.
 - b. Meetings held every two weeks and progress is rapid.
- 24) Climate strategy
 - a. Nothing to report
- 25) PhD webinar
 - a. An event will be hold virtually in three weeks with separate sessions for different topics. We have approved funding from the Student Union for a 3 session online workshop for PhDs and Post-docs 'Navigate Academia and maximize your potential'. You can find the event here: <https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/join-navigate-academia-ws/>. It will start on September 25th. Each week the PhDs can develop different aspects relating to leadership of others and themselves. There is a limited time frame to register, but we have received founding and the event will therefore be free for all attendees. September 22nd last date to sign up! Now we are working on advertising it before the registration deadline.
 - b. We will need support from the DS media communication to create Facebook and LinkedIn events to advertise the 'Navigate Academia and maximize your potential' event.
- 26) Forskningsnämnden (FN)
 - a. Nothing to report
- 27) DS and local council re-organization
 - a. Nothing to report

§10. Actions for the next meeting

See below.

§11. Other matters

Nothing

§12. Closing of the meeting

Meeting closed at 16:01

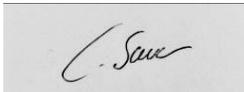
Tasks for the next meeting

| Task | Person(s) responsible | Status |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| Presentation of the DS boards PhD survey to be held on the next AJK meeting | Ida | |

| | | |
|--|------------------|--|
| Raise with vice rector of research education that we want more coherent information on available PhD courses (the math department is a good example) | Chris | |
| A PhD survey summary presentation to use in different settings to be drawn up | Jannik | |
| PhD survey to be finalized | PhD survey team | |
| Advertise for the 'Navigate Academia and maximize your potential' event | PhD webinar team | |
| Look in to setting up a hike for PhD students | Andri | |
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9/17/2020

X



Christopher Sauer
 President
 Signed by: sauerC

2020-09-16

2020-09-16

X

Elin Malmgren

Elin Malmgren
 Secretary
 Signed by: malelin

X



Ida Karlsson
 Reviewer
 Signed by: idakarls

Introduction

The Doctoral Student Guild (DS) is a student union (SU) body at Chalmers University of Technology (Chalmers). It is the key coordinating body that represents the interests of all doctoral students across Chalmers in several key boards and committees within the institution and outside of it (the Swedish National Union of Students - Doctoral Student Committee or SFS-DK).

More specifically, our goal is to improve the existing conditions for doctoral students at Chalmers by:

- Representing the interests of doctoral students in several key boards and committees at Chalmers (including the Institutional group: Chalmers AB, Faculty Board, Committee for research education, or Forskarutbildningsnämnden – FUN, etc.)
- Identifying, preventing, and eliminating issues related to doctoral education at Chalmers (such as contributing to a better work environment that fosters the growth of both the PhD student and his/her research output)
- Becoming a communication hub by facilitating a direct link between the PhD students and the institution groups (such as the Chalmers AB foundation or FUN etc.)
- Ensuring that the rights of every doctoral student are withheld by closely working with the DOMB and the vice-rector for research and education (FUN) at Chalmers

The DS exists to promote and monitor/follow-up on matters that are of joint interest to all the doctoral students across the university. Every doctoral student is a voting member of the DS and has the right to elect the governing board (which is done annually at the General Assembly). In general, the activities of the DS are divided into –

1. Core operating activities
2. Supplemental activities
3. Advisory roles
4. Sideline activities

The new board was elected in the month of May 2020. This document is drafted as a preliminary plan of operation (PoO) specifying the activities for this elected DS Board for the period 2020-2021.

1. Core operating activities

The DS is involved in several activities that directly impact both the quality of doctoral education as well as the overall environment for research. These activities are in the direct interest of every doctoral student employed at Chalmers and are listed in this section.

1.1 Representation

To represent the interests of doctoral students in various governing and consultative bodies is a valuable tool for achieving the DS's main objectives, i.e. to contribute to a better environment that fosters the growth of both the PhD student and his/her research output. Therefore, one of the core operating activities of the DS Board is to provide such a wide-spread representation.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

Provide active representation in bodies, committees and work groups at Chalmers. Active representation would mean that the assigned DS representatives should participate in at least 75% of the meetings. Currently the board provides representation in the following institutional groups:

- Chalmers AB board
- AJK / Work Environment and Equality Council
- Faculty Council
- Forskarutbildningsnämnd FUN /
Research Education Council
- Forskningsnämnden FN
- Chalmers Research Foundation
(Forskningsfonden)
- Chalmers ethics committee
- Focus group Equality
- Research misconduct
- Student Union board meeting (FUM)
- Institutional Council (formerly: Library council)
- University evaluation group (about to be finalized)
- University evaluation group for sustainability

1.2 SACO: Trade union and wage negotiations

The DS is also actively engaged in matters dealing with labor rights and labor law (pertinent to the employment of doctoral students). It is essential that the doctoral student's interests are appropriately represented during the yearly wage negotiations.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

- Communicate with SACO the rights of doctoral students.
- Participate in the yearly wage negotiations between SACO and Chalmers.

1.3 Communication

It is of greatest importance that information relevant to doctoral education at Chalmers is communicated appropriately. In relation to this, the DS has a number of activities to ensure that a clear and efficient communication channel is established between the institution and the doctoral student. Information pertaining to the current activities of the DS board would be regularly updated across the various communication channels to ensure a rapid and efficient dissemination of relevant information.

With regards to this, **the DS shall:**

- Maintain and develop an independent website (<http://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/>) as a means of communicating the most relevant information.
- Use the capabilities of social media (i.e. [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), etc.) to better reach out to doctoral students.

- Publish a [newsletter](#) twice a year to spread the information about upcoming events and further highlight recent DS activities.
- Advertise on behalf of the DS whenever an opportunity arises. Mainly to let the doctoral students know that the DS exists, and to further inform them about the kind of issues that are generally handled.

1.4 PhD student reach-out

In connection with the previous point, the DS oversees and initiates a number of outreach activities to include all PhD students within the discussions that are currently handled by the board. This is achieved by regularly reaching out to the local PhD councils (via a local PhD council coordinator), thereby ensuring a smooth communication between the DS board and the local councils. Such a regular dialogue would uplift the overall quality of doctoral education and further give the PhD students an opportunity to directly share their immediate concerns and issues with the DS board.

Furthermore, motivation is a critical (and often difficult to achieve) pre-requisite that is required to enable the engagement of PhD students. A pivotal argument towards a valid motivation is that *'PhD students, who are not yet in the final year of their studies, would usually be affected by most issues that are being discussed at the DS board'*. The DS outreach initiatives would emphasize on this 'global' message to better engage the students.

With regards to this, **the DS shall:**

- Appoint a local PhD council coordinator who shall monitor the activities undertaken within all the local PhD councils at Chalmers.
- Facilitate a two-way communication between the local councils and the DS board, by allowing DS board members to attend local council meetings.
- Organize workshops and/or relevant training modules for the members of the local councils to educate them about DS activities.
- Organize informal gatherings such as PhD barbeques and/or other social events to try and engage all the PhD students at Chalmers.

1.5 Events related to doctoral education

The DS helps in organizing and coordinating several events that benefits the doctoral student.

With regards to this, **the DS shall:**

- Represent doctoral education at Chalmers during the [CHARM](#) fair.
- Organize an event where PhD alumni meet current PhD students and report about their career in industry.
- Organize a [workshop series](#) to navigate academia and maximize ones potential covering sessions on self-leadership, sleep management and stress management.
- Co-organize the "[Introduction for Doctoral Students](#)" to supply the new PhD student with the most relevant information regarding doctoral studies in Sweden.
- Present the DS at all local PhD councils in order to improve its visibility.

1.6 Follow-up and feedback

The DS board represents all doctoral students at Chalmers, hence it is important that the board's activities are regularly monitored and appropriately disseminated.

With regards to this, the DS shall:

- Hold biannual General Assemblies which gives every DS member the opportunity to offer feedback on the board and its activities.
- Send out a survey (once every two years) that directly addresses aspects related to the overall satisfaction of the doctoral employment
- Present trends noted in these surveys and other internal evaluations at the various institutional groups (such as for e.g. FUN), in order to bring about a suitable change.

2 Supplemental activities

In addition to the core operating activities, the DS board initiates and supports several supplemental activities such as, the functioning of the Doctoral Student Ombudsman (Doktorandombud, DOMB), the Supervisor of the Year Award, the development of an electronic platform ESP, to name a few. These activities are listed in this section.

2.1 Doktorand ombudsman (DOMB)

The ombudsman (DOMB) is one of the most important services granted by the DS to any doctoral student. The DOMB can help the doctoral student (who is in need of help) to identify issues, discuss potential solutions as well as be a supporting party in meetings with the supervisor and/or department/institution. In early 2016, Moyra McDill started her role as the DOMB.

It should be noted that the DOMB is hired by the DS, and he/she directly reports to the board (i.e. is not a Chalmers employee). In order to support the DOMB, the DS shall:

- Provide/sponsor the DOMB with the suitable infrastructure (such as relevant courses and/or other overheads like office space etc.) to ensure a smooth functioning of the role.
- Engage with the DOMB regularly to understand the general nature of the cases being handled.
- Present the DOMB at the “[Introduction for Doctoral Students](#)” event.
- Actively involve in improving the conditions of employment (through the yearly appraisal meetings – employee satisfaction discussions about the DOMB role).
- Assess general trends in the DOMB's cases, so as to propose/enforce a suitable change at the institutional level (through the various groups such as FUN for e.g.).
- Initiate the recruitment of a new DOMB in the beginning of 2021.

2.2 Supervisor of the year

Each year the Chalmers awards the ‘Supervisor of the Year’ prize. The DS is involved in organizing/supporting the award of this prize (together with Sofia Månsson). The visibility and importance that this prize carries requires emphasis, and the DS would aid in such an effort by leading the dissemination of the relevant information.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

- Carry on the selection process according to the relevant criteria (as assessed by the doctoral students).
- Actively engage in reaching out to as many PhD students as possible: utilize the help of local councils for a more efficient reach-out (involve the local PhD council coordinators)
- Advertise the ‘call for the prize’ via the several DS communication channels and through posters/flyers
- Enhance the discussion among students and supervisors about the importance of a good supervision.
- Interview previous/current winners of the prize to further improve the visibility of the award (these interviews are published in the DS newsletter and on the webpage)

2.3 Recruitment and grass-root support (nomination committee)

To fulfill the requirement for an effective and coordinated DS board, it is essential for the board to communicate with its members. This is achieved through the regular board meetings which are used to evaluate the various activities undertaken by the members. Further, recruitment of active members for different assignments and a constant turnover of DS board members is also a requirement.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

- Strive towards equal representation from all departments at Chalmers. That is to say, each department is strongly encouraged to have at least one representative at the DS board.
- Encourage and support the development of local doctoral student councils, which represent doctoral students at a departmental level.

2.4 Collaboration and organizational integration with the student union (Chalmers Studentkår)

DS is a part of the student union (Chalmers Studentkår), and there is great practical and strategic value in our collaboration with them. The kår has a strong say in matters that affect student life at Chalmers, and it is valuable to foster an active relationship with them.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

- Have a continuous relationship with the board of the Chalmers Studentkår.
- Strive to formally organize the DS agreement with Chalmers through the Chalmers Studentkår.

2.5 National influence and representation

DS values the possibility to have an exchange of ideas with other student unions and doctoral organizations across Sweden and further influence the policy making at a national level. In relation to this, the DS cooperates with organizations such as [The Swedish National Union of Students –](#)

Doctoral Student Committee (SFS-DK).

With regards to this, **the DS shall:**

- Actively involve in the activities of the SFS-DK by applying membership again in the beginning of 2021.
- Communicate national level policy changes to the institution as well as the local PhD councils.

2.6 PhD satisfaction survey

DS aims at improving the conditions for doctoral studies at Chalmers. In order to better represent the students and identify key area of interest, the DS sends out a survey which is further analyzed in the following three continuation tracks:

- 1) Follow-up Track - This can be seen as yet another opportunity to receive and analyze feedback in the Chalmers Employee Survey and hence build on the doctoral student's voice in improving satisfaction.
- 2) Publicity Track - Engage in activities aimed at raising the awareness of the emerged issues among the doctoral students, both as a preventive measure and as a way to empower the students with the tools needed for diagnosing a problem.
- 3) Policy Track - Inform Chalmers about the findings and conclusions from the survey and ask for their intervention to improve the status quo. Initiate and catalyze a change of policies and procedures that impact positively on the situation of the doctoral students and ensure fair and equal treatment.

With regards to this, **the DS shall:**

- Conclude the analysis of the survey from 2020 (Follow up track).
- Develop a plan for improvement (Policy track), during 2020/21.
- Raise awareness of the results among doctoral students (Publicity track) and Chalmers instances, during 2020/21.

2.7 Electronic study plan (ESP)

The DS was involved in designing an electronic platform (2015/16) to aid in the seamless tracking of a doctoral student's progress (the study plan). This system was officially approved by the Institutional committees during 2017/18 with the decision to constitute a work group to evaluate its immediate implementation. A steering committee consisting of members from the DS board with other members from FUN and the institutional work groups was constituted and the implementation of the ESP is currently in progress. DS is ensuring its quality and giving constant feedback on the work in progress.

In relation to this, **the DS shall:**

- Represent the doctoral student's interests in the steer group by actively relaying relevant

- information to the group.
- Form and lead a sub-committee consisting of members from all local councils at Chalmers (which will be chaired by the DS board representative).
 - Facilitate a two-way communication between the local council ESP committee and the steering group in order to directly influence the desired changes.

3. Advisory roles

The DS is indirectly involved in several other activities that impact the quality of doctoral education. These advisory involvements are primarily through the representation at the various committees (such as at FUN). There are a few activities which would require some regular monitoring. These are listed in this section.

4.2 New rules of procedure – Doctoral education at Chalmers

A new version of the Rules of Procedure for Doctoral Programs was decided in August 2020 and is replacing the last version from 2014. The changes were based on input from the DS, local councils and DOMB. The vice rector of research education declared the Rules of Procedure a “living document” that shall from now on be updated in a more frequent manner.

3.1 PhD studies follow-up

FUN has initiated an activity to improve the existing framework for the PhD studies follow-up. This new framework closely ties-in with the ESP and aims at ensuring a uniform framework for evaluating PhD education. DS also wishes for such a framework and will push for its formalized support. The formulation of this new framework is now about to be implemented and its progress will be further monitored by DS. (mainly through the FUN meetings).

3.2 Improving doctoral courses

FUN has also been involved in improving the doctoral courses provided at Chalmers. The DS survey showed that there was a need to improve the visibility and availability of existing courses as well as provide more courses in order to satisfy the demand. DS will also monitor this closely, actively providing suggestions to the institutional committees and work groups.

3.3 Evaluation of GTS (generic and transferable skills)

Chalmers offers a course package of interdisciplinary personal and professional development courses for doctoral students, i.e. the generic and transferable skills (GTS) package. The DS considers the improvement of these offered courses as an important matter. During the last year, the GTS package has been evaluated thoroughly and decisions on restructuring and improvements are in a process where DS is currently having a strong voice on how these changes can be most beneficial to the PhD students.

3.4 Impact of Covid-19 on PhD students

The ongoing pandemic caused by the coronavirus has impact on PhD students and their education due to difficulties in setting up a remote work-flow and establishing efficiency while working from home. Delays in experimental work due to restricted access to laboratories or instruments, dependency on external partners who have a complete or partial shut-down can be problematic. Cancelled conferences and research visits are important for networking with the research community and potential employers. Psycho-social impacts due to social distancing and exclusion are expected as well as safety concerns due to risk of contamination when working in narrow laboratory spaces. DS shall monitor these concerns and address them to the university management on all levels to reduce the impact on the individual PhD student as much as possible.

3.5 Economy in Balance

In order to get the economy in balance, PhD students can be negatively affected by the decisions made by Chalmers. For example, reduced budget to GTS courses can result in many of these courses being cancelled, reduced percentage of maximum allowed departmental duties (for example 10% instead of 20%), can reduce ones teaching activities. The DS will monitor future discussions closely and take action when necessary to reduce any potential negative consequences that may evolve from any decisions.

4 Sideline activities

These are the topics that the DS has on its radar but have not assigned any dedicated activities to as yet.

4.1 Time for licentiate degree

Reducing the considerable variation noticed in the time needed for the completion of a licentiate has been a regularly addressed matter. All doctoral students should now be able to obtain a licentiate degree within 3 years. DS aims to continue to monitor this topic to spot and help to solve deviations from this.

4.2 Restructuring DS and local councils

To ensure that both DS and local councils are benefitting maximally from each other in their endeavor of creating an optimal and fair working situation for all PhD students at Chalmers, and to create a more systematic way in which DS and local councils collaborate with each other, DS is planning to suggest a new model for how to bring the DS and local councils under one umbrella. In other words, we seek to restructure, or at least initiate a model, for how DS and local councils can optimally work together.