

# CPPC board meeting 2020-02-27

by Nitesh Raj Jaladurgam

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Opening</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Follow up on previous meeting</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Update from meeting with Lena Falk</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Update about ESP</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DOMB</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Financial status of Physics</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Information on Tv screens</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Group activity</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Other matters</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>	<b>4</b>

## 1 Opening

The meeting was opened by Sara Nilsson. All the board members were present. Nitesh was made secretary.

## 2 Agenda

The Agenda is approved by all to discuss during the meeting.

## 3 Follow up on previous meeting

- Sara has sent an email attaching the introduction day presentation to all Phd students at Physics.
- Nitesh contacted Malena regarding alternative methods to do popular presentation. Malena mentioned that they had a workshop on doing podcast/youtube video and they will come up with another workshop with clear guidelines soon.
- Konstantinos will work with Mathew about having a dedicated page of CPPC either intergrated with FFF or an individual one.

## 4 Update from meeting with Lena Falk

- Lena said PhD students wanted to be anonymous when they bring up an issue or they prefer not to bring up issues in general. She mentioned that student must contact director of studies as a first contact in the department to report issues and cooperate to solve them. If the situation/problem is beyond a certain stage, then she and Tomas are always fine to welcome DOMB to attend the situation as a support for the student. CPPC will always be there to guide students when they come up with issues and whom to contact based on the situation.
- Lena wanted to extend the introduction day from its current state to 2-3 days and also thinking to make it as mandatory for new phd students. She also pitched an idea of starting the facility tour for new phd students across divisions by appointing one PhD student representative from each division.
- Lena also suggested that CPPC can meet new phd students and help them accordingly with the information. CPPC felt it is not necessary to meet new students. Nitesh mentioned about buddy system in his division, where the new phd student will be assigned to one of the colleagues and he/she will take care of the new person with the starting things at Chalmers. Nitesh will share the buddy system documents with CPPC.

## 5 Update about ESP

- Mathias was at ESP committee meeting recently. This time they tested the designs regarding categories and got the feedback about ESP system from the user perspective.
- Chalmers wanted to cut the budget for ESP and make it happen with the limited functions. Mathias said it makes sense to cut new things which were not present in ISP. ESP cuts some stuff like feedback about supervisor from phd student perspective.
- Mainly automated things will be present in ESP such as automated teaching hours, departmental hours and time saving things. They try to balance the usability of ESP based on ISP. PhDs are more positive about ESP than other ones (rest of chalmers). ISP will be alive but more automated using ESP.

## 6 DOMB

Looking at the DOMB report, many issues were related to supervision in Physics (about 56%). Adrianna is part of the supervisor of the year award committee. She suggested to extend the supervisor of the year award to all departments and display the names of awardees and also state why there are best. This step might reduce the issues with supervision in future. She also informed about the workshop by Deborah Rupert, who helps scientists with wellbeing and stress issues. DS has planned the workshop with Deborah on 22 April for about 50-100 students. Physics can hire Deborah for workshop during department day.

## 7 Financial status of Physics

Mathias has summarised the email from Tomas as given below

- The financial situation is poor due to, among other things, "macroeconomical factors", i.e. a predicted long period of low market interest rates, which causes Chalmers to have to pay large sums of money to pension funds over the coming years. Due to the way that Chalmers accounts the pension debt, the financial situation will be worse here than at other universities.
- Total costs must be reduced by 200 MSEK/year.
- For 2021, Chalmers aims for a deficit of at most 80 MSEK. For 2022, the finances should be in balance, i.e. no deficit.
- Rector has instructed the department heads to develop a detailed plan of action, such that by the end of 2022, department personnel costs are 90% of the 2019 personnel costs. The cost decrease should be done stepwise, with a 3% decrease during 2020, 4% for 2021 and 3% for 2022 (in percentages of total personnel costs for 2019). The departments are not allowed to show a deficit during any of the years 2020-2022.
- 5% of 2019 costs, other than personnel costs, should also be cut by 2022.
- The main goal is to improve the Chalmers-wide result, meaning that if cutting costs causes a loss of income, additional cuts must be made to cover the lost income. Hence, cost reductions should primarily be directed at operations "that are not conducting top international research, that do not bring in large external grants, and that do not significantly contribute to the Chalmers basic education".
- The plans from the department heads are allowed to cut operations (groups/units), optimise education (both basic and postgraduate), cut or renegotiate contracts which are more expensive than useful (e.g. co-funding), and decrease general costs (e.g. travels, consulting etc.). Plans are to be reported by March 31st 2020.

## 8 Information on Tv screens

Postponed to next meeting

## 9 Group activity

There are many choices in the city and we will come up with some thing in future. We are yet here from Tomas about the budget for the group activity.

## 10 Other matters

Nitesh mentioned about the DS initiative, which was to have a PR representative from each local council. The PR representative would ease the role of the 'Chair' quite a bit by entirely being involved in advertising and promoting the various doctoral student bodies at Chalmers. This role can be shared by multiple people within the council (it is totally up

to the council's discretion on how to fulfil task). Further, the PR rep would be in contact with the corresponding reps from the other local councils and this communication will be moderated by the DS (through the local council co-ordinators). For now, Nitesh agreed to be as PR representative.

## **11 Next meeting**

The next CPPC meeting will be held on 2 April at 13.00 in F5002.