

CPPC board meeting 2021-05-17

by Björn Lönn

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Participants to the meeting: Adriana Canales, Mathias Hoppe, Andrea Fazi, Daniel Erkensten and Björn Lönn.

Contents

1	Opening	1
2	Agenda	1
3	Follow up on previous meetings	1
4	DS meeting updates	2
	(i) New vice rector	2
	(ii) Licentiate issues	2
	(iii) Generic Competencies and Skills	2
	(iv) SACO	2
	(v) DS student guide	2
5	Meetings with Lena	3
	(i) Intro day	3
	(ii) Buddy system	3
	(iii) PhD courses	3
6	Intro day	3
7	Other matters	3
8	Next meeting	3

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by Adriana. Björn was made secretary.

2 Agenda

- The current agenda was approved by the board.

3 Follow up on previous meetings

- No news regarding neither the local equality group or the teaching issues. The idea is still to invite **Jakob Welander** to a meeting for a discussion about the teaching and his ideas. Such a meeting has not been scheduled so far, in order to allow **Jakob** to catch up with his work.

- PhD courses: **Daniel** communicated the results from the PhD course survey. He has compiled a list of 33 courses.
- Buddy system: **Andrea, Mathias, Adriana** and **Björn** had a meeting with Lena about the proposed Buddy system, on May 6th.

4 DS meeting updates

(i) New vice rector

The Vice Rector was recently exchanged quite abruptly, and the DS was not involved in the recruitment of a new candidate.

(ii) Licentiate issues

FUN has communicated that it is quite common that PhD students take too long (up to and beyond 3 years) to complete their licentiate degree. To some extent this could be a result of different rules for the licentiate degree at different departments, divisions, graduate schools and even individual groups. The consequence being that PhD students who defend their licentiate later, gets a lower salary than students who do it earlier (due to the "one-time" salary increase which is tied to the licentiate degree at Chalmers). **Adriana** asked Lena for statistics regarding licentiate defences at Physics. Lena responded that the average time for finishing the licentiate is between 2.3-2.7 years at Physics. These statistics will be used to discuss differences at the Physics department, and whether or not a more standardized system could be of interest. **Daniel** will look for the DS survey which includes somewhat older statistics.

(iii) Generic Competencies and Skills

- The introduction day arranged by GTS was cancelled. The next occasion will be during fall.
- The GTS part of the PhD education is being restructured and reduced. There is not much information about this and the new responsible person is hard to reach.

(iv) SACO

The wage negotiations are done. They were tough due to the Economy in Balance, and only a small increase was reached. There will be no new negotiations until two years from now.

(v) DS student guide

The DS has put together a student guid for new PhD's, collecting important PhD-related information, as well as helpful tips and links about living in Sweden. There are also plans for a PhD tool-box, which will benefit also the PhD students who are longer into their education. The CPPC will link to this student guide in the Buddy information folder.

5 Meetings with Lena

(i) Intro day

The introduction day for new PhD students at Physics takes place on Friday May 21. The CPPC will give a presentation in the meeting, and arrange an After Work for the new students afterwards. The next intro meeting is in October/November.

(ii) Buddy system

Lena was positive towards the buddy system discussed in the meeting on May 6th. **An-drea** and **Björn** will now go to the next step in setting this up. They will have a new meeting to discuss among other things, the recruitment of Buddies.

(iii) PhD courses

Lena was briefed about the list of courses that **Daniel** has been putting together. She was positive about sharing this list in the intro meeting for new PhD students as well as publishing it in the new Student Guide from the DS. She also has her own list, which could be compared with the CPPC's list before publishing.

6 Intro day

During the meeting, the presentation for the intro day on May 21 was worked through and some adjustments/additions were made. In connection to the introduction day, the CPPC has planned an After Work in the evening for the new students, and suitable activities were discussed during the meeting.

7 Other matters

The ESP testing period has been further postponed, as communicated by **Mathias**.

8 Next meeting

The next CPPC board meeting will be held on June 14th, at 13:00.