

Meeting minutes: DS Board Meeting #VT23-4, 2023-03-30

Time: 12.30 – 14.59

Place: TME Room Korsvägen V2 - 2456, Teams

§1. Election of meeting officials and approval of agenda

Chair – Daniel
Secretary – Thomas
Reviewer – Johan

Decision: The agenda and meeting officials were approved.

§2. Meeting notice

Decision: The notice was in due order.

§3. Minutes from previous meeting

Decision: approved

§4. General Assembly

The next General Assembly will take place April 20, 11.50-13.05 in HA1.

Jingnan will organize the food. Yin, Iohanna and Michail will help.
Francisco, Angelica, Johan and Evgenyia will check the attendance.

§5. Next year

- Handover
 - o All board members should write down “tips and tricks” regarding each role as handover documents. For every role, we should also give a short overview of what happened during the past year.
- POO
 - o Board members are asked to fill in the POO draft on the DS cloud in a concise manner.
- Misc Q&A:
 - o Daniel states that the new DS board should have between 13-26 members.
 - o We will get the report from the DOMB soon.

§6. Survey on residence permits decision time

As of 29/3, the survey was answered by 202 students, $\frac{3}{4}$ of them are from outside the EU. Most of them applied for an extension and while being a PhD. 30 students (~18%) had to wait for more than 6 months. A lot of personal consequences and stress. Ca. 45% missed at least one conference, and 37% one project meeting. A lot of free text answers.

The plan is to prepare a press statement from the data and collaborate with the student union in this manner. Daniel will draft the statement and try to get it published.

In reaction to a question by Yiting, Daniel will follow up on the permanent residency issue for PhD students to see how the situation has developed. Adriana points out that the situation might even have become worse. (For instance, graduates have in some cases not been granted A-Kassa anymore.)

§7 Reports from tasks

- Fredrik Sandén, some updates from the Faculty Council:
 - Information about Chalmers's alleged connections with the 7 sons universities in China.
 - They might have found someone to lead GENIE (no official announcement yet).
 - Discussion regarding master courses/programs.
- JK (Equality Committee), Angelica Avella: Chalmers changed their mind and will again sponsor the West Pride. Results from the national gender-based violence and sexual harassment study can be shared internally. They want to have a plan before sharing the results publicly. Chalmers has a new equity coordinator (Frida Stjernholm).
- Equality Work Group Paul, Michail, Angelica:
 - Safe@Chalmers: They know they are rather slow because they are understaffed. They are currently 4 members and want at least two more. Another problem is that the members of Safe@Chalmers are not trained for their roles. Because of the slow reaction time, it currently cannot always be recommended to contact Safe@Chalmers with a problem. If reasonable, it may be better to first contact the line manager. A reminder of the steps one should follow in case of such a problem will be shared with the board. We should also put it on our website. The equality work group will try to push for improvement.
 - First-support seminar in case of harassment: Tutum can provide a seminar and it can be funded by GENIE. It should take place this year.
- FUN:
 - LADOK Electronic Study Plan (ESP): A national platform is planned, so Chalmers might stop the internal development. How to track departmental duty is not clear in the current state.
 - Gender harassment study workshop: A workshop with FUN was held last autumn. Now each department will get an assignment to have a plan ready before summer for how to address this issue.
 - Harmonizing departmental duty, course requirements and recognition: Evgenyia will upload results from a discussion with local council chairs to the cloud. Paul reports that departmental duties and PhD courses are handled differently among departments. Although cases should be handled individually, there should be a common ground for this.
- IT, Francisco: The DS website was down for half a day recently. Please notify Francisco or Paul if you notice a server outage because currently there is no good monitoring system. Some links to the Chalmers website are broken.
- Climate action, Christina: The sustainability report is published and available to read. It is very much focused on gender equality. Christina proposes to have a short section about sustainability in the next DS survey to find out what key points are most

important to PhD students. Fredrik points out that a concise definition of sustainability should be included.

- Institutional Council, Anna (via Daniel): Extended library access for students is planned. New collaboration within Nordic Five Tec might improve literature access.
- Yin:
 - Alumni Event: 10% of all PhDs showed interest but only 38 seats are available. Fifth-year PhDs were preferred. The event was a great success. Speakers tended to speak longer than planned. Keeping the event small has the advantage of having personal, direct contact with the speakers.
 - A new career event will be funded by Unimeet in June. 30 students from GU and Chalmers can take part, respectively. It will take place in a more neutral place, e.g. Slottsskogen or the Botanical Garden.
- Michail, Events with Chalmers Ventures / Dear Academia: There is a problem that students sign up but do not show up. Paul suggests a no-show fee.
- Supervisor of the Year: 18 nominations this year, and 4 finalists were interviewed. The winner of this year was announced through the DS newsletter as well as the DS website. Small gifts will be sent out to the finalists and the winner.
- Nomination Committee: Contacted local councils and local candidates, 6 new nominations so far. There will be interviews with the people who are interested in the position of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chair before the GA.

§7. Round the table – important news from the departments

- E2, Rita: Discussion on work culture, collaboration, the structure of departments/divisions/groups, and meetings. There is a lack of internal structure/collaboration/shared vision in some groups at several departments (e.g. MC2, E2). (Groups are not necessarily assembled by research topic which might be problematic.) Team-building events might help.
- CSE, Francisco: Our council is particularly worried about the migrationsverket problem. We have considered calling a demonstration and sending opinion articles to Swedish newspapers about this. I was asked to ask for help from the student union, for example from their press team, and see if we are alone in this feeling at DS.
 - Reminds that everyone can vote at the FUM meeting.
- Evgenyia will have a meeting with local council chairs, and she takes suggestions for discussion topics via email.

§8. Upcoming board meetings

The next (last!) meeting is May 25, 12:30.

§9. Other matters

- Angelica - DrGenie
 - Board nomination proposal: Current board nominates members (one per department). DS should be part of the election process; this can be done as part of the DS General Assembly or in a normal board meeting. (Time at the GA is

limited but more PhD students are attending.) Another proposal is to make the local councils elect their representative. (DS could approve the decision of the local councils. A close connection to DS is wanted by FUN.)

- DrGenie wants to present themselves in a couple of minutes during the GA. Daniel will try to account for that in the planning.

§10. Actions for next meeting

No further points.

§11. Closing the meeting

The meeting is closed at 14.59.

(§AW)