

CPPC board meeting 2026-01-21

by Athanasios Theodoridis

January 30, 2026

Participants at the meeting: Esmée Berger, Ida Ekmark, Simon Niederkofler, Tijmen Jacobs, Mirna Alhanash, Oliver Thim, Athanasios Theodoridis, Sofia Reiner

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1 Opening

The meeting was opened by Esmée Berger at 16:06. Athanasios was made secretary.

2 Agenda

The current agenda was approved by the board.

3 Next meeting

The next CPPC board meeting will be held on February 25th

4 Follow up on General Assembly

The General Assembly held in December was discussed. 14 members of CPPC attended. The meeting in general went well. This year it was easier to find people interested in joining the board than in previous years therefore, it was suggested that the nomination committee can send out an email earlier this year, to people that have shown interest.

5 Distribution of tasks

The different tasks within the CPPC board (buddy system, course survey, webpage, etc.) have been summarized for the newest board members. Athanasios will remain as the webpage responsible. Esmee and Athanasios will be the main responsibles for the Mingle & Munch events. Simon will remain as the buddy system representative.

6 Representatives

Sofia will remain as the FFF representative. Ida will take over Mirna's position as a representative in the Equality council, and Tijmen will replace Oliver in the Advisory council.

7 Follow up on previous CPPC meeting - Minutes

The previous minutes were discussed and summarized.

8 Project follow-up

(i) Mingle & Munch

- A tentative date for the next event has been proposed, Wednesday 18th of March. Athanasios will start contacting potential speakers for this event.

(ii) Buddy system

- Since our last meeting, we have a new student that has been assigned to a buddy.

9 Updates from other meetings

(i) Institutionsrådsmöte (advisory board meeting)

- Now with the restructuring of the Physics department, the head of department might want to change the structure of the council. The last meeting was held on the 9th of December.

- In the meeting they discussed the merger of the departments which will happen on the 1st of April.
- The advisory board will resolve and then reform, and therefore there is no date for a next meeting. Mattias Marklund will decide who will be part of it.
- Generally, there are no big risks with this merger, however there are two main hurdles: 1) co-location (SEE will stay at the EDIT building for the time being). However more space will be needed in the future. 2) How to get good cohesion from merging 2 departments. For example the lunch-room is not large enough to accomodate that many people.
- Oliver will inform that a new PhD representative (Tijmen) will be taking over from CPPC.

(ii) Equality Council

A meeting that was going to be held today, was postponed and was rescheduled for the 29th of January. Mirna will inform the Equality council that Ida will take over her role as PhD representative.

(iii) FFF

- FFF had a meeting on the 16th of January. Election for the new board will be held on the 9th of February. Sofia will be nominated again at FFF. The board will remain the same. The main purpose of the GA therefore, is to get audited regarding last year's finances.
- A discussion (during FFF's last meeting) also took place, on how would FFF look like after the merger, but there is not any additional information from the administration to date.

10 Other matters

(i) CPPC and FFF structure after Merger

- This will be a main point in the agenda with the meeeting with the head of department. The question is if there will be funds allocated for at least one more CPPC board member. Another question is whether the Physics Centrer will still include the SEE department. If not then FFF would go from 4 to 3 members, unless it would be possible to have a second member from the same department (e.g. Chalmers Physics, or MC2)

(ii) Date for photo

A new photo for the CPPC board will be taken on the 22nd of January.

(iii) Meeting with Lena Falk and Julie Gold

- A meeting was held on December 11 among the chair and vice-chair of CPPC, and the Director of studies (Lena Falk) and Vice-head of department (Julie Gold)
- Julie has taken over as the Vice-head of department from Lena Falk. This includes taking care of the extension for PhD students. Lena will still continue with the teaching distribution until the fall of 2026, and then another person will take over. Lena is also the director of studies for the Material Science graduate school. We don't know yet who will take over that role.
- Lena Falk also mentioned that there is a difference between how SEE and Physics handle the budget for teaching regarding PhD students, and their corresponding extensions, so with the formation of the new department a common approach has to be decided on.
- Currently, the department is having discussions with the examiner of each course, one at a time, to clarify and document the different teaching activities in their course. This includes the number of hours that are given for correcting and grading, administration etc, in addition to the teaching hours based on TimeEdit. The purpose of this investigation is to facilitate a well-reasoned and sustainable planning of the teaching duties carried out at the department, and thereby enable a well thought-out economic prognosis and a correct economic account of the teaching activities in the different courses. The department's aim with this process is to improve clarity and transparency and also make it easier for doctoral students to count teaching hours when filling in their ISP.
- The rules regarding contract extensions were discussed. The procedure for doctoral contract extensions is determined by the union agreement document titled "Lokalt kollektivavtal angående tidsbegränsade anställningar" which, loosely translated, states that the doctoral student contract can be extended beyond the four year mark based on sick leave or parental leave (among others). That this document states "can (kan) be extended" rather than "must (ska) be extended" means that the decision about such an extension is made on a case-to-case basis. This is now one of Julie's tasks as the new vice head of Department.

11 Closing

The meeting was closed by Esmee at 17:40.