

## MC2 PhD student council

Minutes for January 22, 2018

**Present:** Josef Hansson (Chair), Maria Ekström , Ewa Simpanen , Filip Hjort , Stavros Giannakopoulos , Silvia Ruffieux , Andreas Ask , Marlene Bonbon

### Election of meeting officials

Stavros was appointed secretary. And Ewa was appointed to seal the minutes. It was decided that from now on, Stavros will be the regular secretary and the sealer will rotate alphabetically starting with Ewa.

### Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved.

### Meeting notice in due order

Meeting notice was determined to be sent out in due order, despite the agenda being delayed.

### Updates from other boards and committees

#### *The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG)*

The executive group has met and Ewa shared her notes on various subjects discussed:

- Sidelines. The rate of submission of sidelines is very low on those who do not have any sidelines.

**We need to spread the word on our departments to let them know it is mandatory.**

- People who are not employees will no longer be given cid due to the fact that it violates a number of licence agreements with software companies. That might prove problematic for industrial PhDs depending on the formulation of their agreement with Chalmers.

**We should monitor on the developments in case we need to act.**

- Big investment is incoming on faculty members. There are ongoing discussions on how to enforce the male to female ratio. Several not-so-favourable ideas such as voluntary pensions were discussed in the group meeting.

#### *The department advisory board (Institutionsrådet)*

Maria informed the council that there is an upcoming advisory board meeting in early spring. Moreover, since she is defending her Thesis soon, there is a need for a replacement to take her position in the department advisory board as a PhD representative.

**We should consider whether one of the council members wants to take up that responsibility (or if we have another candidate) and discuss it on the next meeting.**

*Chalmers PhD student guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS)*

Maria discussed several points on the DS current work:

- With CHARM coming up, the DS has been working heavily in that to provide for the first time a PhD oriented day in CHARM. The council members provided names with former MC2 PhD students from each department that now work in industry so that the DS can invite them for the event.

**We should spread the information regarding CHARM to our colleagues.**

- The DS has been heavily involved in resolving student issues together with the DOMB. The issues are mainly referring to: A) the collective agreement of PhD students, and the different interpretation of that document by each division B) The common occurrence of burn out and issues with coming back to work that many PhDs face.
- The DS issued survey on PhD work environment and research education is still running but with low participation.

**We should spread the information so our fellow PhDs submit the survey.**

- Since Maria is defending her Thesis soon, there will be an opening in the DS for a representative from MC2.

**We should talk with Maria or the DS if we are interested for the seat and spread the information in our divisions.**

- The DS expressed the interest to host the website of the MC2 PhD council.

**Philip was appointed as responsible to handle the website and to communicate the procedure with the DS.**

*The union of research student in physics (Foreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF)*

Silvia notified us that the FFF has been planning a seminar in February regarding Career advancement aimed at PhD students.

## Knowledge repository

The existence of the box folder was discussed and the possibility to use it to hold the knowledge repository. Josef suggested to have someone responsible on handling the information but no assignment of responsibility happened yet. The information that will exist in the box should be available to all PhD students through the MC2 PhD council webpage and all members of the council should be able to add or edit content.

Some of the ideas for the exact content of the knowledge repository were:

- Travelling documents. Ewa volunteered to contact the HR and ask them to have an interview and possibly a presentation on how to properly operate the travel submission system. Stavros volunteered to provide the already accumulated information from LRS as a starting point.
- Feelgood. Information on how and what is available from Feelgood as well as how to submit the documents for wellness compensation.

- A list of the MC2 PhD council's ongoing activities/projects and their current progress to make sure that our work is visible.
- Contact info of the council as well as the current representative of each division.
- TRC. Andreas will try to get information regarding how the TRC works and if there are any requirements for a student to pass. He will try to arrange an interview with some member(s) of the TRC if possible to clarify.
- Information about credit transfer. What are the conditions and regulations in Chalmers.

Maria suggested we hold a theme meeting related to the division of work and assign clear responsibilities so that we start getting progress.

### **Credit Transferring**

Stavros brought up an issue in MEL where the examination is very strict on allowing students to transfer credits from previous studies. After cross-referencing with other divisions, it appears that the Chalmers rule states clearly that "It is up to the examiner". In the case of a student with a lack of courses to take, one solution would be to take courses in ANY university outside Chalmers. For such a trip Chalmers has to pay the travel expenses.

### **List of driving issues**

Josef proposed to have a document with the current issues that the council is striving to solve.

Maria suggested to look back in the mind-map and the discussions that took place on the founding days of the council in spring 2017 and draw inspiration from those meeting minutes.

Stavros proposed to setup a document visible to all members of the council where all current ideas or projects will be posted and start working until a more rigid planning is done.

### **Other issues**

There were no other issues.

### **Closing of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 13:30.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was arranged for Tuesday the 20th of February 2018 at 12:00