

## MC2 PhD Student Council

Minutes for council meeting on June 12, 2018

**Present:** Josef Hansson (Chair), Filip Hjort, Stavros Giannakopoulos, Andreas Ask, Marlene Bonmann, Silvia Ruffieux, Martí Gutierrez

### Opening the meeting

The meeting started at 12:00 in room A504 (Valensbandet) of MC2

### Election of meeting officials

Stavros was the regular secretary. Marlene was appointed to seal the minutes.

### Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved.

### Meeting notice in due order

Meeting notice was determined to be sent out in due order.

### Updates from other boards and committees

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

Ewa was not present to provide updates.

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

There was no advisory board meeting yet, so Andreas had no updates.

#### *Chalmers PhD student guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS)*

The DS representative was missing.

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

Filip who is now serving as the FFF representative of the Council attended their first meeting. The main points of the meeting consisted of the election of FFF officials and that the focus of FFF will be to kick-start the new Physics local PhD Student Council.

### LRS seminar

The LRS information seminar organised by the council was held in Kollektorn by representatives from LRS. It was deemed successful and somewhat informative. The Q&A interactive session at the end was received as the most interesting, while the presentation seemed to be more generic in nature. However, the main complaint was that there was little or no information for the seminar

in the news channels of MC2. Josef attributed that to miss-communication among the newsletter managers but also accepted part of the blame for not pushing them enough. We considered the possibility to contact LRS again to hold another seminar, mainly for the benefit of the newly admitted PhD students sometime in fall. Alternatively, LRS may hold part of their presentation on the Mandatory Introduction PhD day twice a year. The latter will require some further discussion with the DS.

### **Collaboration with FFF**

Several members of the Council attended FFF's general assembly. Filip volunteered to go as representative of MC2 student Council in FFF and was elected by the general assembly. FFF is changing focus into a network between the different Student schools in Physics, as well organiser of events. Therefore local student councils will have to be organised to handle the immediate issues. The statutes of FFF will have to change accordingly to reflect the new focus.

### **Knowledge repository**

Discussion took place on the readiness of the accumulated material in order to upload them in the Council's web-page. Among all the documents only the information regarding Feelgood requires more work hence the information to be uploaded will include:

- A Primula general guide.
- Travel document submission instructions, business travel guidelines and travel insurance information.
- Wellness benefits, along with solutions on the most common issues (submitting receipts etc).
- Information on the TRC and its role.
- Chalmers plus benefits.
- Procedure on doctoral programmes.

### **Student report on Chalmers evaluation**

The Chalmers evaluation requires for a student report to be appended on the final document. We were notified rather late for this (the deadline being end of June) therefore immediate action points were discussed to start writing and a themed meeting was scheduled for the 20th of June. Andreas volunteered to steer the completion of the report during the last week of June since Josef will be away on vacations.

The report should be based on responses from the student questionnaire if possible, although we are still missing these. There is a template provided on how to write it, and it should be limited to the studies perspective of MC2 (i.e. the doctoral school) and not the work environment. There was a discussion on whether actual working hours correspond to education (since credits are connotated with study hours) or whether they fall on the work environment category. One possible subject that we discussed was any issues on the admission process, regarding its transparency etc.

**Other issues**

The student interview was completed by the evaluation board. The feelings were generally good, however what struck as odd was the fixation of some of the evaluators on how overly good the working environment is for PhD students in MC2. Their concerns revolved around that the good environment does not build character, and it encourages students who are not really committed to research to join the ranks of doctoral students. On our good nature we considered this merely a culture difference and not an indication on where graduate education is heading.

**Closing of the meeting**

The meeting closed at 13:05.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting was arranged for Friday 24th of August at 12:00

**Sealing the minutes**