

MC2 PhD Student Council

Minutes for council meeting on September 20, 2019

Present: Filip Hjort, Stavros Giannakopoulos, Agin Vyas, Md. Anamul Hoque, Josef Hansson, Bogdan Karpiak (Guest)

Opening the meeting

The meeting started at 12:02 in room A520 of MC2

Election of meeting officials

Josef was the regular chair and Stavros the appointed secretary. Anamul Md. Hoque was elected to adopt the minutes.

Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved.

Meeting notice in due order

Electronic meeting notice was sent in due time.

Election of interim member

The council had a guest: Bogdan Karpiak who expressed interest to join the council. The council approved Bogdan with consensus as an interim member until the general assembly.

Updates from other boards and committees

The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG)

Martí reported via email the following. A workshop about stress handling is happening across all departments in MC2.

Chalmers is moving away from projects and cooperations with Huawei due to the possibility of competition with Ericsson. We need to watch if any students are involved in projects with Huawei and whether they are affected by that decision.

There is ongoing discussion about merging of the two masters programmes currently held by MC2: "Wireless photonics and space engineering" and "Nanotechnology". There seems to be a lack of students in the courses held by those two programmes. The lack seems to be based on the fact that the Physics department did a similar merging of programmes, therefore a lot of students that had MC2 courses as mandatory, no longer do so. We can only help advertise the MC2 programmes to bachelors students.

There seems to be clean room funding issues and students need to be vocal about the equipment they are using in order to keep frequently used machines. Non-used or non-viable machines will be removed. Consider a mass PhD student email to pressure students and supervisors to be vocal about their usage.

The department advisory board (Institutionsrådet)

Andreas was absent.

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

Filip informed the council that the FFF will hold an autumn event on November.

Chalmers PhD student guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS)

Agin informed us of the following. There is an issue with students defending their thesis with less than 12 months before their lic. and defence. They will approximately lose 4500 SEK.

The DS has a responsible member that will handle the employee survey results this year. Hopefully we will get the information we need.

Departmental duty compensation

Josef wanted to know approximately how many hours a year should we be compensated for our work on the MC2 PhD council. We concluded that approximately 40 hours a year (possibly up to double that for members with added responsibilities) should be adequate. That amounts to a fraction of what DS membership entails.

General Assembly 2019

We proposed to hold this year's general assembly on the same day as an event (possibly the FFF autumn event). That way there will be an incentive for more people to attend.

Josef will step down from chair since he is wrapping up his studies so we will need to elect a new chair. Preferably someone who already participated in the board before.

Stavros will step down from regular secretary.

We need to express our interest to be part of the new board to Josef so we know how many replacement members we need.

We need to advertise the GA and openings that we might have with priority on the "orphan" divisions. Agin Vyas and Anamul Md Hoque will be in charge of advertisement. We should all advertise personally within our own departments.

ESP workshop

A new electronic platform for the individual study plan is under development. There will be a workshop on Oct 23 in order to get student input. We have been asked to find up to four students from MC2 to participate. We are missing a student to participate in that and give feedback.

Issue Logs

Filip will coordinate with the DS IT responsible to get an Anonymous reporting platform on our website.

Introductory letter to new PhDs

A letter to the new PhDs can be found in the box. It should be our responsibility and we should hand deliver it to new students as a means to make ourselves visible. Together with that we can

provide FFF information.

Salary agreement

There seems to have been an omission in the half-time salary increase that with a missing clause. DS will send information to all students regarding that but it cannot be fixed until the new salary agreement. The salary agreement is found on our knowledge repository (in swedish).

Chalmers has attempted to translate some of the legal documents (like the salary agreement) into english but the translation sometimes changes the meaning e.g. "regler"= rules becomes "Guidelines" in the english document.

Other issues

There were no other issues.

Closing of the meeting

The meeting closed at 12:50.

Next Meeting: The next meeting 15th of October at 12:00

Sealing the minutes

Anamul Hoque sealed the minutes on 2019-10-10.