

MC2 PhD student council agenda for meeting

2020-02-05

Time: 15h07 -16h04

Place: Valensbandet (A504)

Secretary – Abdelhafid Zehri

Adopt the minutes – Nermin

MC2 PhD student council agenda - 2020-02-05

Time: 12:05 - 13:00

Place: Valensbandet (A504)

Attendants:

PhD council: Andreas Josefsson Ask; Stavros Giannakopoulos; Martí Gutierrez Latorre; Nermin Trnjanin; Abdelhafid Zehri; Anamul Md Hoque; Ivo Cools.

MC2 administration: Mikael Fogelström, (head of the department), Magnus Karlsson (director of graduate education).

Gustav Andersson (PhD students)

1. Election of meeting officials

Chair - Andreas Ask

Secretary - ~~Stavros Giannakopoulos~~ Abdelhafid Zehri

Adopt the minutes: Nermin Trnjanin

2. Approval of agenda

Approved by unanimity.

3. Meeting notice in due order

Approved by unanimity.

4. Updates from other boards and committees

I. The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG)

No updates.

II. The department advisory board (Institutionsrådet)

No updates.

III. Chalmers PhD student guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS)

No updates.

IV. The union of research students in physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF)

No updates.

5. Hiring freeze

How does that affect the PhD?

The freeze is due to an issue related to the financial unbalance created with the pension investments. The situation concerns everyone from personnel and post-doc, not PhD students. A deficit has been created and the solution now is to reduce spending in order to regain balance. The agenda is to engage a reduced cost strategy and save money for a certain budget in the upcoming years and establish profit by 2022. All departments have to come individual cost reduction plan that will be proposed in the next few months of this year.

The situation is not too bad and must not create panic within the institution. It is a usual approach with the extreme decision to freeze the hiring regarding administration and technical stuff, faculty and higher production.

Will that affect the possibility to extend the PhD research?

Yes, 4 years plus X, will be discussed. Usually, positive outcome is reached when the extension of the PhD students extensions is asked for. The problem would rise when it is more than 5 years to complete the research projects.

Some PhD students stays after the defence? That can still be accepted, but an exemption must be obtained. Or another approach would be to do the extension is made as post-docs after advertising.

6. Examiner = Supervisor

It has been reported that there might be difficulties that rise for dealing with a double role of supervisor and examiner from the student perspective. The decision to enforce that is not passing since there is a strong opposition from other departments. However, there is a possibility to enforce that within the MC2. More discussion will be undertaken.

7. Other issues

8. Next meeting

Mars 4th (same date as next MC2 Coffee)/ 12h-13h