

MC2 PhD Student Council - General Assembly

Minutes for October 31, 2023

Present: Total 19: Ariadna Soro Álvarez (AQP), Hanna Linn (AQP), Simon Pettersson Fors (AQP), Viktor Bekassy (AQP), Zeidan Zeidan (AQP), Isak Brundin (AQP), Nermin Trnjanin (QDP), Núria Alcalde Herraiz (QDP), Lars Sjöström (QDP), Ivo Cools (QDP), Johanna Huh-tasaari (QDP), Vittorio Buccheri (QDP), Joey Frey (QT), Achintya Paradkar (QT), Kunal Helambe (QT), Hanna Karlsson-Fernberg (EMSL), Erik Strandberg (PL), Patrik Blomberg (TML), Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo (MEL)

Opening of the meeting

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Núria Alcalde Herraiz
- Two adjusters: Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo and Erik Strandberg

Approval of the agenda

Meeting notice in due order

Information about council

Information to new PhD students assisting the council meeting about what the council is and get-to-know of where all information is available to get.

Information about council activities during the year

- Finished:
 - Established a new introduction session for new PhD students in spring, together with FFF. Including MC2 building tour and get-together.
 - Created a LinkedIn group for MC2 PhD Alumni.
 - Created a Facebook group for new and current MC2 PhD students, so far it proved to be an effective communication channel. Linda Brånell will communicate the existence of the group to new PhD students.
 - Negotiated lower cleanroom fares for PhD and master's students. The PhD fare could not be lowered, however there is the possibility to be freezed if you have an interruption of your PhD. The master student fare was capped at 30000sek/half year plus including 60h training without being charged.
 - Created a system for keeping track of the teaching duties of all PhD students, for easier allocation of TAs. For now is on internal use, intended to be shared once the best platform is found.

- Identified, with the help of the Doctoral Students Guild (DS), that many PhD students do not usually take sick leave and/or work during sick leave. Started an information campaign to remedy that: placed leaflets in MC2 kitchens, informed at group meetings, informed at introduction sessions, posted in FB group, added to MC2 newsletter, posted on MC2 PhD student council website...)
- Expanded the master's course FKA196 "Fundamentals of micro- and nanotechnology" to include a part aimed at PhD students who want to expand their knowledge on cleanroom tools worth 1.5 credits. The extension provides an additional theoretical background on cleanroom tools and complements it with process examples. There is one last session to present fabrication issues encountered within our projects. It should however be stressed that there is no guarantee that the additional theoretical background in cleanroom tools can be taught every year, since this is highly dependent on the cleanroom staff availability.
- Got authorization from Magnus Karlsson to get credits for Swedish courses. The examination is done via a test.
- Gathered a list of useful courses from MC2, other departments at Chalmers, external courses, summer schools, etc., for easier planning of one's PhD studies. This can be found in the Knowledge Repository in the PhD Council website.
- Ongoing:
 - Involvement in the recruitment of the new Head of Department: writing the profile and announcement and during the interview process.
 - Involvement in the restructuring of the department. Concern on the direct impact on PhD studies. If the reorganization takes place dividing the department in four units, we aim to have several director of studies.
 - Creation of a PhD news box in the MC2 newsletter.
 - Creation of a course in "Swedish for engineers".

Election of council members

- Members from other MC2 boards (do not need to be elected, only introduced):
 - Executive group (Ledningsgruppen): Hanna Linn (AQP)
 - Advisory council (Institutionsrådet): Nermin Trnjanin (QDP), Isak Brundin (AQP)
- Division representatives:
 - QDP: Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Nermin Trnjanin
 - AQP: Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Hanna Linn, Isak Brundin
 - QT: Joey Frey, Achintya Paradkar
 - EMSL: -
 - TML: Patrik Blomberg
 - MEL: Ragnar Ferrand-Drake Del Castillo
 - Photonics: Erik Strandberg
- Council chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez

Other issues

- Approve changes in the MC2 PhD Council Statues for the second time Including the representation in the Equality Group and Dr. Genie and a new budget section.
- Looking for representation in Dr. Genie and FFF as the last council members are stepping down.
- Office space lack on MC2 Department update, where the close-future solution is to divide the offices of one-single researchers.

Closing of the meeting