

2017-06-21, kl.13:00-14:00, A804

MC2 PhD student council meeting

Attendees:	EMSL	Josef Hansson
	MEL	Stavros Giannakopoulos
	PL	Ewa Simpanen, Filip Hjort
	QDP	Maria Ekström, Sobhan Sepehri, Silvia Ruffieux
	TML	Marlene Bonmann, Xinxin Yang, Juan Cabello Sanchez
Not in attendance:	APQ	
Chair of this meeting:	Maria Ekström	
Secretary of this meeting:	Silvia Ruffieux	

1. Chair of the PhD student council

The chair of the PhD student council is responsible for:

- Sending out the agenda for the meetings
- Having the overview over the PhD student council
- Responding to emails related to the PhD student council

Further responsibilities will be decided on later.

Josef Hansson is elected as the chair of the PhD student council. He will receive the chair email address.

2. Updates from other boards

- The executive board "Ledningsgruppen" LG (Ewa Simpanen):
 - 71% of the employees at MC2 filled out the Chalmers survey.
 - There will be an evaluation of the research at Chalmers. This evaluation will take around 1 year and will exclude the PhD students.
- The department advisory board "Institutionsrådet" (Maria Ekström):
 - The last meeting was about rankings and how to get more students at MC2. There are not many students at MC2 because there is no Bachelor program at MC2.
- Chalmers PhD student guild "Doktorandsektionen" DS (Maria Ekström):
 - General assembly held on the 1st of June where a new board was elected.
 - Maria Ekström chair and Anna Köhler (from Space, Earth and environment) vice chair.
 - Sobhan Sepehri new representative from MC2.
- The union of research students in physics "Föreningen för Forskarstuderande I Fysik" FFF:
 - General assembly just before this meeting where a new board was elected.
 - Edoardo Trbaldo and Silvia Ruffieux representatives from MC2.

3. Surveys

The Chalmers survey has been sent out. It is important that everybody fills in this survey in order to get a representative overview of the situation.

Some questions such as the "When will you take your licenciate?" have bad answer options (bad intervals and no option of not taking the licenciate at all). If this happens to you, it is important that you comment at the end of the survey. These kind of problems appear every year and we will find out who is responsible for the questions.

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There will be a PhD survey made by Maria Ekström and Linnea Qvirist from the Chalmers PhD student guild. We will check the questions and answers of this survey before it is sent out in autumn.

4. Updates: MC2 newsletter

The first contribution to the newsletter about the PhD student council has been sent by Ewa Simpanen and Maria Ekström. A second contribution where we present the board including the chair and the statutes will be made in autumn. We will also take a group picture then.

5. Statutes

Stavaros Giannakopoulos and Josef Hansson will draft the statutes for the board based on statutes from other PhD student councils at Chalmers and send them to all board members. We will discuss these statutes at the next meeting.

6. Budget

So far a budget is not necessary, but we might need one in the future.

7. Actions until next meeting (end of August)

- Draft the statutes and circulate them (Stavaros Giannakopoulos and Josef Hansson)
- Transfer chair email address to Josef Hansson (Maria Ekström)

8. Issues at MC2

Following points should be investigated more:

- Contract ends but no degree yet
 - Contract ends e.g. after 5 years no matter if a degree was obtained
 - Ca 6 cases known
 - People work for free → no insurance
 - To avoid this problem:
 - discuss with supervisor if you are still “on track”
 - Study plan meeting to make sure that you are “on track”
- Planning and study plan meeting
 - Licenciate degree timing discussed and enforced?
- Thesis review committee (TRC)
 - Half a year before the defense this committee decides if you are allowed to defend or if more work needs to be done before you can obtain the PhD degree.
 - Does this committee only exist at MC2?
 - How do they decide? What are the requirements to get a PhD degree? We could invite somebody from the TRC to answer these questions.
- Teaching distributions/department duty
 - Teaching and department duty is not evenly distributed.
 - Problems with the fact that most of the teaching is only in Swedish.
- Make a common box to collect important documents
 - Some documents are hard to find.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be at the end of August. The exact date will be decided on in a doodle.