

MC2 PhD council agenda - 2022/02/03

Time: 12h00 - 13h00

Place: Zoom

Present: Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Ivo Cools, Nermin Trnjanin, Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo, Israel Rebolledo Salgado, Junjie Li, Marti Gutierrez Latorre, Hanna Linn, Joey Frey

1. Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Ivo Cools
- Adopt the minutes: Nermin Trnjanin

2. Approval of the agenda

Yes

3. Meeting notice in due order

Yes

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Martí
 - Annual booklets about Updates of MC2 may go away
 - Postdoc contracts go from x+2 years (usually 2+2) to generally 2+1
 - * The reason is sort of unclear but probably due to the regulations on permanent staff (following present regulations, one must get offered a permanent position after a 4-year contract)
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
 - No meeting yet, but soon there will be (next meeting in March).
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna

GTS courses:

- 15 mandatory credits turn into 7.5, but we will still have the right to take 15 credits if we want.
- The old mandatory courses will NOT be transferrable to the new system. So, if you have started with the old mandatory courses and you don't want to take on additional credits, it is better to stick to the old system. For instance, Career Planning and Sustainability are NOT in the new package.
- The Popular Science Presentation will remain in the new package, but it will instead be part of the Teaching course.

- Introduction Day will no longer be mandatory.
- GTS and FUN are working together on implementing the decision, which might change aspects of the decision itself. For instance, it is most likely that the mandatory course will not end up being just one big course, because this would be very difficult to implement.

PhD survey:

- The biannual PhD survey will be sent out to all students mid-February and it will be open for 4 weeks.
- The PhD survey has been used in the past to prove a systematic delay of the Licentiate/Midterm. On that note, if you do your Licentiate/Midterm after 2.5 years in, you can get compensation for the “unpaid” months.

DOMB:

- There is a new DOMB, Pascale, who is replacing Moyra. You can read her interview here: <https://www.dokt.chs.chalmers.se/interview-with-pascale-l-blyth-chalmers-new-doktorandsombud-domb/>
- From the last DOMB report, we know that Chalmers has a 12% of students having open cases, whilst other universities oscillate around 4%. It is unknown whether this is because we are all in a bad situation, or because of more openness.

Upcoming social activities:

- PhD hike: February 13
- Board game night: February 17

- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Junjie
 - Career seminar will happen soon: how to become a professor (Feb 18)
 - Where does the money for department hours come from for FFF?
 - * Not from Gothenburg Physics
 - * There is however a large part of the budget available, so if it doesn't go to the FFF members, it should probably go somewhere else.
- Possible: to the MC2 PhD council; perhaps a liaison should be assigned in the PhD council for this? This must be changed in the statutes first (gen. assembly required).
- Meeting between our chair and their chair next week

5. Other issues

- Council head email address “phdcouncilmc2@chalmers.se”

- Ariadna is the owner now.
- Dr Genie update
 - A new branch of Genie has been created, unofficially named Dr Genie. It has representatives of all departments and it is led by the management team at Genie (Pernilla Wittung-Stafshede, Maria Saline, Mary Sheeran, etc). So far, only one meeting has been held and Ariadna is the current MC2 representative.
 - A first point in the agenda is to spread information about the funding possibilities that Genie has (e.g., the Visiting Faculty Programme). Ariadna has contacted the MC2 newsletter and they will publish it sometime in the future. <https://intranet.chalmers.se/en/working-at-chalmers/working-environment-health/equality-and-consistency/foundation-s-initiative-genie-gender-initiative-for-excellence/#genie-visiting-faculty-programme-updated-deadline-november-5-13>
 - Another point is to improve the communication with the departments' equality groups (see below).
 - Genie has a hard time collecting data, because it relies on HR, which doesn't work so smoothly. Ariadna would like to use the PhD council members as a way of collecting data.
- MC2 equality group
 - There is an equality group at each department and ours is not working too well. Ariadna has met with Micke Fogelström and Giulia Ferrini, who are members of the group (Micke is also the Genie representative at MC2), to try to make it better. Per Rudquist is the leader of the group and, if he accepts, Ariadna will become a member too.
 - Ariadna wants to create statues for the MC2 equality group, which currently has none. She would also like to make it so that the MC2 PhD council needs to have a representative in the equality group, in the same way that there are representatives at the DS, FFF, LG and Institutionsrådet. Since this is a change in our statues, this needs to be approved by the next two General Assemblies to be official.
 - Extra-officially, Ariadna has invited Frida Olofsson, a member of the equality group, to join the MC2 PhD council.
 - This group also seems interested in collecting data. So from the MC2 PhD Council, we are starting a data collection campaign on each PI, understanding why some divisions are diversified while others are not. It seems to be tied to the supervisor's background. The data we collect is:
 - * Where have the PIs lived, what is their nationality and what is their gender

* What nationalities and gender do their PhDs and Postdocs have

- Protest against Aliens Act
 - February 26th at Götaplatsen, please come! More information on the Facebook event: <https://fb.me/e/1w6FBEmEd>
- Master's thesis supervision time
 - PhD students are not getting recognized the actual number of hours they spend on Master's thesis supervision. We need guidelines in writing that are over the current 25h.

6. Next meeting

- **March 3rd adopted! (Later changed to March 2nd)**

7. Closing of the meeting

13h30