

MC2 PhD council agenda - 2022/09/26

Time: 12h00 - 13h00

Place: B429

Present: Ariadna, Joey, Martí, Junjie, Israel, Azega, Nermin, Ragnar

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Joey Frey
- Adopt the minutes: Marti Latorre Gutierrez

2. Approval of the agenda:

Approved

3. Meeting notice in due order:

Approved

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna
 - Hanna not present
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
 - No updates
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
 - From the PhD survey we know that >20% of PhD students don't feel like they have the support they need to feel comfortable in their teaching duties. FUN may do a survey to investigate further.
 - Teaching duties distribution seems very uneven between departments, and even between divisions. To that end, Physics publishes a list of all courses they offer, the amount of TAs they need and the amount of hours it requires. They suggest all other departments do the same so we have access to the information and don't rely on having to know the examiner personally. Physics has also been asking for an exhaustive list of all TA positions in English/Swedish—without much luck until now.
 - * Discussion on teaching at MC2:
 - * Not enough transparency in the process of choosing who teaches what. Need a more open system, such as postings on a site.
 - * Issues with many PhD student not teaching enough or at all.
 - * Big difference in workload for Swedish vs English speaking students.

- * Would be good if there was less last-minute recruiting. Needs more planning ahead.
 - DS board will start collecting data on how the different departments declare departmental duty, how they count amount of teaching and supervision, etc. The local councils will later be able to use this information to push for change, since it's a very strong argument to show that a certain way of doing things is working at many other departments.
 - DS board will also coordinate the discussions on sexual harassment study that are taking place in all sorts of committees and come up with some actions to ask for.
 - DS board will try to start a conversation with ISMO so that they provide help with visas for non-EU students, as delays and rejections have increased a lot within the last year. They also ask us to figure out whether the Department can reimburse the cost of the temporary residence visas.
 - There is a PhD alumni event hosted every year by the DS board aimed at PhD students, and every year MC2 falls short in providing a list of potential alumni who would speak at the event. It may be good to start gathering a list of alumni: if we keep their contact information, we need to renew it yearly due to GDPR reasons (wouldn't be too much effort, just sending a yearly email). Otherwise, LinkedIn/Facebook could be a good way to stay in touch.
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Junjie
 - Career seminar with Chalmers and GU's DOMBs to take place next week.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Ariadna
 - No updates.
 - Do we want to give them feedback on Department Day?
 - * Not easy to follow presentations
 - * The DOMB discussion could have been better. Was not received well it seems, and focus should have been a bit more detached. Might have lost some trust due to how it was presented.
- Dr Genie – Azega
 - Dr Genie has now a president and a vice president.
 - They want to get more visibility, but Chalmers is not willing to have a social media page to avoid liability.

- They want to push for more general calls* in all departments (*where multiple positions are posted at once, which are shown to lead to more women applying.)
- They encourage everyone to take GU's Equality course KUF3020 but there are only 20 spots, so they will try to expand it.
- Pernilla left Genie

5. Other issues

- MC2 introduction session for new PhD students took place on October 14. Ariadna and Junjie presented the council and FFF. Material was given to the PhD students on who we are, how to contact us and general tips (about the DOMB, Pe3, discussing expectations with supervisors, where to find sauna and ping-pong table, etc).
- Open access agreement – Bibsam consortium:
<https://www.kb.se/samverkan-och-utveckling/oppen-tillgang-och-bibsamkonsortiet/open-access-and-bibsam-consortium/bibsam-consortium/open-access-in-bibsam-agreements.html>
 Make sure to let your supervisors know that we can now publish with open access in most journals for free.
 Ariadna has talked to Cristina Andersson (Vice Head of Utilization at MC2) and she will take the lead on spreading this information.
- General Assembly
 - Replacements: everyone continues in the council except for Israel, who is still looking for a replacement.
 - Changes in the statues: those who have read them approve them, the rest, read through them and come with feedback latest end of day (2022-09-26).
- Actions to take by next meeting:
 - Martí (lead) + all: compile a list of other useful courses taken outside of Chalmers (e.g., Visualize your science). Ask if they can add a link to it on the intranet. Everyone can ask people in their department about good courses they can recommend. Both technical and GTS-courses. Can also include semi-regular courses.
 - Joey: Figure out whether the Department can reimburse the cost of the temporary residence visas (try Ingrid Collin first).
 - Nermin (lead) + all: Start an MC2 alumni network.
 - Ariadna: Send out email for General Assembly, including agenda and changes to the statues. Ask for registration and lunch.

- Ariadna: Bring up the issue of missing work fair for doctoral students to the DS.
- Hanna: bring up issues with last minute teaching and that there needs to be a more transparent system on the executive board.
- Hanna: Bring up open calls for PhD positions to the executive board, and try to press the importance of it.

6. Next meeting: GA, 27 October, Fasrummet, 12h-13h. Next council meeting: 16 November, B520, 12h-13h.

7. Closing of the meeting: 13h02