

# MC2 PhD council minutes - 2023/06/28

**Time:** 12h00 - 13h30

**Place:** B520

**Present:** Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Vittorio Buccheri, Nermin Trnjanin, Joey Frey, Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo

## Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo
- Adopt the minutes: Vittorio Buccheri

2. **Approval of the agenda:** confirmed

3. **Meeting notice in due order:** Scheduled a month ago.

## 4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna
  - No updates.
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
  - No updates.
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
  - No updates.
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Ariadna (Junjie not present)
  - Introduction day was held May the 30<sup>th</sup> with all the other departments.
    - \* Ariadna held a tour of the Physics and MC2 premises. 4-5 people attended. They were shown how to book stuff, how to get around, where the ping-pong table was. How to get food.
    - \* Clean room tour was held by the Physics department.
    - \* It ended with games and bbq.
    - \* This is the first time this kind of tour was held. It seems the new PhDs appreciated it, although the turnout was rather small.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Ariadna (Erik not present)
  - Erik has now replaced Ariadna as Jägr representative and was present at last meeting.

- All the meetings with the divisions about the follow-up of the department day have now been had. Some common topics across divisions were
  - \* Discussions on harassment and bullying should be less about the black/white situations and more about the grey areas.
  - \* People want stronger guidelines on what is ok/desired behaviour, especially when we all come from different backgrounds. Also, more information on bullying, harassment and how to intervene.
  - \* While many appreciated the discussions on gender equality, incivilities and how to achieve a good working environment, others believe these topics are irrelevant and/or unimportant.
  - \* Some divisions seem to have big communication issues, where some members feel like they can't voice their opinions openly, and others speak without respect.
- In response of the feedback, actions will be taken:
  - \* A series of workshops starting at the end of the year, where with a focus on being practical and concrete, with takeaways that are directly applicable to real-life situations.
  - \* Information fliers/posters about what bullying, harassment and how to intervene when incivilities arise.
  - \* An anonymous sharing of incidents (through Menti) at an MC2 coffee in the fall, #Metoo style. This will take place before department day and hopefully open the eyes of those who are reluctant to believe that incidents happen at MC2 too.
  - \* The line managers are going to have training in DEI leadership in the fall.

- Dr Genie – Azega
  - No update.

## 5. Other issues

- Cleanroom fares – Hanna/Núria
  - Reduction of the half-year threshold is impossible. An increase in cleanroom expenses and inflation makes it unfeasible to decrease the threshold of 100.000sek/half-year. There is an agreement that already, with this current threshold, the cleanroom is underfinanced. However, the research groups cannot economically assume another increase.
  - Moreover, it was pointed out a lack of support from Chalmers towards the cleanroom considering the positive benefits the laboratory brings to the university, which that towards two of Chalmers: excellence in research and education. MC2 has many ERC projects through

collaboration or researchers migrating to Chalmers to start their own groups because of the nanofabrication laboratory. Moreover, among the European collaborative projects concluded, there are specific cases where just Chalmers groups could deliver prototypes because of the state-of-the-art facilities provided by the cleanroom. Also, master students are attracted to be formed in nanofabrication techniques. However, regardless of the advertisement, the master programs held in MC2 do not fund cleanroom expenses. This fact has already rejected applicants to perform their master's thesis at Chalmers.

- New policies for master students from 09-01-2023. Their cut will be 30.000sek/half-year, 60h first hours will be for free to take account on training, more information to be received to PIs in the short-time notice as this change will begin next fall from 09-01-2023.
  - New policy applied to Ph.D. students on sick leave, parental leave, or abroad to other universities for a period of time. In their case, the cleanroom threshold will be frozen for these months of absence and recalculated. Again more information will reach the PIs soon. In any case, Peter Modh should be informed of this particular case. However, this does not account for department duties time placed on the 5th year of education, as it is unclear how to account for the department duties time.
  - Visitor Ph.D.s. did not reach a conclusion. However, a suggestion on a visitor quota was taken out of the agenda. No decision was reached in this matter.
  - The conclusion from these meetings discussing the matter is that we made some progress for both the master student and Ph.D. students, which we are happy about. We also conclude that we were able to air the problem and opinions from Ph.D. students, PIs, and Peter Modh. Further changes in the billing system for the cleanroom are impossible if no more funds for the cleanroom come from Chalmers. Additional discussions in this setting are unnecessary.
  - The next step would be for the department to talk to the new president of Chalmers next autumn and argue for more funds for the cleanroom.
  - For now, the MC2 PhD Council declares this matter closed as long as there are no changes in the billing/funding.
- Alumni network – Ragnar
    - The LinkedIn group is online and Ragnar will invite alumni who have accepted being a part of the network.
    - Once they are members a polling of their expectations on the network.

- Course list – Ariadna
  - Ariadna has modified the file to include that we can get credits on the Swedish courses from Grow Internationals at Chalmers/GU and include the Track courses in the list. It is now online.
- Teaching duties allocation – Ariadna
  - A preliminary version will be sent to Per Rudqvist.
  - We want to encourage PIs to be a bit more realistic in their expectations of where the PhDs will be in the future, e.g. proficiency in Swedish.
- Facebook group for newcomers – Erik
  - Linda and Erik will make it online next week.
- Replacements for next council
  - Ariadna cannot stay chair for a full year (research stay abroad), so some type of alternative will be needed. Rotating chair system could work but may entail less of a direction for the council.
- Sick leave info flyers – Ragnar & Ariadna
  - They have not been made yet. Ragnar will need more time to work in this. Goal is to have it fixed by summer.
- Microfab course – Ragnar
  - Magnus is away, but he referred to Peter Modh regarding some kind of replacement of the microfabrication course. Ragnar will pursue Peter Modh for clarification.

#### **6. Actions to take by next meeting:**

- Alumni network: send invitation to alumni and decide if PhD students should be part of the network (Ragnar).
- Finish adding departmental duties form QT (Joey).
- Publish Facebook group(Erik).
- Find possible new council members for QDP (Vittorio & Núria).
- Employee info-flyers update (Ragnar & Ariadna).
- Microfab course update (Ragnar).
- Send teaching duties allocation to Per R (Ariadna)

**7. Next meeting:** 31<sup>st</sup> August, 12h, B520

**8. Closing of the meeting:** 13h24

