

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2023/11/09

Time: 12h00 - 13h30

Place: B520

Present: Isak Brundin, Joey Frey, Hanna Linn, Achintya Paradkar, Nermin Trnjanin, Erik Strandberg, Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Patrik Blomberg.

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Adopt the minutes: Núria Alcalde Herraiz

2. **Approval of the agenda:** We approve as we go.

3. **Meeting notice in due order:** Yes.

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna
 - LG had Inclusive Leadership workshop.
 - Still no space to place students, but 3 people from Witlef's group are moving to D1.
 - Cristina (Head of Utilization) will carry a tighter overview on what Industrial PhD get (salary, vacation, etc.) so that it's not unfair to other PhD students.
 - The department will have to cover extra costs in the near-future: WACQT test-bed renovations, creating office space, Attila leaving, etc.
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
 - We should give more importance to the G-index (generosity index) by, for instance, boosting internal collaborations. Unclear how else it should manifest or how the internal collaborations will be enhanced.
 - Due to the Chips Act, a group of PIs coming from CSE will join MEL. May also end up in the creation of a new master's program to boost semiconductor mass-production knowledge.
 - One way to tackle the extra costs of the department is by teaching more (i.e., raising base funding): that means all permanent staff will have to teach.
 - Recruitment of Head of Department:
 - * No women candidates. All Swedish men. If we find someone, we can still nominate them.
 - * We propose the following questions for the interviews:

- a. How would your PhD students / junior staff describe you?
 - b. Can you provide referees that are PhD students / junior staff?
 - c. Have all your PhD students defended?
 - d. The Chalmers vision is 20 years long, but 1/3-1/2 of the MC2 staff is staying at most 5 years (PhD students). What's your short-term plan?
 - e. How did you handle the MeToo movement / the Aliens Act 2021?
 - f. How would you describe an equal and sustainable workplace? And what will you do to make it happen?
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
 - No updates.
 - The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF)
 - Patrik may consider the role of Treasurer.
 - Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Erik
 - A follow-up of department day is underway.
 - Dr Genie – Achintya
 - Maybe Frida (Jägr, MEL) and Achintya both become Dr Genie representatives, to share the workload. Ariadna will connect them.

5. Other issues

- Department Day – everyone
 - Feedback:
 - * We liked the psychology talk.
 - * We missed some discussion to dig deeper on how to apply what we learned to our situation. In particular, discussions between managers and juniors. Let's have those discussions in our group meetings: let's prepare a list of questions and lead the discussions.
- PhD section in the newsletter – Erik
 - Eric talked to Susannah, who directed him to Lovisa Håkansson, who is sending out the newsletter.

- Lovisa was positive to the idea! We just need to supply her with the information to send out sometime before the newsletter comes out, preferably more than one week's notice.
- Núria will prepare the material.
- Career guidance counsellor – Núria
 - There is a new career guidance counsellor, but it's unclear if she helps only master's students or also PhDs. Ariadna: write Kajsa and ask if she provides help for PhD students.
- Swedish for engineers – Ariadna, Nermin
 - Ariadna and Nermin try to find Tommy Gustafsson after this meeting.
- Alumni network – Ragnar
 - Postponed to next meeting.

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

- Ariadna will connect Frida (Jäger, MEL) and Achintya
- Prepare questions to be discussed within the laboratories to reflect about the department day.
- Núria will prepare the material for PhD section Newsletter.
- Achintya will email Martí, former Chair, to ask about the career guidance counsellor.
- Nermin and Ariadna will continue to inquire about Swedish for engineers.
- Talk about who will step up for Ariadna as Chair for two months.

7. Next meeting: 6 December 11h30, B520

8. Closing of the meeting: 13h34