

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2023/12/06

Time: 11h30 - 13h00

Place: B520

Present: Hanna Linn, Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Hanna Karlsson-Fernberg, Joey Frey, Patrik Blomberg, Nermin Trnjanin, Isak Brundin, Achintya Paradkar, Erik Strandberg, Junjie Li and Núria Alcalde-Herraiz.

Election of meeting officials

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

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

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

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna
 - The Business plan (a plan of what the association will work on in the coming year and contains set goals for both the activities and the board) is finished and submitted.
 - Clean room
 - * Peter Modh has sent out an updated investment plan. New measures are now being taken to plan from 2025 onwards.
 - * A new steering group is in place.
 - Grundutbildningen (Bachleor & Master) & Clean room
 - * Per Rudquist stated that more resources have been applied for conducting education in the clean room. The problem is that the clean room is not used for education for the most part, but despite this, there is an understanding of extra costs due to education, which has been discussed in several contexts.
 - Reports from Central Executive Group
 - * The new president of Chalmers started doing some changes. They will appoint a vice-rector and a vice-rector for equality and leadership.

From earlier meetings (October):

- New VR (Vetenskapsrådet) center (Victor Torres Company, Peter Andrekson, Raphaël Van Laer och Philippe Tassin) has been started.

Five years and possibility of an extension, hire people, conferences, workshops.

This will lead to creation or improvement of PhD courses, 4.5

credits:

Electrodynamics and optics

Machine learning in photonics

Silicon photonics

Advanced measuring techniques

- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
 - Interviews on the new head have finished, with no candidate selected in this round. The interview process will be opened again to aimed to be finished in August. Magnus Karlsson will act as prefect until a candidate is found.
 - Hiring an equality responsible to be in the executive board.
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
 - There is going to be a newsletter soon, and the report of the PhD Survey 2022 will come out soon too.
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF)
 - There was another introduction in the fall, we participated in the cleanroom tour.
 - There is going to be a symposium on the 18th of December, open for applications to present popular science!
 - The general assembly will be in January, probably before the 11th, we need to find a new treasurer. Patrik may consider the role of Treasurer.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Erik
 - Focused on the follow up on the departmental day of 2022, proposed to do a mapping on the problems in different laboratories. An external person would do interviews to different section members to point out target problems to solve.
 - There will be a set of workshops in spring, the idea is to have 2 compulsory sessions and then other small workshops around it.
 - Next MC2 coffee there will be a talk to show statistics from the Physics department to show how their recruitment PhD process worked out for them as it follows a different model from MC2.
- Dr Genie – Achintya

- Achintya will be the formal representative of MC2 and Frida who is also in the equality group will step up if needed.
- The members are participating in an Inclusive Leadership workshop and a Strategy planning workshop.
- It was pointed out that there is no fixed protocol when there is a harassment case.

5. Other issues

- Evaluation of the graduate school – Ariadna
 - All graduate schools will be evaluated every 5-6 years to ensure that there is good education provided. We have just one graduate school, Microtechnology and Nanoscience, where we have two representatives; Magnus as director of the graduate school and Per Lundgren as the director of studies. We need to send a PhD representative for the evaluation kickoff on the 17th of January. We should gather information from PhD students, aside from the DS survey where MC2 is one of the departments with the least amount of courses targeted to PhD students. It would involve:
 - * Knowing the syllabus of MC2 studies.
 - * Get info on PhD students on what they would like to see differently.
 - * Do the follow up during 2024.
 - * Swedish proficiency required.
 - * Patrik will step up together with Simon.
- PhD section in the newsletter – Núria
 - Working on the different sections
- Career guidance counsellor – Ariadna
 - Kajsa cannot help PhD students with one-on-one meetings or seminars/workshops. She did have two open seminars that Ariadna sent to all MC2 PhD students. We leave this matter closed.
 - Martí let Achintya know that Chalmers has contracted the company TSN where Eva Olsson is a responsible for Chalmers. There you can reach out for feedback on LinkedIn and CV. This needs to be confirmed by Achintya.
- Swedish for engineers – Ariadna, Nermin
 - Had a meeting with Tommy Gustafsson from MPLOL. Unfortunately, he did not think this was the right focus for his students, and directed us to CLS, who may be more suited on taking this matter. Ariadna has a contact in CLS who is involved in organizing Swedish courses.

- Alumni network – Ragnar
 - Postponed to next meeting.
- No protests on campus – Isak
 - Now revoked. Clarification of the situation:
 - * There were two companies invited to a job fair in another department. There was opposition from a student group for the participation of these companies on the job. The students who were organizing the fair felt threatened and complained and the ban was put on response. Now is revoked as it was supposed to be temporary and new constraints have put on line to do protests on campus.
- New salary agreement (löneavtal) 2024-2026 – Ariadna
 - New salary agreement is published with notable increase.
 - Tried to change the increase of salary after midterm not the month after but the same month you do your midterm. It did not go through.
- How to proceed when Ari is gone January-March?
 - Ari will continue attending the meetings via Zoom and Núria will take care of the agenda and meeting organization.

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

- Swedish for engineers – Ariadna and Nermin
 - Contact in CLS who is involved in centrally organized Swedish courses.
- PhD section in the newsletter – Núria
 - Present some news.
- New salary agreement (löneavtal) 2024-2026 – Ariadna
 - Announce in Facebook group / DS newsletter.
- Hanna Linn will ask the executive board for more details about TSN to see if this is still available.
- Achintya will ask Marti for more details and how he found out about this.

7. Next meeting: 24th of January at 12h00

8. Closing of the meeting: 13h30