

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2024/01/24

Time: 12h00 – 13h42

Place: B618

Present: Achintya Paradkar, Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo, Patrik Blomberg, Isak Brundin, Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Nermin Trnjanin, Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Hanna Linn

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Núria Alcalde Herraiz
- Secretary: Nermin Trnjanin / Núria Alcalde Herraiz
- Adopt the minutes: Isak Brundin

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
 - Meeting in Dec and Jan
 - From meeting in December
 - * Dr. Genie will have two representatives from MC2, Achintya and Frida Olofsson
 - Undergrad Education, MC2 is bleeding money into the courses. More restrictions on how much extra time you can spend in developing the courses in general.
 - * Need standardised way of reporting TA hours, ask Per Rudquist
 - Chalmers is going to redo the Master programs
 - There is 1-2 positions for teaching at tekniskt basår (In Swedish)
 - Ingrid said that most of the kitchens will be redone and paint them.
 - Empty the corridors of stuff
 - "Din mamma/pappa jobbar inte här" put your dishes in the dishwasher yourself.
 - Some professor offices will be converted to PhD offices to save space
 - PhDs are supposed get allowance when going on business trips and research stays, but unclear if this is given when you are a guest researcher. Decide at the executive board and make it general for all PhD students.
 - Magnus Karlsson acting Head of Department from January. He will still head the Grad school. Per Rudquist takes over Magnus's position as Vice Head of Department.

- New HR partner called Sara Fagrell
- Evaluation of the grad schools during 2024
 - * Magnus Karlsson, Per Rudquist, Deborah Perlheden, Patrik Blomberg and Simon Pettersson Fors from MC2
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Isak
 - Meeting in spring with Magnus (7th of May)
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
 - Nominate an alumni for the PhD event
 - PhD student survey open, answer it!
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF)
 - Patrik is not able to join FFF, since he is already in the evaluation of the grad school.
 - Need representative in FFF from MC2
 - No general assembly yet, it had to be postponed.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Erik
 - Erik not present.
- Dr Genie – Achintya
 - Two reps for Dr Genie.
 - Previous Genie head, Paul Walton, is leaving as his term has ended. The vice rector, Maria Elmquist, will take over Genie.
 - Before leaving Paul Walton talked about budgeting. Most of the central Genie money has been spent. However, yearly allocated money from Genie to the departments has not all been spent. There is a question concerning how much is available. Once new department head is hired, schedule a discussion with this person concerning expenditure.
 - Defined our mission, once it is finalised we will get more updates
 - * Achintya is personally driving to reduce harassment at MC2
 - In the Genie network there was a meeting and there were discussions concerning
 - * Reproduce the gender study which was published in Nature (Meta data study)
 - * How can Dr. Genie play a role in this? Help getting the study done and act as a safe space for harassment and find correct channels for reporting this harassment. Dr. Genie can gather info about harassment to identify hot spots.
 - * Data can be used to convince management to take action against this.

- * Dr Genie representative to take responsibility on harassment reports.
- * System to implement instead of Safe at Chalmers, as they are saturated. Not clear protocol to follow.
- * Suggestion on maps to guide students where to get help.
- * Re-establish the line on psychological help after a harassment case, bypass the line manager approval to continue the sessions.

5. Other issues

- Department Day – everyone
 - Ariadna sent a presentation and menti done for AQP.
- Swedish for engineers – Ariadna & Nermin
 - Talked to Anna Näsborn, from CSL, who is working on Chalmers-wide implementation of Swedish courses, together with Linda Brånell. She said she couldn't give any direct feedback, but that she will see if there are openings for this kind of language courses. Moreover, as a coordinator of the GTS program, she will also think about if it could be included in this framework.
 - Since there are currently no more threads to pull from, we leave the matter closed for now.
- Evaluation of the graduate school – Patrik
 - One year process.
 - Statistics and analysis on the graduate school which will be evaluated by another graduate school -cross evaluation-. Then evaluation committee will review them, internal and external, and then a new plan will be done.
- PhD section in the newsletter – Núria
 - Talk to Lovisa to know how would be easy for her to implement.
- Alumni network – Ragnar
 - To work on for next meeting

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

- Isak: talk to Per about reporting TA hours
- Hanna: discuss PhDs allowance when going on business. Decide at the executive board and make it general for all PhD students.
- Ragnar: find alumni 4+ years of experience
- Patrik: talk to his office mate about FFF

- All but AQP: department day presentation and menti before next group meeting.

7. **Next meeting:** 28th of February

8. **Closing of the meeting:** 13h42