

MC2 PhD council Agenda - 2025/06/09

Time: 12:00

Place: Direktorn D209

Present: Nuria, Hanna, Malte, Joey, Patrik, Achintya, Sherry

Excused: Ariadna, Isak, Zeidan

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Núria
- Secretary: Núria
- Minutes adopter: Achintya

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

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

4. Updates from boards and committees

- **Executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Zeidan**
 - TRC:
 - * Meeting date
 - * Draft/presentation of the TRC feedback
- **Advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Isak (added to minutes after the meeting)**
 - Have not met since last PhD council meeting
- **Doktorandsektionen (DS) – Lucian, Sherry.**
 - Midterm salary increase report.
 - Supervisor committee election.

In addition to the interview, a speech or talk may be given during the award ceremony, and it would be beneficial to try to have the award presented earlier in the ceremony. There are concerns about what PhD students consider good supervision, with the bar being set at bare minimum expectations, such as “making time” for students.

Aim to make the award more prestigious and try to make PIs self-reflect, as in MC2, there has been one winner:

 - Announcement on the MC2 newsletter includes clear points on why PhD students nominate them.
 - Bring up the Department Day next year. Achintya will propose the recently awarded supervisor and one of the MC2 as speakers to Maria Messing.
 - Statistics on winners from other departments compared to us

- **Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik (FFF) – Malte**
 - Introduction date
 - FFF General Assembly and budget meeting scheduled soon.
 - An interested student contacted Achintya but later decided to opt out. Malte will write another announcement and contact those interested.
- **Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Achintya, Sherry**
 - Sanitary emergency supply, the supply seems insufficient. Proposal to conduct a survey to check on usage and other necessities.
 - The equality officer (previously DEI) resigned after being in the role for less than six months. It could be related to issues stemming from top management, a poorly defined role at Chalmers, backlash, and criticism on social media. Currently managed by Angela Hillman. The equality group proposes that Chalmers provide a clear statement on its equality vision.
 - Discussion from the Equality survey. It seems that employees do not find it clear how to report harassment cases or who to contact.
 - Remarks inspired by the Equality rep. at the Chemistry department:
 - * Established male professors should decline conferences with a poor gender-balanced ratio.
 - * Chalmers can offer support to conference speakers & attendees to promote gender balance.
 - * TAs are discriminated against by students, whether you are female or male. From council experience, this is not prevalent at MC2. Aside from having tags, we propose having an introduction of the members at the start of the course.
 - * Introducing new members in meetings
 - * Female researchers and postdocs are more likely to be seen as lower in authority and/or qualification due to unconscious biases.
 - DrGENIE has a vision to create an equitable environment for PhD students at Chalmers. Chalmers' central management is against the word "equitable". DrGENIE objectives are defined towards this goal, i.e., a sexual harassment proposal that was signed a year ago.
- **Dr Genie – Achintya**
 - No major news; still looking for a replacement.

5. Other issues

- **Meeting with Maria and Sara on the Employee survey – all**
 - In general, high response
 - Female PhD students do not recommend Chalmers as an employer
 - Key points to highlight: bad work-life balance and lack of support
 - * Expectations regarding PhD, including in the ISP meeting, the chart about PhD expectations. It should be discussed with the examiner, supervisor, and PhD student. A good examiner is from outside the group.

- * The 1-to-1 talk with Per should happen before the ISP meeting, not after.
 - Discuss non-academic workload activities, i.e., group meeting organization. Set examples here on non-PhD responsibilities.
 - Exit interview happening again.
 - On our side, have a discussion and review the key points of the meeting beforehand.
 - Send a summary of goals/proposal outlining the actions to take after the meeting, incorporating feedback from the graduate school evaluation report.
- **Evaluation School – Patrik**
 - An evaluation and action plan for MC2 should be available to everyone. Some key points:
 - Addition to PhD courses. Normal and advanced courses will be included in the master's program. Advanced courses will be designed to include PhDs.
 - Additional Head of Studies needed in MC2.
 - Copy the Fysik dept model to have a 6-month introductory project before hiring a PhD. Positive points:
 - On PI's side, know the PhD student level
 - For the PhD students to learn the expectations for their work
 - New draft of the syllabus to be completed by Per.
 - No action points were made specifically on work-life balance.
- **Red and Half-Days Calendar – Núria**
- **Teaching Duties – Isak (added to minutes after meeting)**
 - No update, Tomas (line-manager of AQP) has expressed interest in coordinating teaching duties and implementing in the appraisal talks. However, he is hesitant to include most questions as he feels it would make it too crowded. Basically want: do you want to teach, do you teach. Also very hesitant to take on the task MC2 wide.
 - I think the best course of action is getting every line-manager to it, potentially with the backing of Maria.
- **Social Media Updates – Isak (added to minutes after meeting)**
 - I'm not sure why this is on me?/Isak

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

- Prepare a slide on finding new council members – Núria

7. Next meeting:

8. Closing of the meeting