

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2026/02/13

Time: 12:00

Place: C511

Present: Isak Lyngfelt, Zeidan Zeidan, Patrik Blomberg, Matilda Öjmertz, Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Aditi Singth, Lakshminarayan Sharma

Excused: Lucian Petrisor Ion, Malte Dornieden, Hanna Karlsson-Fernberg,

Election of meeting officials

- **Chair:** Núria Alcalde-Herraiz
- **Secretary:** Isak Lyngfelt
- **Minutes adopter:** Patrik Blomberg

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

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

4. Updates from boards and committees

- **Executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Zeidan Zeidan**
 - Victor Torres Company's first meeting as deputy head of department
 - He is part of the group that evaluates promotion, is very keen on the impact of positive work environment. Personally, he would like to have the input of PhD students in the consideration for promotion of permanent staff.
 - Informed that he should always be contacted for the extension of PhD students contracts.
 - FUN considering exit interviews for PhD students, these will be optional and confidential.
- **Advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Isak Lyngfeldt**
 - Status of *redistributing teaching duties* across MC2. An email about redistribution of teaching duties was sent to Per Rudquist and Maria Messing, has there been a response to the reminder?
 - No updates, no meetings
- **Doktorandsektionen (DS) – Lucian Petrisor**
 - Midterm salary increase report
 - * Isak has been linked to the DS. The update is that there is not a student representative for the PhD student salary negotiations. Isak will take the role to negotiate the midterm salary for PhD students here. Isak will meet with DS next week and then the salary negotiations will start the week after.
 - * Help international PhD students with housing. How did the contact with SU go? Has Pernilla Hellström been contacted? No update.

- **Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik (FFF) – Malte Dornieden**
 - * FFF General Assembly has acquitted the old board members and selected the new board (same group as last year).
 - * The group plans more activities this year than last year.
 - * There will be a visit to RISE in Borås later this month.

- **Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Matilda Öjmertz, Achintya Paradkar**
 - Discussion on the menstrual products survey
 - * Report on the meeting with Maria. Will the box continue? Met with Maria Messing and Susannah Carlsson. They were pleased with the result. Decided to keep it for the next year. No permanent commitment. A good symbolic gesture.
 - * MC2 day: Bring more interest from the PhD student, include PhD students in planning the day, we tentatively agree. Matilda communicated that the purpose of the day should be clearer.
 - * Maria wants to meet with the council more often (twice a year).
 - * Maria has expressed a wish to make the relay race more inclusive (how?).
 - Bring up proposal for implementing paid menstrual leave on monthly basis at next DrGENIE and equality meeting to receive some initial thoughts. Mentioned last meeting as an idea. Has there been a follow up?
 - Initial discussions with council members. Lacking awareness of the impacts of menstrual leave. Equality group saw issues with pushing for paid leave.
 - Organisation MENSA who organises workshops has been contacted. Nothing concrete has come out of it.
 - Per Rudquist will talk to Karin Adolfson (Equality representative for Chalmers).
 - Workshop is seen as a good alternative.
 - Sarah Fagrell said that HR are working for awareness on menopause but they don't know how to approach it.

- **Dr Genie – Matilda Öjmertz**
 - Meeting with the new DOMB on the 17th of February
 - * Has been informed in the newsletter, will remind closer to the date
 - * There will be semlor
 - Update on Resource Map integration into ISP meetings.
 - * Physics did it last week, waiting to see how it went.

- * Has Per Lundgren been contacted to discuss implementing the Resource Map into ISP meetings?
- * Have we uploaded in the MC2 PhD Council webpage?
Yes, but not interactive.

5. Other issues

- Meeting with Deputy Head Of Department, Microtechnology and Nanoscience Victor Torres Company & Per Lundgren on 21st of January – Isak and Núria
Meeting sum-up:
 - * Extensions. No strong indication of how the extensions work. This is abused in different ways: Some students don't get extensions (Even though they have departmental duties); others are “forced to extend” (need clarification). There was an agreement that the first case is a severe violation of the rules of procedure. It will be discussed in different levels.
 - * TRC – Need to change
 - * Need another director of studies as Per Lundgren has a lot of responsibilities – This will be brought up to Maria Messing

As a conclusion, some systematic issues with violation extension dependent on departmental duties hours, and a common feeling of unfairness between divisions/students. The system we have in place does not catch big conflicts at early stages, due to the power imbalance.

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

Think about what we discuss in beginning, if we want to elevate quality of research, which we have the potential to do, what from our perspective would we like to see to achieve this goal? Gather some positive feedback, what works?

- Good infrastructure, clean room access, technicians that help fix machines and make the clean room function well.

7. Next meeting: 6th March 2026

8. Closing of the meeting: 13h14