

MC2 PhD General Assembly

Minutes for December 15, 2021

Present (15): Nermin Trnjanin, Juan Cabello, Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo, Junjie Li, Yin Zeng, Yu Zheng, Timo Hillmann, Cameron Calcluth, Agin Vyas, Ivo Cools, Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Martí Gutiérrez Latorre, Hanna Linn, Joey Frey, Munis Kahn.

Opening of the meeting

Election of meeting officials

- **Chair:** Martí Gutiérrez Latorre
- **Secretary:** Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- **Two adjusters:** Ivo Cools, Nermin Trnjanin

Approval of the agenda: approved unanimously

Meeting notice in due order: approved unanimously

Information about council activities during the year

- Martí describes what the MC2 PhD council is and its structure. The representatives of the executive board (Martí), the advisory board (Nermin) and the FFF (Junjie) describe their roles.
- Martí updates everyone on the PhD extension discussions held with the executive board throughout the year. The bottom line is: the TRC will not relax the requirements for dissertation, but it should not be a problem to get up to a 6-month extension due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This will be evaluated on an individual-case basis.
- More undergraduate teaching for MC2 PhD students is expected for next year, due to changes in the programs. Currently, MC2 is one of the departments at Chalmers with less teaching duties.
- There has been an electronic individual study plan (ESP) under development. It should be an upgrade with respect to the current ISP, since it synchronizes with Ladok automatically and it saves the changes from one year to the next. A β -version will be released next week.
- We have identified that PhD students were not being awarded enough hours for supervising master students. Until now, the guideline was to obtain 25h per student supervised, which most PhD students (especially experimentalists) already spend on the first week.

Discussion with Magnus Karlsson and Per Rudquist has led to an agreement that 40 hours for a 30ECTS thesis and 80 hours for a 60 ECTS thesis is a lot more akin to reality. However, this has never been formally written down, and has only been conveyed orally.

Election of council members: approved unanimously

- **Council chair:** Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- **Division representatives:**
 - QDP: Ivo Cools
 - AQP: Hanna Linn, Ariadna Soro Álvarez
 - QT: Joey Frey

- EMSL: Agin Vyas
- TML: Junjie Li
- MEL: Ragnar Ferrand-Drake del Castillo
- Photonics: Israel Rebolledo Salgado (he is not present but has given wish and consent to be elected in advance)

We note that Nermin Trnjanin (QDP) and Martí Gutiérrez Latorre (QT) are automatically members of the council for being representatives of the advisory and executive boards, respectively.

Other issues/mandates

- **Aliens act changes in Sweden**

- The council informs the students about the new changes in migration policy, which make it harder for non-EU students to obtain a permanent residency permit after finishing their PhD.
- Stefan Bengtsson has issued a statement against the migration policy and in support of the students.
- The DS has sent information twice about it via email and held Zoom meetings for students to discuss the situation among themselves.
- A peaceful protest is in the works and will be held if the pandemic allows it. If so, information will be sent to all PhD students.
- We recommend students affected by the Aliens Act to join a union, such as SULF.

- **Employee survey at MC2**

- The results were overall positive, except for a few points. From worst to best, the points to improve would be:
 - I feel that I can unwind from my work in my free time
 - I believe that I have a good balance between my work and private life.
 - I feel that, in general, I have a workload that I am happy with (quantity, scope, different types of task etc.)
 - I feel that I have time while working to gather my thoughts
- We have a small discussion about possible reasons behind it with no clear bottom line. It is pointed out that many of the employee survey questions are badly formulated and/or irrelevant. This will change for the next year, as the company that handles the survey has changed and they are redoing the questions.

Closing of the meeting: 12h59