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Nominating Committee Report 2024-05

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Nominating Committee Report for Chapter Elections

Election errands for Chapter meeting no. 4, 2024/05/30.

Background

Chapter meeting no. 4 of the operational year 2023/24 was summoned to conduct business on May 30th, 2024 with election errands on six (6) board member positions and three (3) chapter functionaries. The vacancies profiles were established, communicated through the [summon](#), and published on the website with reference document [Dr2024-CM-04/001](#).

According to PhD Statutes [Dr2023-CM-01/0002](#), clause §5.11.3, the nominating committee shall:

- a) Interview candidates for the PhD Chapter board and if required, consult third parties for relevant information;
- b) Propose nominations to the PhD Chapter board. Nominations are established through a single majority of the committee.

Furthermore, according to §11.2 and §11.3 of the Working Directives [Dr2019-PB-01/0004](#), the nominating committee shall:

- Be responsible for preparing election errands and other vacancies appointed by the Chapter meeting with the following scope of work:
 - To promote the elections that are administered during the current year of operation;
 - To collect nominations and candidacies;
 - To interview candidates and verify the candidates' references;
 - To declare statements and reports about the candidates before the Chapter meeting.
- Unless otherwise specified in a separate policy document, shall be considered as grounds for recommendations: suitability of a candidate to the vacancy, representativeness, and diversity with regards to gender, study programs, and other backgrounds deemed applicable, such as study mode.

Seventeen (17) people were nominated for the Chapter board positions and Chapter functionaries before the deadline, coming from the schools of EECS (10), CBH (1), ITM (1), SCI (2), and ABE (3). Nine (9) nominations were accepted: seven (7) for the Chapter board positions and two (2) for the Chapter functionary.

The five (5) nominees whose nominations were assessed and reported in this document are:

- **Ugne Miniotaite** for the **Chairperson** position,
- **Ellymay Goosens** for the **Education Manager** position,
- **Matt Davoudizavareh** for the **Business Liaison** position,
- **Peiling Wu** for the **Workgroup Manager** position,
- **Mehdi Nourazar** for the **Webmaster** position,

Nominations for the **Council Coordinator** position are assessed and reported in a separate document Dr2024-CF-02/V1.

During the interviews, the candidates were also asked to provide contact details for reference persons. Since no board positions were lacking nominees, candidates were not asked if they would consider board positions other than the ones they were nominated to.

The nominating committee members hereby inform the Chapter meeting that:

- Zoé Barjot is currently a member of the nominating committee and was nominated by someone else, in compliance with section §5.11.4. of the PhD Chapter Statutes, for consideration in the role of Council Coordinator. Upon receiving the



nomination, the other members of the nominating committee took appropriate measures to prevent any conflict of interest. Hence, her suitability as a candidate is assessed separately as the nominations for council coordinator were handled by the remaining members of the committee and reported in an additional document.

- Zoé Barjot would like to inform the Chapter that one of the assessed nominees, Ugne Miniotaite, has personal and working relations with her. The former therefore did not take part in the latter's interview and reporting.

- Daniel Araújo de Medeiros would like to inform the Chapter that three of the assessed nominees, Ugne Miniotaite, Matt Davoudizavareh, and Zoé Barjot, have working relations with him. The former therefore did not take part in the latter's interviews and reporting.

With that in mind, the nominating committee would like to state to the Chapter meeting that the following candidates are suitable for the election as board members:

- **Ugne Miniotaite** for the **Chairperson** position, based on her prior qualifications and the qualities she displayed at the interview. Ugne is currently serving as Education Manager on the PhD Chapter Board, where she has gained relevant experience representing PhD students on the Research Education Council, working with KTH management on questions of time compensation, and attending THS central meetings. Ugne has demonstrated her capacity for undertaking large-scale projects through her handling of the 2023 PhD survey results. During the interview, she outlined specific achievable goals for the Chapter Board, including improvement of handover procedures and formalizing work with THS, and a clear vision for her role as Chair - in particular to provide a structure for the Board, enhance communication and create a good culture where projects are distributed among Board members. Ugne's native Swedish fluency is an obvious asset for representing the PhD Chapter in high-level meetings, as well as her composure and tenacity in dealing with authority figures, honed during her tenure as Education Manager. Other relevant experience includes chairing two different student organizations at Chalmers as an undergrad and prior to that chairing the youth party in her municipality for 4 years, along with similar leadership positions.
- **Ellymay Goosens** for the **Education Manager** position, based on the qualities she displayed at the interview. Ellymay joined the CBH council as the treasurer in February, in which capacity she routinely joins the CBH Management Group meetings. Before this, Ellymay had little experience in student representation or in management positions but was part of the student newspaper organization of her University during her bachelor's. Ellymay has expressed great interest and motivation in joining the PhD chapter board to carry on and promote student influence on educational matters. She intends to keep working with surveys to gather PhD students' opinions and work on the content, quality, and credit allocation of third-cycle courses. As a Dutch speaker, Ellymay already does not find it difficult to understand most spoken Swedish and is actively practicing by talking to her supervisor. She has reasonable expectations of the time commitment and requisite language skills helpful in this position.
- **Matt Davoudizavareh** for the **Business Liaison** position, based on prior qualifications and the qualities he displayed at the interview. Matt has been serving as the Business Liaison on the Ph.D. Chapter board for the past 6 months, and he has been actively working on reviving and fostering the PhD chapter's relationship with different actors of the industry, leading to several events with companies. On top of that Matt has been involved in organizing events for PhD students, such as several boat events and helping with the ski trip, in addition to taking part in STAD training. In his interview, Matt has expressed that he intends to help PhD students reflect on their career path after their PhDs, especially by having a clear vision of what career paths are available and possible outside of academia. He therefore



intends to continue planning events with industry actors, along with site visits and seminars from former KTH PhD students. In his previous tenure, Matt demonstrated notable persistence in re-establishing industry connections, as well as active involvement in support of other Chapter events. He also showed overall awareness of issues facing the chapter Board and expressed interest in improving the handover process.

- **Peiling Wu** for the **Workgroups Manager** position, based on the qualities she displayed at the interview. Peiling started her PhD studies at the beginning of the year and has expressed her interest in joining the board and being an active and contributing part of the Chapter. Peiling has former experience in student representation during her bachelor studies and as a student ambassador during her master's. Peiling has also already been active in organizing social events for the PhD students of her own doctoral program. Peiling acknowledged the potential challenges of the broad nature of this role but is eager to take on projects to improve PhD student life. Peiling has expressed her strong interest in improving onboarding for new PhD students at KTH through knowledge sharing between experienced and newly arrived PhD students. She additionally expressed her attention to promoting inclusiveness and participation in the PhD chapter's events.
- **Mehdi Nourazar** for the **Webmaster** position, based on the qualities he displayed at the interview, such as his self-assessed coding ability and willingness to learn. Mehdi has been frequently active in PhD Chapter's events and this is one of the reasons why he is interested in contributing to the Chapter. Mehdi has informed the nominating committee that he may be defending his thesis as early as December 2024, but that it is likely to be postponed some months. The Nominating Committee believes Mehdi to be a suitable candidate who can contribute to the Chapter nonetheless, but strongly encourages open and timely communication with the Board on this matter if elected.

Additionally, the nominating committee received a number of nominations for Chapter functionary positions, out of which two (2) nominations were accepted by the nominees:

- **Katarina Lindmark** for the **Auditor** position and,
- **Mattias Åstrand** for the **Master of Ceremonies (DrInK)** position

Suggestions

Based on the interviews, the nominating committee finds it suitable for the Chapter meeting:

- To₁** consider for election, **Ugne Miniotaite** for the position of board member of directors: **Chairperson**
- To₂** consider for election, **Ellymay Goosens** for the position of board member of directors: **Education Manager**
- To₃** consider for election, **Matt Davoudizavareh** for the position of board member of directors: **Business Liaison**
- To₄** consider for election, **Peiling Wu** for the position of board member of directors: **Workgroup Manager**
- To₅** consider for election, **Mehdi Nourazar** for the position of board member of directors: **Webmaster**
- To₆** consider for election, **Katarina Lindmark** for the functionary position of **Auditor**;
- To₇** consider for election, **Mattias Åstrand** for the functionary position of **Master of Ceremonies (DrInK)**.



On behalf of the Nominating Committee,

(Digitally signed)

Vladilena Gaisina
Stockholm., 2024-05-22

(Digitally signed)

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