PhD Chapter - *Doktorandsektionen*

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www.dr.kth.se

Autumn CM
2024-10-02, Kl. 17:15, [T-centralen]

TEKNISKA
HÖGSKOLANS
STUDENTKÅR

1.   Formalities

1.1.   The opening of the meeting - Mötets öppnande

The meeting is declared open at 17:34.

1.2.   Timely announcement of the meeting - Mötets behöriga utlysande
Summons were sent out on the 11th of September.

Möteskallelse skickades ut den 11 September.

Ugne explains that good practice dictates that the summons be sent out no less than ten days before the chapter meeting, which was followed for this chapter meeting.

The chapter agrees that the announcement was sent out promptly, at least ten days before the chapter meeting.

1.3.   Election of meeting president - Val av mötesordförande

The chapter elects Ugne Miniotaite as the meeting president.

Decision made without objection.

1.4.   Election of meeting secretary - Val av mötessekreterare

The chapter elects Hemanth Venkatesan as the meeting secretary.

Decision made without objection.

1.5.   Appointment of Minutes checker and vote counters - Val av justerare tillika rösträknare

The chapter elects Zoe Barjot and Peiling Wu as the minutes' checkers and vote counters for the meeting.

The chapter accepts the nominations without objection.

1.6.   Co-optations - Adjungeringar

Emil Wik from THS (Head of Educational Impact) is co-opted by the chapter as a meeting member.

Daniel Medeiros (non-THS member) is co-opted as a meeting member.

Decision was accepted unopposed.

1.7.   Previous meeting - Föregående protokoll
Minutes of previous Chapter Meeting 30th of May 2024

Proposal: To accept the minutes of the previous chapter meeting without objection.

Proposal was accepted unopposed.

Vlada had a question about the survey results, Ugne explained that the point is included in the discussion tab (see notes down below).

1.8.   Establishing the agenda - Fastställande av föredragslista

The agenda is accepted and established at 17:38.

2.   Decisions - Beslut
2.1.   Decharge
2.1.1. To approve the auditing report of PhD Chapter Boards 2021/2022 and 2022/2023
Auditors Report

The auditors report from the previous chapter meeting has been up since the summer.

Proposal: To accept the auditor's report for the terms 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 with all the changes and edits proposed during the chapter meeting on the 30th May 2024.

Proposal was accepted without objection.

3.   Reports - Rapporter

3.1.   The Board - Styrelsen
3.1.1. Treasurer

Finances of the chapter -

- Different income streams for the chapter - Bidrag from KTH, Sektionsbidrag from THS and this time around, the amount of money received from the sale of the tickets for the Gasque.
- Hemanth explains the flow of cash from the income sources towards activities and events organized by the chapter and the chapter members.
- The different expenditures of the chapter and the split of the amount between the chapter, the councils and operational costs are shown.
- Hemanth informs the chapter of the new law in Sweden - no physical receipts are required from 1st July 2024.

3.1.2. Chairperson

Central level -

- PhD chapter survey in the spring with focus on the salary ladder. The analysis is done, and the final summary of the results will be sent after the chapter meeting.
- Swedish courses - Research Education council has approved the course for doctoral studies.

- - Work will start to make KTH include the course.
  - KTH will formulate a PhD survey - survey will be sent out in spring of 2025. Contact Ellymay if you would like to share your opinions with the board or would like to contribute to the survey.
  - Business company fair for research students and doctoral students.
    - The exact date hasn't been set; councils will be contacted for input.
  - Time compensation - centrally - New guidelines have been formulated and agreed upon centrally for board members.
    - Vlada asked the question if only the board is involved with this discussion.
    - Ugne answered that the current guidelines are only for the board positions and that the time compensation for council positions is handled by each school.
  - Future Education -money is being set aside to formulate a plan to make the campus a lively place for doctoral and research students.

3.1.3. Event Manager

New events in the upcoming weeks -

- Zoe - swap event - show up with old stuff in good condition and exchange things with people who want it.

- Pub - Theme - Quiz night

- Meditation and yoga seminar - employee of Karolinska (a PhD) - to improve mental health and general well-being. A pub is connected with this seminar.

- Pub - Peiling and Mattias are planning - nail salon and fake tattoos - just before Halloween.

- Mustaschmilen - 10 km race; fundraiser for research for prostate cancer. The team from the chapter has been established. For interest in similar events, contact Mattias.

- Pubs generally have the same staff. These staff have licenses (STAD & FEST). Courses are offered for other PhD students to get these licenses. In case you are considering applying to DrinK. These courses are paid for by the chapter.
  - People running the pub get a gift card worth 300 kr as a token of appreciation.
  - Signup using the QR code in the presentations.

- Peiling is planning a retreat for the chapter - a new iteration. An event that brings together all the doctoral students - a teambuilding and skill-sharing event for overall well-being and boosting morale.
    - Only offered to people who are engaged with the chapter.

- Another Gasque - Halloween-themed. Scan the QR code in the presentation - Prize for the best costume.

- Sports sessions every Tuesday at KTH Hallen (12:00 - 13:00)

3.2. School Councils
3.2.1. ABE

- ABE vice-chair - Elina.
- Ensuring all programmes have Programsråd, some of the programmes have vacancies.
- New routines to have students better represented with their education.
- Finding new people for the council to take over from the current council.
- New routines for docents and promotion committees - clearer routines for PhD students to follow and contribute.
    - Current and former PhD students have been contacted for their opinions.
- One to two overall events - big events for all of ABE council members.
- Established a programme this year, but there is no representation, no PADs, formulating a plan to have PAD representation for this new programme and to create better routines.
- Monitoring the process of updating ASPs.

3.2.2. CBH

- Chair - Karthik
- Weekly sports at CBH - on Wednesdays (volleyball) and Fridays (badminton) at KTH Hallen.
- Spontaneous one-off events- barbecue events and hiking events.
- Events lined up going forward - pub quiz, padel and board game nights. Alumni from the school, professors and HR to give guidance.
- Business fair - Companies specific to our school come in to provide opportunities, in the works.
- Many promotion meetings and recruitment drives are being monitored.

Question from Hemanth - Have there been any interschool competitions or tournaments?

Last year - interschool volleyball event - at least one team from each school participated; SCI school was crowned champions—potential for similar events.

Mohammad - Previously, events from one school, intended for students from one school, were extended to students from other schools.

Lunch time - a tournament organized between different schools during the sport sessions handled by Zoe. Ugne suggests Zoe to take charge of this initiative, Zoe will consider the possibilities.

3.2.3. EECS

Vice-chair - Jura

- Push to have a quality assessment for PhD programmes, supervision and education, where the council is represented.
- Social activities - programme level, at the divisions, events are being organized by the students, council level - shuffle board was organized, planning for a bowling event.
- Kista move - affects EECS students. Constantly monitoring the transfer of resources and students and providing support where needed.

3.2.4. ITM

Chair - Steffen

- Two council meetings - Fika provided to attract new students to these meetings.
- Council participated in events - KTH onboarding.
- Intro course - for new PhD students, presented the chapter, the council and the work being done.
- Course list - for new PhD students, for an overview of the courses taken by PhD students.
- Development of the INDEK programme with the help of PAs and seniors.

- Questionable manner in which the Vice-Prefekt for the department (EGI) was appointed. Management is looking into it, and proper routines for the appointment of Vice-Prefekt are being discussed.
- Viktor participated in FU meetings
  - Updation of the study plans.
  - INDEK - the course credits were made uniform with the rest of the school, it was 90 before, and now it is 60.
- Innebandy event - No event manager for the council.
- Promotion and recruitment interviews.
- Osqvik event was cancelled before the summer, looking into organising it now.

Ugne added - The employment board is going to close. All the recruitment will be handled at the school level. It is confirmed that there won't be 5 people from each school taking part in the employment board. The faculty board of each school will handle all the issues with employment.

Zoe - If there would be a discussion forum at the central level or some form. Ugne - All discussions will be handled at the faculty council at the central level; the employment board has been disbanded.

This shall be enforced by the end of the year. Comes into effect from next year (2025).

Mohammad - The intro course at ITM has been very well received, and hopefully, it will be implemented at the other councils.

Mattias - The course at ITM might be discontinued as per his discussions with FAs.

Point to discuss - Onboarding shall be discussed at the end of the meeting and people can stay over to talk about it if they want.

3.2.5. SCI

Chair - Ibrahim

- Lowered budget from the school for the council, the funding from the chapter is the primary source now.
- PhD supervision - complaints from students - bad supervision and bad supervisor behaviour. Discussions have been had with the school, there must be a system to evaluate the supervisors—an anonymous evaluation of the supervisor. A big task to implement it and the council is working on it.

- Exit meeting - This is where students can give feedback regarding supervision quality, recently, these meetings are not being held.
- The school is getting feedback from the council regarding appointing permanent and temporary PAs. Trying to promote this issue with other schools.
- Third-cycle courses are being evaluated - already implemented in the Mathematics department; a structure is already available.
  - **Comments from Ugne** - KTH is creating a new evaluation system
  - It was supposed to start in the autumn of this year - but there are delays in the implementation.
  - Focus is on research-based courses (doctoral courses).
  - Completely automatic system.
- Idea to have interdepartmental courses or seminars - Seminars which might benefit students belonging to different schools but similar research fields/topics.
- Shadowing a PhD student; a new course being planned. The number of credits is not set.
- Ten events have been organised during this period.

Vlada - Any updates to upcoming third-cycle courses.
Ugne - FuSAM - This is one of the questions they are tackling. Proposal to keep track of third-cycle course. They are working on it and have ideas in place.
Every school has a different way of handling courses which is a problem since there is no uniformity.
Pushback from the schools - professors have to announce courses in advance, and they are not willing to do so.

Saumey - some seminar courses, no requirement to announce these courses in advance.

Zoe - Most of the time courses occurs when there is enough participation.

KTH understands the issue and is trying to solve it.

3.3. THS

Emil Wik

New project - Vibrant Campus

Last year, THS did a report on vibrant campus for first and second cycle students. What is needed for students outside of studying? How can we make the campus a lively and vibrant place?

Discussed with research education council. Planning to start a project for vibrant campus for PhD students.

If anyone is interested, talk to Emil and Ugne to share your opinions.

Ugne - A stipend shall be provided for people who want to be a part of the vibrant campus project.

Hemanth - How will the people be selected? Will they be elected members of the PhD chapter board?

Emil - Two students were employed at THS centrally for the first and second cycle education vibrant campus project. A similar solution can be employed for research education students; they shall not be part of the PhD chapter board.

The number of hours hasn't been decided yet; for the first and second-cycle education project, the students worked 10 hours per week.

Time compensation

The current percentage of time compensation for central and national level has not been decided. Official decision will come in mid November. The current suggestion is that the central level shall pay for central, national and international positions. For national and international compensation, the student needs to be appointed by the PhD Chapter.

3.4. Student Union Council - Kårfullmäktige
Info from the Board

Ugne explains KF. We have four positions for the chapter since we are the largest chapter at THS. If anyone is interested, contact Ugne to be part of KF from our side.

Saumey informs the chapter that the position is not time-compensated.

4. Propositions - Propositioner
4.1. Proposition to change PhD Student to research Education Student in Statues
[Proposition 1](#)

KTH terminology - there is no mention of PhD students; we are referred to as doctoral students.

The chapter represents even licentiate students; the number of licentiate students have been increasing due to budgetary reasons.

The board proposes to amend the name PhD students to research education students.

However, we shall remain the PhD chapter and be called as such.

Karthik - Are we representing Masters students who pursue research?

Ugne - We represent people admitted to a research education programme.

Mohammad - What is the terminology used in the higher education ordinance?

Ugne - We are called third-cycle students.

Ugne moves the meeting to accept this proposition.

Proposition was accepted unanimously.

5. Motioner - Motions
5.1. Motion for digital elections
[Motion 1](#)

Daniel submitted the motion on behalf of the nomination committee.

Mohammad - Some years ago, physical elections were held, nominations and voting used to happen in person. Not a lot of people attended these meetings.

Last year, elections were held digitally, and the elections happened over a period of time (the portal was open for a few days).

Explained the nominating committee's process to vet a candidate.

Active PhD students during the current election period (November 2024) shall get the information digitally.

Voting shall remain open for atleast four days.

During the next chapter meeting, Mohammad proposes that the chapter shall assess the process as explained by the nominating committee and ratify the process and then the election results will be announced.

If certain positions don't receive nominations, nomination during the meeting is allowed except for the signatory positions, even if the positions remain vacant until the next election period.

Ugne explains that at least one signatory is always present during any particular term (VT or HT), as the signatories are elected during different periods.

Mohammad - Digital elections - more engagement compared to physical elections

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion - Diskussion
(Max 20 min/discussion)

6.1. [Salary ladder](#)

- 2023 survey - 40% response rate.
- Responders - Have been registered for at least 1% in Ladok as research education students.
- The requirements to move up the ladder should be stated in the ISP else it is based on time.
- 40% of 5th-year students are still in the initial or the second step.
- Ugne will upload the entire document after the meeting.

Discussion -

- Question from Vlada - What was the response from KTH and where was this presented?
  - This was presented at the research education council and the faculty council.
  - Ellymay - Discussion is ongoing. Presented it one week ago. If there is supposed to be a time-based system, how is it supposed to be counted with departmental duties and who will do the counting?
    - How will this be implemented in Ladok?
  - Ugne - A lot of pushback from FAs, no set criteria for students across schools.
  - Ugne - Maybe it is complicated to have too many steps; just to have a single middle step (50%).
  - Mohammad - Time based system based on 4 years of total PhD + departmental duties - maybe the step increase could be awarded after

one year plus a few months instead of one year if it were only four years for the PhD.
- ○ Mohammad - a negative thing - if someone is progressing faster than the 4 years, there still needs to be a criterion to provide the salary increment.
- ○ Doga - Faculty board is assembling next Wednesday. He will bring up this issue in this meeting.
- ○ Mohammad - ISP needs to be updated for it to reflect in Ladok. There might be issues if the ISP is not established.
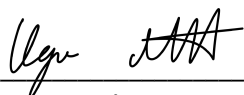
6.2. Onboarding -

- We move on from this topic and it will be taken informally, outside the chapter meeting.

7. Other questions - Övriga frågor

No further questions.

8. Conclusion of the meeting - Mötets avslutande

The chapter meeting is concluded at 19:31.

_____
Meeting Chairperson
Mötesordförande

_____
Meeting Secretary
Mötessekreterare

_____
Minutes Checker
Justerare

_____
Minutes Checker
Justerare

Attendance Sheet

CM#3
2024-10-02

Name	School	THS Member	Arrived	Left
Ugne Miniotaite	SCI	Yes	1.1	
Doğa Gürgünoğlu	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Jura Miniota	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Umar Farooq	ABE	Yes	1.1	
Dita Anggraini	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Iman Ramezani	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Mattias Åstrand	SCI	Yes	1.1	
Joost Pieters	ABE	Yes	1.1	
Ivo Bruijl	ABE	Yes	1.1	
Ellymay Goossens	CBH	Yes	1.1	
Hemanth Venkatesan	ITM	Yes	1.1	
Ibrahim Batayneh	SCI	Yes	1.1	
Lidiya Abdisa Ejjeta	CBH	Yes	1.1	
Karthik Rajasekar	CBH	YES	1.1	
Juan Camilo Avendano	ABE	YES	1.1	
Liv Breivik	ABE	YES	1.1	

Steffen Hammer	ITM	Yes	1.1	
Saumey Jain	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Daniel Medeıros	EECS	No	1.1	
Luca Terenzi	SCI	Yes	1.1	
Vladilena Gaisina	SCI	No	1.1	
Elina Merdymshaeva	ABE	Yes	1.1	3.4
Pedro Antunes	EECS	Yes	1.1	1.1
Zoe Barjot	ABE	Yes	1.1	
Pedro Antunes	EECS	Yes	1.1	
Mohammad Abuasbeh	ITM	Yes	1.1	
Mohd Aiman Khan	ABE	Yes	1.1	
Haireguli Aihemaiti	ITM	Yes	3.1	
Giorgos Aspetakis	ABE	Yes	3.2	
Zhikai Yang	CBH	Yes	3.2	
Gauthier Leclercq	SCI	Yes	3.3	
Udit Sharma	SCI	Yes	3.3	
Jose Hernandez Vargas	ABE	Yes	3.4	
Julien Cerutti	SCI	Yes	4.1	