



Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 9th December 2020 15:15 – Online meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Oliver Degerstedt, *Chair*

Haro de Grauw, *Vice-chair*

Angelika Drigo, *Vice-chair*

Charlotte Viktorsson, *Secretary*

Antonia Degen, *SDR representative*

Philipp Rönchen, *HDR representative*

Achyut Ram Vyakaranam, *MDR representative*

Fabiola Stein, *UDR representative*

Daniel Schmitz, *MDR representative*

Olena Jansson, *Library Board representative*

Andrea Cediél, *Scholarship Board representative*

Evgenii Tikhomirov, *Event manager*

Ellinor Lindqvist, *SVAM representative*

Anna Ivert, *UTN representative*

Elena Prats, *HDR representative*

Gustav Bjurhammer, *UDR representative*

Anna Frost, *NUAF representative*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Achyut Ram Vyakaranam was elected as the adjuster for the protocol

§3 The board approved the agenda

§4 The board approved the call procedure

§5 The board approved the previous meeting minutes

**§6 Updates from DN presidium, representatives and working groups
(information/update)**

Language working group: The working group is planning on making a survey targeting language issues and internalization. They consider interviews as a possible way of collecting data as well.

Prolongation working group: The working group continues working on the two tracks (summarizing how the group think prolongation ought to work, and collecting data on how it currently works).

MDR: They have read and commented on the vision document for goals and strategies. They consider the goals and ambitions to be great, but says that the document lacks a clear strategy. MDR have also sent out their language questionnaire again, and have now gathered approximately 45 responses. They are sending out newsletter on a regular basis. They are also organizing a secret Santa event.

SDR: They have decided to pause the discussion regarding prolongation related to Covid-19. They have started a discussion related to supervision and how it works in different departments.

UDR: They have written two statements (one to the department and one to the faculty), stressing the importance of taking Covid-related problems seriously. Secondly, the election of new head of department became an issue due to conflicting opinions. This led to several extra meetings discussing the issue. Thirdly, they have had a close collaboration with the local student union LÄRA in relation to several issues. The last meeting of this year is next week.

HDR: They had a meeting focusing on two topics. Firstly, it has been decided that every department will decide individually about prolongation due to Covid-19, but it is expected that few will be granted prolongation. Secondly, they discussed the disparities in implementation of salary increase after 50% and 80% of completed PhD. It is not clear whether the increase in salary should happen after a certain time, after the mid-term review or after 50 percent of the work is done. HDR requested a discussion about this (see §8).

UTN: They report that they have proposed guidelines for monetary compensation for students that are elected into university wide boards and committees.

NUAF: Anna Frost shows how to find the ethics documents on Medarbetarportalen (<https://mp.uu.se/web/info/forska/etiskafragor>). She informs about the ethics committee at UU and the ethics committee on a national level.

Library board: Olena Jansson presents herself as the new representative of the library board, and informs that they have had two meetings since September. They discussed how the library board can give effective help to PhD students and other library users. They also created a plan for next year.

Joint committee on work environment issues (SVAM): They have mostly discussed corona-related problems, especially concerns about prolongation.

Scholarship board: No news or updates.

§7 Updates related to COVID-19 (information/discussion)

Management council: The university board let the vice-chancellor decide about the money allocated for Covid-related problems. The vice-chancellor will add a point regarding prolongation, to make sure money are allocated to this within each Scientific area.

Chair Oliver Degerstedt will send out the final reminder of the Covid-19 survey.

§8 PhD student salaries (issue brought forward by HDR, discussion)

- (i) Disparities in implementation of salary increase after 50% and 80% completed

The regulations regarding salary are very irregular and differs between departments. For example, it is not clear whether the increase in salary should happen after a certain time, after the mid-term review or after 50 percent of the work is done. It is suggested that the policy at each department at UU should be collected. Thereafter, a common policy document can be created.

(ii) “Going over time” – problem with unemployment benefits

According to Swedish law, a person cannot receive unemployment benefits at the same time as they are studying. This becomes a problem for PhD students who are not done after four years and are not granted prolongation. This is a legal issue that cannot be solved locally, but vice-chair Haro de Grauw suggests that Doktorandnämnden can talk to nation-wide organisations and alert newspapers about this problem.

§9 Election of PhD Student representative in the steering committee for the language workshop (discussion/decision)

Anna Folland is elected as the representative in the steering committee for the language workshop.

§10 The university self-evaluation of quality systems (information/discussion)

Chair Oliver Degerstedt have worked on the summary report together with the student union, and presents the parts that are related to PhD students. Oliver suggests that the summary report can be used in the different faculty boards to make relevant changes. The student report is only available in Swedish.

§11 Summary reports from our PhD representatives (information)

The PhD representatives that could not make it to the meeting sent in short summaries of the work they have done in the faculty boards this semester. A few groups have not answered.

§12 Other comments or issues

The operational grants will be paid out this week, chair Oliver Degerstedt will send out an email to the chairs of the faculty councils. The DN presidium would like to see some receipts for how the operational grant is spent. Since Fika and Lunch meetings in person have been discouraged for most of 2020.

The project manager of the ENLIGHT network is inviting PhD students from Uppsala University to get involved in the projects doctoral network. The project is expected to start in 2021.

§13 Closing of the meeting



Oliver Degerstedt, Chair



Charlotte Viktorsson, Secretary



Achyut Ram Vyakaranam, Attestant