



Agenda – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 3rd March 2021 15:15 – 17:00 Online meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Oliver Degerstedt, *Chair*

Haro de Grauw, *Vice-chair*

Angelika Drigo, *Vice-chair*

Charlotte Viktorsson, *Secretary*

Philipp Rönchen, *HDR representative*

Fabiola Stein, *UDR representative*

Elena Prats, *HDR representative*

Rosita Kneiszl, *FDR representative*

Michael Neiß, *representative at the Board of Ethics and Research Conduct*

Erik Bowall, *TNDR representative*

Daniel Schmitz, *MDR representative*

Evgenii Tikhomirov, *Event manager*

Anna Ivert, *UUFS*

Emma Ivarsson, *Ombudsperson*

Antonia Degen, *SDR*

Emma Sundström, *TDR*

Christoffer Fjellstedt, *TNDR representative*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Antonia Degen 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 has written a survey draft, which was sent out to the board before the meeting. A few suggestions were made, such as rating each item instead of ranking them, including the family situation of the respondents, and incorporate

questions on the language policy of Uppsala University. It was discussed whether to include an optional question on which department the respondent works at. This could be useful in showing that the survey covers all areas of the university, but it might violate privacy and make respondents easy to recognize. No decisions are taken right now, the board members are encouraged to read the draft again before next DN meeting and give their input then.

UUFS – UKÄ visited last week and asked questions about the report on the self-evaluation of quality systems. Prerequisites for student influence is something that they will focus on. Included is this UKÄ have requested the university's guidelines for research training.

SDR – Have had discussions with the dean and faculty regarding Covid-19 prolongation, and asked for templates, forms, and guidelines. The faculty are in favor of sending out an informational email, but they demand that the departments are more involved. *SDR* have also discussed PhD salaries, and the problem of determining when 50% of the PhD has been completed (whether it is according to time or amount of work). Vice-chair Haro de Grauw informs that SACO is currently negotiating PhD salaries, and they would like to connect salary increases to duration of PhD period, not certain percentage levels. The university has mentioned the idea of individual discussions about salary, something that is not supported by SACO. It seems likely that the current system will prevail for now.

TNDR – Have reached an agreement on how PhD students should be elected to department boards. They have also organized some online social events.

MDR – Nothing to report.

HDR – Will have a meeting on Friday.

TDR – Have mainly discussed Covid-19 prolongation.

UDR – Have also discussed PhD salaries. They have also shared the results from the Covid-19 survey. Further, the rights to recorded lectures has been discussed, and whether it becomes a property of UU or not.

FDR – The PhD day has been postponed, but hopefully it can be arranged outside later in the semester. They will send out a form to request topics (e.g. career development). They also discussed a suggestion on intercultural mentoring.

Ombudsperson – There is a need for clarification of what resources PhD students have the right to, which is an ongoing discussion. Currently, the ombudspersons deal with a lot of disciplinary cases and a lot of questions on examinations and internships. In order to ease the workload, another ombudsperson will be recruited soon and will join until spring semester 2022. There is a network for ombudspersons all over Sweden, which has worked on a system for reporting cases and compiling statistics. This will lead to local and national statistics on cases, which will be helpful in writing reports on problem areas.

University board (Haro de Grauw) – The annual report of Uppsala University is finished. Among other things, the report states that the university has paid a large amount for Covid-19 related prolongation, although some departments report that none of their PhD students will get prolongation.

Evgenii Tikhomirov – Shows the new DN website at www.uudoctoralboard.se. The board members are encouraged to look at it with the faculty board councils, and preferably select a person from each council that will be responsible for keeping the information on the website updated.

Chair Oliver Degerstedt – Deputy vice-chancellor Coco Norén will attend the DN meeting in April, between 4pm and 5pm. She wants to know which key topics DN want her to get involved in. Oliver is also updating the DN bylaws together with secretary Charlotte Viktorsson and a representative from UUFS, and might bring it up in the next meeting. Oliver also reports that the Library board has informed that the library can help with organizing events and seminars for PhD students. Finally, the celebration on 30th of April at Carolina Rediviva has been cancelled.

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

The report on the Covid-19 survey has been sent out. Vice-chair Haro de Grauw presented the report at the management council meeting, where they showed interest in the results.

Chair Oliver, together with representatives from HSDU and SDR started a dialogue with the vice-rector of HumSam, who wants to know how to solve the problem of prolongation. The picture painted by some deans is very different from the one painted by PhD student representatives.

One suggestion from the philosophy department is to collect signatures from senior researchers all over the university in support of Covid-19 related prolongation for PhD students. This petition could for example be handed to the university board.

For now, DN will try to get a copy of the decision made by the vice-chancellor, where it is specified what the extra amount of money should be allocated to. The dialogue with the vice-rector of HumSam will continue. DN will also request to see how the covid-19 labelled funding from the government was distributed between departments at HumSam.

§8 Prolongation policy document (information/discussion)

The prolongation policy document has been sent out, and board members are encouraged to send their comments to Haro de Grauw.

§9 “Shadow” doctoral candidates (discussion)

DN presidium has discussed writing an opinion piece on this topic. Board members are encouraged to contact the chair or vice-chairs if they want to be involved.

§10 DN elections 2021 (discussion/decision)

A work description for the election committee has been sent out. No former DN members has shown interest, but DN can elect a member that is not planning to run for a position again. Daniel Schmitz offers to take the position.

Vice-chair Haro de Grauw mentions that DN might create a new position as a representative of Campus Gotland.

§11 DN operational grant – new template (discussion/decision)

A new template for DN operational grant has been sent out. Board members can comment on it by email, and if no one opposes it, it will be approved.

§12 Other comments or issues

Antonia Degen: SULF has asked if DN wants to participate in a day for welcoming PhD students. Chair Oliver Degerstedt says that they can email him about it.

§13 Closing of the meeting

Oliver Degerstedt

Oliver Degerstedt, Chair

Charlotte Viktorsson

Charlotte Viktorsson, Secretary

Antonia Degen

Antonia Degen, Attestant