Agenda – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 30th 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*

Rosita Kneiszl, *FDR representative* (joined 16:30)

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

Erik Bowall, *TNDR representative*

Daniel Schmitz, *MDR representative*

Evgenii Tikhomirov, *Event manager*

Antonia Degen, *SDR representative*

Anton Berglund, *Chair of Rindi student union at Campus Gotland*

Carmen Pocrnja, *Student and PhD student ombud*

Endrina Mujica, *UDC representative*

Erik Baehre, *UUFS representative*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Erik Bowall was elected as the adjuster for the protocol

§3 The board approved the agenda

The ENLIGHT discussion point and the prolongation policy document discussion were postponed.

§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)

Chair Oliver Degerstedt: The report “Hur mår doktoranden?” was presented at a seminar last week, and has also been sent out to all doctoral students at UU. Further, information will

be sent out regarding vacation guidelines for PhD students later in spring. In addition, Uppsala university is organizing a PhD student survey in autumn 2021 for the first time since 2015, in which they will add two new themes: career path and mental health. A draft will be sent to DN for feedback/comments before the summer.

Vice-chair Haro de Grauw: The prolongation working group has requested answers from all doctoral councils, but only a few have replied so far.

Vice-chair Angelika Drigo: Has been preparing the panel discussion on how to decode the Swedish job market, which will be happening in May. Two speakers have been booked for this event.

UDC: Is planning specialized courses in diabetes, awareness events for World Diabetes Day, and more collaboration. The UDC will have a call for PhD projects in May and the selected projects will receive funding.

Board of Ethics and Research Conduct: Nothing to report.

UUFS: Have mainly discussed internal regulations. Briefly discussed the question of PhD representation at Campus Gotland. Further, they talked about the DN bylaws, their working group continues to revise them.

Anton Berglund, from Rindi at Campus Gotland: A research school recently started up at Campus Gotland, and there are currently 12 PhD students. The projects are interdisciplinary and focused on sustainability. Rindi is the student union at Campus Gotland, and they are looking for advice on how to set up a PhD council or a similar organization. Since many of the PhD students at Campus Gotland are connected to TekNat, TNDR suggested that they join their council. Other suggestions were setting up a separate council only for PhD students at Gotland, or setting up a position as PhD representative in Rindi. Haro de Grauw will attend a meeting with Rindi to inform them about the PhD organizations at UU.

Student and PhD student ombud: Had a meeting with head of division at student affairs, where they discussed resource guidelines. There were concerns regarding it being stated in university-wide documents, while some resources are very faculty-specific. In addition, they are recruiting another ombudsperson.

Evgenii Tikhomirov: Nothing new regarding the website, but the different councils should get in touch with Evgenii to update their parts of the website.

MDR: Nothing to report.

UDR: Had their elections for the board. Nothing else to report.

HDR: The faculty of languages is working towards getting faculty-wide ISPs instead of department-wide.

TNDR: Have been discussing the PhD students at Campus Gotland that are connected to TekNat. In addition, they had a meeting with the faculty board where they discussed the money that had been allocated to Covid-19 related prolongation.

SDR: Have sought information about how the Covid-19 related prolongation will be dealt with. In addition, next semester the PhD programs in the faculty will be evaluated, but SDR has not yet been contacted regarding this.

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

In December 2020, the vice-chancellor decided to give 55 million kronor for Covid-19 related prolongation. All faculty councils should investigate how the money has been allocated in their faculty and/or departments, so DN can compile the information and get an overview.

Haro de Grauw has written a draft for a freedom of information act email to the university, asking for information on application for prolongation and the responses. Its discussed what such a request might lead to.

The DN Covid-19 survey form can still be used for the ISP, but the survey is not open. There are a lot of other surveys going on at the university and DN has other projects going on right now. However, it might get opened again in order to collect responses that are sent in now that the money have been allocated for prolongation. In addition, the pandemic has been going on longer than estimated, so the results might look different now than last autumn.

Further, the vice-chancellor will probably extend the period of distance teaching and working from home until the end of June.

§8 Language survey (information/discussion)

The technical details of the survey are done, and they are now working on finalizing the content. They will send it out when it is done.

§9 Deputy vice chancellor visit (discussion)

Coco Norén will be visiting the DN meeting on the 27th April (16:00-17:00), and the proposed discussion points are:

- Digitalisation of the individual study plan (ISP)
    - Although MedFarm has digitalized ISPs, they are impossible to revise. If ISPs are to be digitalized, a more practical system should be discussed.
    - The university has reported that they will launch an investigation on a university-wide ISP system. The deputy vice-chancellor will probably be responsible. No further information yet.
- COVID-19 and related prolongation issues
- Language courses
    - A suggestion is to be able to include credits for Swedish courses in the PhD.
- Prolongation in general
    - An appeals procedure in some form should be incorporated. The process today is unstructured and unclear. There needs to be transparency and a university-level policy.
- Stress management course: An important topic, but the setup could be more flexible. Maybe change the course into open seminars instead, and give the same lecture at different time points.

§10 DN elections 2021 – time to confirm the call and election date (decision)

The elections will be conducted on May 25th. The deadline for applications will be on May 16th. The compiled list of applications will be sent to DN on May 18th.

A suggestion is for DN to create a step-by-step guide on how to ask for prolongation after serving on the board or as a representative elected by DN. Oliver will create a certificate template, to be signed by the DN chair, ahead of the next meeting.

§11 Other comments or issues

§12 Closing of the meeting

Oliver Degerstedt

Oliver Degerstedt, Chair

Charlotte Viktorsson, Secretary

Erik Bowall, Attestant