



**Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 15:15 – Zoom meeting**

**Attendees**

Oliver Degerstedt, *Chair\**

Irene Muli, *Vice-chair*

Ayesha Mae Bilal, *Secretary\**

Haro de Grauw, *Student and PhD studentombud*

Emma Ivarsson, *Student and PhD studentombud*

Fabiola Stein, *UDR representative\**

Markus de Ruijter, *MDR representative*

Antonia Degen, *SDR representative\**

Matthew Rosenberg, *FDR representative\**

Philipp Rönchen, *HDR representative\**

Jana Rieger, *TNDR representative (deputy)\**

Michela Di Criscio, *TNDR representative\**

Emma Sundström, *TDR representative\**

Erik Grahn, *JDR representative\**

Philip Karlsson, *NUAF (Board for Investigation of Misconduct in Research) representative*

Meryem Saadi, *Equal Opportunities Advisory Board representative*

Daniel Rosenblum, *CEMFOR representative*

Martin Forsberg, *Chairman of Rindi*

Angelika Drigo, *INRÅ representative*

Favour Onyeogaziri, *Advisory Board for Research Infrastructure representative*

Galyna Kutsovska, *Advisory Board for Research representative*

*\*These meeting participants voted during the §11 DN filler elections*

**§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair**

**§2 Markus de Ruijter was elected as the adjuster for the meeting minutes**

### **§3 The board approved the agenda**

### **§4 The board approved the call procedure**

### **§5 The board approved the previous meeting minutes**

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

*Chair Oliver Degerstedt:* PhD survey run by quality department has been pushed forward, doctoral students will likely receive it in January. KoF23 likely to be completed in 2024 (KoF24). Sent an email regarding the operational grant and if faculty council has not received anything, Oliver can send it if they inform him.

Document outlining allocated funds to university departments (faculty councils are encouraged to follow money down in their faculty levels):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1p3Dmxgawa26W-0TkKIlN8jM1CXop-G8MdMby0kFLdZA/edit?usp=sharing>

*Vice-chair Irene Mulim:* no updates yet from Digital ISP working group. Oliver working on checking with PhD students from other universities regarding their processes.

*JDR:* procedure for applying for covid prolongation in law department has been put in place. Students need to document a concrete need for prolongation and motivate it in their ISP. This is signed by the main supervisor, and goes to the director of studies, then the head of department who will make the decision. Law department was allocated 1.5 million SEK to deal with covid-19 impact on research, and Oliver suggests JDR to check how much of that fund went to prolongation of PhD students.

*Martin Forsberg:* attended SFS members meeting where Alien's Act was discussed. PhD student representative position still open in student board.

*Ombudsperson Emma Ivarsson:* nothing to report.

*MDR:* department of neuroscience will most likely be disbanded, as proposed by the interim head of department. The final decision will be made by the Vice Chancellor on December 16th. It is up to group leaders to relocate to other departments within faculty.

*Phillip Karlsson:* attending as docenture committee representative. Attended first meeting with MedFarm docenture committee where he raised concern that the committee might not be making decisions based on guidelines. Some decisions taken seemed to be biased towards the clinical side. Moreover, guidelines for members applying for docent titles not clear, so applications are often rejected. Also, applicants are supposed to be evaluated by external reviewers, and it is not clear when external review should be done or not. Response from committee was not satisfactory. Philip has discussed this matter now with the dean of medical faculty who showed a more favorable response, asking for the protocol from the MDR meetings, and has asked Philip to stay on the committee.

*TDR:* no cases yet regarding covid prolongation. Department of Theology was allocated 1.3 million SEK to deal with covid-19 impact on research, and Oliver suggests TDR to check how much of that fund goes to prolongation.

*Daniel Rosenblum*: call for 2 positions at CEMFOR open. An evaluation report is published regarding the controversial restructuring of senior leadership roles being split into administration and research roles.

*TNDR (Michela Di Criscio)*: nothing to report.

*TNDR (Jana Rieger)*: nothing to report.

*Haro de Grauw*: reporting from the university board, main topic for upcoming meeting is regarding Uppsala receiving funding along with 8 other universities as part of the ENLIGHT framework. It is unclear how that is meant to function in regards to admission, teaching etc. since Swedish universities are largely regulated by the government and unable to make such changes independently.

*FDR*: working with KUF to put together a list of scholarships for PhD students to apply for which can be included in DN website. May take inspiration from KI, as they may already have such a list.

*Meryem Saadi*: talks regarding activity plan for equal opportunities in 2022-24. Equal Opportunities board interested in hearing more about language survey so they can put the issue forward.

*Galyna Kutsovskaya*: attended first meeting where main discussion topics were European Union strategies; whether future research is to be based on specific profile areas or be interdisciplinary and KoF24. Interested in getting different views on these matters. Asked if board will include another student representative, and should the board include members from humanities and social science fields too. *Oliver* responds that there should be an undergraduate student representative who may not have been elected yet. There should also be board members representing all faculties. For getting student views on specific topics, *Oliver* can forward those topics to various email lists.

*Angelika Drigo*: INRÅ is working on action plan for upcoming meeting. DN members can let her know of any issues to take up at next board meeting.

*UDR*: upcoming inspiration day for PhD students. Event includes talk by a recently graduated PhD student about life after PhD, talk by a senior prof about their career, a session for PhD students to talk with prospective students, as well as lunch and fika. Event funded by both UDR and faculty.

*Favour Onyeogaziri*: nothing to report.

*SDR*: will be planning ethics and data privacy workshop for all PhD students in faculty for spring 2022 most likely, as especially after the new GDPR law regarding data, some knowledge gaps exist.

*HDR*: trying to fill vacant positions. Decided informally that HDR chairperson will also be responsible for website.

## §7 DN language survey report (final discussion)

*Anglika Drigo*: wanted to receive opinions, suggestions or comments regarding the language report findings.

*Favour Onyeogaziri*: received official university magazine in Swedish. That the magazine of an international university is in Swedish may be neglecting a large group of university members.

*Markus de Ruijter*: identified a missing reference in page 66 or 70. Suggested two major aims out of the report: the need to improve Swedish level international PhD students, and/or to make the university use English more. Suggested making a cover letter with the report to highlight the outcome goals so university can make a decision on it. In terms of the first aim, it would be useful to first measure current level of Swedish in PhD students (aim of current questionnaire), determine desired level of Swedish by the time they finish, and compare individual Swedish levels prospectively to assess how well PhD students manage to learn. In terms of the second aim, we must ask university to make a definitive statement regarding their desire to improve level of English, and if no desire present, then to stop labelling itself as an international university. Expectations for language acquisition should be made clear to new PhD students as it is relevant for equal opportunities and working in Sweden in the future. Suggested changes in specific matters to improve English level to be included in cover letter or report:

- Official documents in English
- Board meetings in English when at least 1 non-Swedish speaking person present
- E-mails directed to persons that include non-Swedish speaking people need to have an English translation
- Information relevant to non-Swedish speaking people need an English translation (e.g. faculty/department websites)
- *Ayesha Mae Bilal*: Job postings should mention what level of Swedish the applicant is expected to learn and how much Swedish they are expected to use as part of their program.

*Markus* also felt that ECTS credits for Swedish language courses should not be given unless it is relevant to the student's scientific field. Does university have a minimum required level of Swedish from PhD students, or are they willing to? Or do they consider themselves an international university? Important to get university to define that, so we can set our goals accordingly. *Oliver* adds that getting a university response can take a long time. *Antonia* disagrees that the university should be asked to enforce a minimum level of Swedish from applicants as that may exclude more than half of UU PhD applicants.

*Philipp Rönchen*: expressed confusion regarding Fig. 36, pg. 28 and suggested separating the answers instead of a pie chart, and that it would make more sense if an option to not give any answer was there. Suggested two main goals out of the report: make the university increase funds for more language courses, and/or provide prolongation and credits for Swedish courses at the faculty level. Suggested starting with the equal opportunities groups at the faculty level, or go to faculty boards. Considering that UU is a governmental institution, hard to expect things will be 100% in English and would be dependent on departments, as such focus should be on prolongation.

*Oliver Degerstedt*: adds that we should be clear in report about whether change is needed at faculty, board and university levels to avoid any diffusion of responsibility. Need to compress report into a 5-10 min presentation, with important highlights and desired measures, then convince departments to change, especially regarding emails and documents being in English. Suggested sitting in on a head of department conference that happens once or twice a year. *Favour* adds that some departments have already been translating documents and emails, suggests adding to report to set an example.

*Meryem Saadi*: adds that there should be rules enforced for board meetings when there is a non-Swedish speaking person present, either to allow them to not attend or hold the meeting in English. *Fabiola* reminds board that requesting the university to hold meetings in English might not be realistic as it is not an essential need for PhD students to join boards and may be isolating university members who are not comfortable speaking in English. *Markus* disagrees with *Fabiola* about attending board meetings not being an essential need, as it is part of the equal opportunities rights of students and in the interest of the university to fill vacant positions in boards with PhD students.

*Antonia Degen*: suggests focusing changes that are realistic and financially plausible to expect from the university. Disagrees about language course prolongation being likely, considering that language department doesn't have many resources. Suggests prioritizing spreading this around students and prioritizing wellbeing of students.

*Haro de Grauw*: reminds board about upcoming election year in Sweden and the talks around language requirements for permanent residence or citizenship. Matter can be taken outside the university too.

*Oliver* concludes discussion with the following points:

- More time needed to suggest what measures are needed and at what level. Make these concrete and specific.
- Angelika will continue leading working group on this and present this to management council and equal opportunities committee.

The DN board approves the language and internationalization survey report including the suggested changes.

## **§8 DN website update**

Postponed to next meeting

## **§9 Topics to discuss during next meeting with Prorektor**

- Language survey report: need to agree on specific list of changes to push for and what aspects are important. Need to discuss discrepancy between university language policy and internationalization agenda, and funding for language courses.
- Aliens act should be brought up. Proposal for PhD exemption was voted down by parliament. Minister of immigration claimed it is the employer's responsibility to adapt.
- Climate framework: what has been happening and what discussions are going on. Need students to be more involved.

## §10 Other comments or issues

## §11 DN filler elections – Scholarship Board & ENLIGHT

The electoral roll was determined (see list of attendees above). Attendees were asked to review application statements from candidates beforehand. During voting meeting, attendees without voting rights or with a reported bias left the meeting. Voting for contested positions was done via Zoom poll feature to ensure anonymity.

Below are the names of all applicants that were elected and offered the specified positions.

Rejina Gurung was elected as a representative in the ENLIGHT Board (5 people applied for the position)

Christin Mays was elected as a representative in the Scholarship Board (1 person applied for the position)

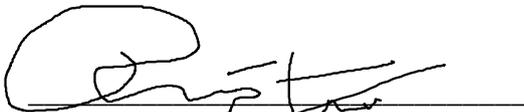
## §12 Closing of the meeting



Oliver Degerstedt, Chair



Ayesha Mae Bilal, Secretary



Markus de Ruijter, Attestant