

Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 21st December 2021 15:15 – Zoom meeting

Attendees

Oliver Degerstedt, *Chair* (joined at 4.30)

Irene Muli, *Vice-chair*

Elena Prats, *Vice-chair and HDR representative*

Ayesha Mae Bilal, *Secretary*

Haro de Grauw, *Student and PHD student ombud and University board representative*

Evgenii Tikhomirov, *Event Manager* (joined 3.30)

Fabiola Stein, *UDR representative*

Daniel Schmitz, *MDR representative*

Matthew Rosenberg, *FDR representative*

Jana Rieger, *TNDR representative (deputy)* (joined 4.35)

Erik Bowall, *TNDR representative*

Emma Sundström, *TDR representative*

Angelika Drigo, *INRÅ representative*

Soraya Hossain, *Gotland Campus PhD representative*

§1 The meeting was declared open by vice-chair Irene Muli

§2 Erik Bowall 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 (information)

Irene Muli: continued work on guidelines on different aspects of student representation.

HDR: nothing to report.

Ombud Haro de Grauw: reported that Emma Ivarsson will be leaving as ombudsperson after January. Vacancy advertisement will be sent out later.

TDR: update on prolongation application due to the pandemic: one application was approved as it was submitted with complete documentation and a concrete case.

FDR: continued work on revision for supervisor guidelines.

MDR: reported that the dismantling and redistribution of the department of neuroscience has been officialized. Any student experienced any related difficulties can get in touch with the ombudspersons.

UDR: nothing to report

TNDR: nothing to report

Soraya Hossain: nothing to report

Angelika Drigo: nothing to report from INRÅ. Presented language report to the Equal Opportunities Board who are keen to continue working on the issue. Also presented to the University Management Council, who promised to consider the challenges experienced by international students.

§7 DN report on language and internationalization (information / discussion)

- Summaries from presentations at Equal Opportunities Advisory Board and Management Council.
 - Vice chancellor and vice rectors were optimistic and generally agreed with DN. Looking forward to getting a proposal from the Nordic languages department, and more transparency in what is expected from PhD students in terms of language abilities in research, teaching and representation. Council has forwarded report to Internationalization Council.
 - Communication person from Uppsala University will publish a report based on the language survey on the staff portal after New Year's.
 - Legal expert in Management Council object to the term "discrimination". When drafting documents, DN members need to be careful how they use the term, unless directly quoting from survey participants.
- Next steps:
 - Oliver is planning to draft a proposal with the Nordic languages department.
 - Draft a written plan for who to assign responsibility for what goal. Departments would independently manage the responsibility to clarify the required language abilities to incoming students.
 - One concrete suggestion to push to the Management Council is the translation of contracts, some challenges with costs and time associated with this task that need to be considered.
 - Raise awareness about where PhD students can go to seek support or advice if they experience challenges as many don't know.
 - Share report with the Swedish Doctoral Board Council who can then distribute it among DN of other universities in Sweden with the hopes they conduct the survey as well so findings can be compared. Can also directly send the survey to DN boards of other universities, such as Lund and Goteborg.
 - Investigate the current status of English language courses for students, and what challenges exist in allowing all students to reach a satisfactory level of English. Consider enforcing an expected minimum standard of English required for all students.

§8 Next term – what do we want to focus on? (discussion)

- PhD students survey from quality department
 - Try to get students to fill it out.


- Clarification of rights for PhD students: students with external funding employed by projects, not employed by faculty, experienced difficulties in getting prolongation with funding. *Haro* clarifies that these students have the same rights and that faculties would be obliged to pay if no external funding is available.
- Livability and wellbeing issues
 - Accommodation is becoming more expensive in Uppsala on PhD salary.
 - Quality of accommodation provided by the university housing office is poor, especially in older buildings.
 - Visby has shortage of housing in general, but especially during the summers when many people forced to leave the island.
 - Suggestions: *Haro* plans to engage in negotiations with the Uppsala Municipality and the nations.
 - Create a working group focused on general wellbeing and livability in Uppsala. *Fabiola*, *Soraya*, *Ayesha Mae*, and *Elena* volunteer for it.
- Aliens act – meeting scheduled for February 2022 for debate articles to be sent out to keep the topic alive.
- Reminder – meetings VT22:
 - Tuesday 25th January 15:15-17:00 (Brunörten, Segerstedt)
 - Tuesday 22nd February 15:15-17:00
 - Tuesday 29th March 15:15-17:00
 - Tuesday 26th April 15:15-17:00 with Prorektor Coco Norén
 - Tuesday 31st May 15:15-17:00
 - Tuesday 21st June 15:15-17:00 (Tuvstarren, Segerstedt)

Fabiola suggests the 24th of May instead of the 31st, and the 14th of June instead of the 21st. The suggestions are approved. Oliver will check if it is possible to rebook the venue.

§9 Other comments or issues

§10 Closing of the meeting

Irene Muli, Vice Chair



Ayesha Mae Bilal, Secretary

Erik Bowall, Attestant