



Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 25th January 2022 15:15 – Zoom meeting

Attendees

Oliver Degerstedt, *Chair***

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*

Markus de Ruijter, *MDR representative***

Daniel Schmitz, *MDR representative***

Antonia Degen, *SDR representative***

Matthew Rosenberg, *FDR representative***

Philipp Rönchen, *HDR representative***

Michela Di Criscio, *TNDR representative***

Emma Sundström, *TDR representative***

Erik Grahn, *JDR representative***

Kimberly Norrman, *UDR representative***

Angelika Drigo, *INRÅ representative*

Daniel Busk, *UUFS representative*

Meryem Saadi, *Equal Opportunities Advisory Board representative*

Soraya Hossain, *Gotland Campus PhD representative*

Stamatina Roussou, *Gender Mainstreaming Reference Group representative**

**joined at 15.45*

***These meeting participants had voting rights during the §7 DN elections*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Matthew Rosenberg 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)

Oliver Degerstedt: has upcoming meeting with Nordic Languages department. Quality department updated that the PhD survey will be sent out in early February. It is important to maximize number of respondents and promote it. New guidelines for prolongation were sent out and include increases in prolongation days as requested from DN board. Faculty councils need to make sure the application procedures are as easy as possible since one cannot apply until 6 months remain of the PhD time. The Digital ISP working group will present to the management council in mid-February with the report. Since a few different systems have been proposed, the report will conclude with a recommendation for the best fitting system. DN email address will be changed, any suggestions are welcome.

Irene Muli: finished guidelines for student representation and student influence, sent out on referrals. Will wait for comments, revisions or further instructions.

Elena Prats: nothing to report

Haro de Grauw (student ombud): currently recruiting a third member as student ombud. Anyone interested can email Haro.

Evgenii Tikhomirov: renewed subscription for website, appearing in more searches and traffic has increased. Most downloaded material is PhD handbook.

Ayesha-Mae Bilal: nothing to report.

HDR: nothing to report.

MDR (Daniel): nothing to report.

MDR (Markus): working with student who had issues with supervisor that led her to resign from her position as PhD. Will be meeting with the KUF chair and discussing how to prevent this and reach out to students particularly in isolated positions.

UDR: nothing to report.

UUFS: new board members have joined. Plans to evaluate cost of educational surveillance and request additional funding from university accordingly.

TDR: nothing to report.

Meryem Saadi: Equal opportunities board very interested in our plans for action based on the language and internationalization survey. Survey report is to be published on medarbetarportalen, but is awaiting comments from the vice-chancellor's team.

SDR: discussed ethics and newly structured equal opportunities in regards to gender disability and ethnicity.

Soraya Hossain: nothing to report.

INRA: nothing to report.

FDR: Nothing to report

§7 DN elections – representative for Board of Research Infrastructure (decision)

The electoral roll was determined (see list of attendees above). Attendees were asked to review application statements from candidates beforehand. Only one candidate submitted an application statement. 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.

Zanna Friberg was elected as a representative for Board of Research Infrastructure (2 people applied for the position)

§8 New working group – Liveability & wellbeing (discussion)

Suggestions for focus points for working group:

- How many people encounter this issue? How does it impact students who come with families?
- See section in PhD handbook regarding housing and liveability and see if any updates are needed.
- Affordability and quality of apartments provided by housing office
- Housing queues for international students

Haro will schedule a meeting with student union, UUFS, Gotland union, and discuss this with Uppsala Kommun and university housing about transport and housing solutions. Ayesha-Mae is contact person for this working group if anyone would be interested in joining or helping out.

§9 Recent publications regarding department of Neuroscience work environment/sexual harassment issues (discussion)

Most articles are behind a paywall but you can access them via the library (Retriever Research): <https://ub.uu.se/finding-your-way-in-the-collections/newspapers-and-magazines/>

Vice-rector and other people were interviewed by the media. Reported that the department has had work environment issues in general, but only one case of sexual harassment was reported in 2018 and was investigated by an external expert. No grounds were then found for legal action. The department shutting down was largely due to collaboration and organization issues. MDR will focus on the sexual harassment report more and find out what was done to prevent this from happening again.

Whistleblowing function: Oliver identified that the whistleblowing form on Uppsala University's website is only available in Swedish. He reported the matter and it will be resolved soon. New EU whistleblowing law to come into effect in May 2022 which will impose new obligations on the university in terms of reporting, and will require an updating of procedures. If students would like to discuss issues outside of their department, they should contact the student ombudspersons who can guide them to the appropriate channels. Important to remember that any writing sent to the university or via a university email address is not considered private or confidential.

§10 Aliens Act – letter from a PhD student (discussion)

Manifestations in Uppsala: demonstrations planned in Lund and Gothenburg. A majority of DN members express agreement that a demonstration should be held in Uppsala. Oliver will look into how it can be scheduled, planned, and getting a permit from police, and will ask Lund and Gothenburg for suggestions on how they planned it. Need to be mindful of large demonstrations during the pandemic as students have been receiving some backlash for not wanting to attend in-person course and exams.

Manifestations should ideally be planned as a recurring event. Should emphasize the value of PhD students and try to raise awareness to the general population who are largely unaware of this issue and what it pertains to. Antonia Degen and Meryem Saadi volunteer to lead organization efforts.

Elongation of contract durations: University HR representative clarified that no rule exists against 2-year contracts, however, each department determines the standard contract duration themselves. Faculty boards can get in touch with the department HRs and discuss this matter further.

§11 Meeting this term – final reminder (information)

- Tuesday 25th January 15:15-17:00
- Tuesday 22nd February 15:15-17:00
- Tuesday 29th March 15:15-17:00 clash with Career Tuesday.
 - Changed to 22nd March 15:15-17:00
- Tuesday 26th April 15:15-17:00 with Prorektor Coco Norén
- Tuesday **24th May** 15:15-17:00 with DN elections
- Tuesday **14th June** 15:15-17:00 (Tuvstarren, Segerstedt)

§12 Other comments or issues

§13 Closing of the meeting

Oliver Degerstedt

Oliver Degerstedt, Chair

Ayesha Mae Bilal

Ayesha Mae Bilal, Secretary

Matthew Rosenberg

Matthew Rosenberg, Attestant