

Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 28th March 2023 15:15 – Hybrid meeting in Tuvstarren, Segerstedthus and Zoom

Attendees

Topias Tolonen, *Chair**

Irene Muli, *Vice-chair**

Ayesha Mae Bilal, *Secretary**

Oreste Affatato, *Event Manager**

Fabiola Stein, *UDR representative**

Endrina Mujica, *MDR representative**

Matthew Rosenberg, *FDR representative**

Gabriel Echazu, *TDR representative**

Jila Shamslatifi, *TNDR representative**

Lennart Spode, *TNDR and Advisory Board for Internationalization representative** (joined 15.30)

Erik Grahn, *JDR representative**

Cecilia Lindskog Whiteley, *University Board representative*

Johan Hagelin, *Scholarship Board representative*

**These meeting participants had voting rights during the §11 DN elections*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair at 15:15

§2 Oreste Affatato 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 two meeting minutes from January and February 2023

§6 Follow-up: Internationalization and DN (discussion)

6.1. Jila has taken over as lead for the internationalization working group, which held two meetings so far. Working group is waiting on getting some statistics from Swedish course organizers, and following up on the language survey results being published on Medarbetarportalen.

Working group has been focusing on the issue of long waiting times for residence permits and general migration issues experienced by non-EU international students, and held a meeting with Leif Eriksson from the Division for Internationalization.

The Alien's Act was a topic of discussion in this meeting, and Leif informed the group that the 18-month contract requirement for permanent residency is currently only an interpretation of the legislature by the Migration Agency, and not written in stone. As

such, there have been similar cases brought before courts with varying results. The Ministry of education and Ministry of migration agree that this is an issue and are trying to resolve this. Leif also informed the group that a division to support with reviewing and processing permit applications and forwarding them to the Migration Agency actually exists in the university, but is understaffed.

The working group plans on surveying PhD students about their experiences with the Migration Agency and related issues, and forwarding the data and statistics to the Division for Internationalization for them to use this data to apply for additional funding for more staff.

6.2. The chair received information from UU that even though English translation for contracts has been available, it's required for UU to sign the Swedish version. However, an English version could also be signed as an attachment to the original contract, but the responsibility for this is with the departments. Jila suggests adding information about this in the PhD handbook to enable new PhD students to know that they can ask for it, and ask for faculty councils to have the department representatives discuss with their respective HRs about providing the English contracts for non-Swedish speaking students.

§7 PhD students in Campus Gotland (decision)

The chair visited Gotland together with the Vice-Chancellors Management Council on 13/03 and met some PhD students from Gotland, as well as the student union Rindi.

Housing inadequacy and lack of social events or advocacy for Gotland PhD students were among topics of discussion. The chair proposes that DN should apply to the Uppsala University Student Union for a similar amount of funding that goes for DN events for social events for Gotland PhD students. This is addressed in the section §8.

Another pressing issue is the need for a PhD student representative from Gotland campus for DN's meetings. Matthew advises that the board consider the ramifications of which body elects the individual, and perhaps should support Rindi in this aim. Erik commented regarding jurisdiction of the election. The chair promised to discuss this matter with Rindi and consult DN's regulations.

§8 Proposal to DN's budget for the academic year 2023-2024 (decision)

Due to an increase in the DN's own activities (events) and other related affairs, as well as a demand for DN to help the PhD Students in Gotland to organize social events, the chair considers applying for an increment to DN's budget.

The chair proposes a 7000 SEK increase in DN's financing for the academic year 2023-2024, total budget being 174650 SEK. The board approves with some comments.

Jila suggests changing the budget allocated for "fika" as "other" to allow for it to be utilized as needed. Matthew suggests phrasing the funds for Gotland as "Gotland campus events" as it will be requested for a prospective PhD student organization there.

The board agrees that the chair sends the budget proposal to the student unions for approval.

§9 Updates from the Board Members, Student Representatives and other participants (discussion)

Topias: The DN Survey team is still processing the information, and plans to be ready with the report by DN's April Meeting. The chair prepared DN's comment on the student unions' remissvar (a referral) regarding the government's innovation and research

proposition (innovation- och forskningspropositionen). The chair did not have time to progress any goals regarding DN's plans on communication and will most likely will discuss this in the April meeting. The chair will meet with LDK (Lunds Doctoral Student Union) and SFS DK (Swedish National Union of Students' Doctoral Committee) in the upcoming few weeks to share ideas and benchmark good practices.

Cecilia from the University board: consortium has approved a new policy for management of university's forests.

Oreste: Friday Night Feverzz was successful as reported in feedback survey. Next event is 7th April.

MDR: New initiative called "talk to us" to allow PhD students to have a space to reach out for support or advice. Survey launched to determine the needs for statistics courses among PhD students.

JDR: in last meeting there was a discussion about a strange case for a defense where the opponent invited by the supervisor was a practicing lawyer, and not holding a doctorate. It is unusual and there were confusions about whether there are any guidelines that inform on this. Topias confirms that in some departments there are guidelines of who can be an opponent and exceptions.

§10 Selection of PhD Student Representatives (decision)

The electoral roll was determined (see list of attendees above). Attendees were asked to review application statements from candidates beforehand. 3 positions were elected for, and 4 candidates submitted application statements. Voting for contested positions was done by polling.

Ivy Weber was elected as a representative for the Gender Mainstreaming Reference Group.

Sara Åkerman and Ebba Widegren were elected as representatives for the Project Group for Quality and Innovation Project (KoF24)

§11 Remaining meetings of the academic year

Tuesday 25.4. kl 15:15 Tuvstarren

Tuesday 23.5. kl 15:15 (Election meeting) Tuvstarren

Monday 12.6. kl. 15:15 Tuvstarren

The board confirmed that the last meeting of the term is to be held on Monday the 12th of June in Tuvstarren.

§12 Other comments or issues

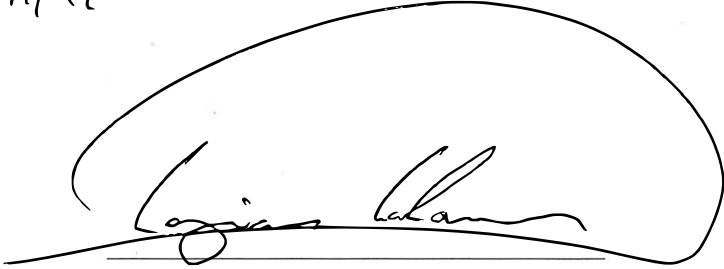
Fabiola: reminds the board to keep monitoring the development of the new digital ISP. The new ISP would have been beneficial in enabling PhD students to have more agency over things like prolongation, managing teaching time etc., but the digital system being proposed by Ladok at the moment isn't meeting those expectations. Topias informs the board that the previous chair, Oliver Degerstedt, is to his knowledge still in the committee that's overseeing it. Topias promised to look after this matter.

Jila: expresses concern about representatives voted into some positions not reporting or giving any updates to the DN. Topias suggests having it in writing for next term when electing students to inform them clearly of the benefits they get from being elected, and the expectations from DN

about reporting back and attending meetings. This matter is to be prepared before the large elections in May.

§13 Closing of the meeting

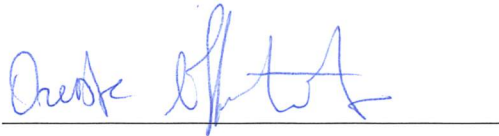
11/4/2023 in Uppsala, Sweden,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Topias Tolonen", is written above a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

Topias Tolonen, Chair T T.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Ayesha-Mae Bilal", is written above a horizontal line.

Ayesha-Mae Bilal, Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Oreste Affatato", is written above a horizontal line.

Oreste Affatato, Attestant