

Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 23rd April 2024 15:15 – Hybrid meeting at Tuvstarren in Segerstedthuset and Zoom.

Attendees

Lux Miranda, *Chair*

Lennart Spode, *Vice-chair*

Ayesha Mae Bilal, *Secretary*

Sergio Flores, *MDR representative and Scholarship Board alternate representative*

Marko Tjakra, *FDR representative*

Philipp Rönchen, *HDR representative*

Evelina Edfors, *TDR representative*

Aimee Miles, *Board for Investigation of Misconduct in Research (NUAF) alternate representative and representative for the Joint Committee on Work Environment Issues*

Lilli Hölzlhammer, *representative for Steering committee for the language workshop*

Rachel Dwane, *guest attendee*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Sergio Flores was elected as the adjuster for the meeting minutes

§3 The board approved the agenda

§4 The board approved the call procedure

§5 Approval of previous meeting minutes (decision)

See the minutes before the meeting:

<https://uudoctoralboard.se/docs/dn-meeting-minutes-march-2024/>

§6 Introduction, brief updates from DN presidium, members & representatives (information)

Lux Miranda: The Presidium has decided on adjustments to the election process compared to the previous year. This year, interviews will only be conducted for Presidium positions, and questions which would have been asked in interviews for all other positions will be relegated to the application form. The board can collaborate on [a proposed list of questions to include here](#). The final decision on questions to include will be made by the Presidium in collaboration with the Election Committee Chair.

The board members make suggestions. Sergio suggests adding a question about previous experience related to the position being applied for. Evelina adds that experience could refer to other work or student positions beyond the PhD. Aimee suggests checking in with all boards to see the actual language requirements for applicants. The board approves of the presidium's proposition to conduct selections for specified positions via application form.

Lennart Spode: reports on Campus Gotland PhD council, which has seen some progress. Aimee and Lennart have contacted the person responsible for overseeing guidelines for PhD representation. Two new positions will be created to find a representative for the Gotland Kollegiate and Gotland nämnden. Both positions are given 5 days of prolongation at this point, which is the minimum required to start with. This number may increase in the future. The council will be added on the official list once we create and it will formally be a faculty council. We will inform PhD students in Campus Gotland, establish an email list, and send out the relevant information. Have another meeting in 2.5 weeks to update the relevant people and get the elections set up for next year.

Ayesha-Mae: The DN is organizing a PhD Fika to welcome PhD students who are interested in the DN, and consider applying for a position. This will be an opportunity for these students to talk with current members and ask questions in a casual environment. The Fika is planned for May 21st, following the May DN meeting.

TDR: nothing to report

FDR: PhD day, organized in collaboration with MDR, went successfully. FDR has Swedish fika events going on to support students in practicing their Swedish skills, and more social events are being planned. Currently seeking the next batch of board members for next year.

HDR (Filmo Verhagen): Update on the HDR prolongation issue. As of now, the faculty of arts is refusing to give prolongation to departmental representatives elected to HDR. Although they stated earlier that the departmental representatives are called 'ledamot' in the prolongation policy (in an email where I specifically asked this question and the answer was that our interpretation was correct), they now argue that according to the HDR stadgar, there is only one ledamot on the board. This interpretation of the prolongation policy is also different from the faculty of languages (also part of HDR), leading to some of the departmental representatives at HDR now receiving prolongation through the faculty, and others (including myself) not. I explained that how it works with departmental representatives at HDR is through the same mechanism as at DN, but that was not accepted. I am currently contacting some other departmental representatives to see if they had the same problem. HDR is also considering writing a letter to the faculty board to get this issue clarified.

Evelina states that she gets double prolongation for being both in the faculty board and DN. Suggests that it would help to establish this as a policy as it applies to other departments.

Lilli is also sitting in HDR and suggests having a meeting with the Dean or Vice-Dean of the faculty to discuss the matter formally. HDR is trying to organize such a meeting.

Lux also suggests bringing this up to SULF and SACO as they may have the means to support faculties with this issue.

MDR: elections are coming up for MDR.

Aimee Miles: there is ongoing discussion about different building projects around Uppsala and how they can be potentially disruptive to students.

Lilli Hölzlhammer: the language workshop steering committee is currently applying for the next round of funds, working together with different departments to follow the demands. Demands have not changed much but there is a need to promote these language workshops to PhD students as there are none attending these workshops as far as Lilli knows. The committee also wants to expand to generative AI courses to teach people to use AI in a productive way for scientific writing, for example to help with writing blocks. Lilli will draft out an email about this and send to Lux who can forward to PhD students.

Cecilia Lindskog Whiteley (University Board representative): Upcoming board meetings in Gotland. The agenda is mainly formal points: approval of the annual accounts, discussion with Riksrevisionen about the annual accounts and security/safety mechanisms in place to mitigate risk and corruption and new procedures for electing board members to Stiftelseförvaltningen. There will also be a discussion of the preparations for a new Verksamhetsplan for 2025: this document is largely shaped by ledningsgrupp and put together by the central administration.

Last week the risk committee of the konsistorium met to discuss the risks that the university perceives, with under-funding and IT security identified as the most prominent overall.

§6 Election of the *Election Committee Chair* (vote)

The DN has received the annual list of doctoral student representative positions to elect from UUFS. Per DN regulation, we must elect a chair of the Election Committee who is not running for any position to oversee the election process. As DN Chair Lux does not intend to run for any position, the Presidium nominates her as a candidate for Election Committee Chair. Others may be nominated or self-nominated.

No other DN board members self-nominate for the position of Election Committee Chair. The board unanimously votes in favor of Lux to be elected to this position.

§7 Feedback on the Academic Teacher Training Course (discussion)

Åsa Kettis, head of the Division for Quality Enhancement at the university, has been in direct contact with the DN regarding doctoral students' general dissatisfaction with the content and execution of the Academic Teacher Training Course (ATTC). She is requesting a summary of main points of dissatisfaction on the matter. A simple collection of perspectives from DN board members as a representative sample may be sufficient.

Lux gave a talk at the UU Conference for Review of Study Programmes and highlighted the issues of the lack of availability for Swedish courses, lack of formal orientation for new PhD students, and general dissatisfaction with the teacher training course from the PhD student perspective.

Åsa was very interested and concerned in hearing about our grievances. It gave her a rough idea, but she is requesting a summary on the main points of dissatisfaction regarding the matter. Lux suggests working on a document together and sharing our thought and experiences.

Rachel Dwane suggests asking Åsa to take information from the course evaluations. Maybe we can request for the evaluations from the archives. Additionally, the department of pedagogy has done a lot of research on these courses already, so we can look for information there.

Evelina believes, from her experience, that the core issue is that it's a course shared across the university, but teaching across departments varies greatly, so a lot of the course is too brief and only a fraction of course content is relevant to participants from different faculties. Might be more expensive or difficult to implement, but teaching courses should be tailored for various faculties or departments.

Lennart suggests that we look into governmental options to increase funding sources.

A student union representative from KTH reached out to Lux to ask about the Swedish courses at UU, as they have the same concerns. There will be a SULF seminar soon and this may be a good opportunity to bring up and have the union advocate for. The general purpose of the meeting is to discuss the government's inquiry into migration issues experiences by PhD students, and to make the process easier for them. The language policy might be something worth discussing.

Lux will create a shared document where everyone can put in suggestions about issues and ideas.

§8 Other comments or issues

§9 Closing of the meeting



Lux Miranda, Chair



Ayesha-Mae Bilal, Secretary



Sergio Flores, Attestant

List of Abbreviations used:

DN: Doctoral Board

MDR: Medical Doctoral Representative

FDR: Faculty of Social Sciences Doctoral Representative

HDR: Humanities and Educational Sciences Doctoral Representative

TDR: Technical Doctoral Representative

NUAF: Board for Investigation of Misconduct in Research

SULF: Swedish Association of University Teachers and Researchers

SACO: Swedish Confederation of Professional Associations

UUFS: Uppsala University Student Unions

ATTC: Academic Teacher Training Course

KTH: KTH Royal Institute of Technology