

Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 27th February 2024 15:15 – Hybrid meeting at Tuvstarren in Segerstedthuset and Zoom

Attendees

Lux Miranda, *Chair**

Lennart Spode, *Vice-chair**

Jila Shams-Latifi, *Vice-chair and TNDR representative**

Ayesha Mae Bilal, *Secretary**

Carolina de Barros Vidor, *UDR representative**

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

Qinya Feng, *SDR representative (joined 15.45)**

Marco Tjakra, *FDR representative**

Evelina Edfors, *TDR representative**

Lilli Hölzlhammer, *HDR alternative representative, representative for Reference group and Steering Committee for the Language Workshop**

Filip Bodlund Trostén, *UUFS representative*

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

Ebba Ahlgren Cederlof, *Alva Myrdal Centre Board representative (left 16.00)*

Erika Boije, *CIRCUS and CEMFOR representative (left 16.15)*

**These meeting participants had voting rights during the §8 DN elections*

§1 The meeting was declared open by the chair

§2 Marco Tjakra 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)

Philipp Rönchen (climate working group): attended a workshop where employees could give some feedback on the planning for UU's new environmental plan (for the years 2025-2027). Key takeaways from the meeting are as follows:

- The new environmental plan will be created during this year. Organizational responsibility will be at the environmental unit, but unclear how much power they actually have.
- The university administration will create a working group, involving people from different scientific areas, probably organized by vice-rector Tora Holmberg.
- There is a suite of complicated bureaucratic processes the university has to/will follow to create the environmental plan. In theory, the environmental plan should be compatible at least with the University's aim to cut CO₂-emissions per employee by half until 2030 from a 2019 baseline.
- Main sources of CO₂-emissions from the university are: 1. Travels, most importantly air travel 2. Buildings (both constructing them and heating) 3. Procurement/buying goods. Travel-related emissions are the most important and have the highest potential to be cut down.
- The environmental plan will go to internal "remiss" (opportunity for some university instances to give comments) around September. It is hoped that DN will be included directly in the remiss, but if not, we should make sure the student unions inform us about the process so that we can send our remiss comments through them. We should push the responsible persons on this when the date comes closer.

Erika Boije: Cemfor has had an evaluation and the report is now official. The report states that Cemfor is doing important work and that a research center on racism is needed at Uppsala University also in the future. However, the future funding for Cemfor is still under discussion. The evaluation is very positive and might be hard to ignore for the humsam-området but the question of funding is still unanswered.

At the moment, Cemfor has no active PhD students. The scientific leaders have plans to apply for future funding for PhD students, but since the future of Cemfor is uncertain, they have not yet. The matter has been pushed for strongly.

CIRCUS is undergoing major changes. Since January, Circus is not only catering to humanities and social sciences at UU but also to TekNat and MedFarm. Circus is still grounded in humanities and social sciences, but applicants from other areas are welcome to apply for support, but in most cases, the main applicant has to come from humanities or social sciences.

Circus also has an almost completely new board and chair, Annika Waern. This is a major change since the last chair has had the position since the founding of Circus. The new board has had a "styrelseinternat" and started its work.

Circus is collaborating with a similar center called TORCH at Oxford University and this collaboration is going to invite junior faculty to apply for visiting stipends. This application however, is under revision since the first draft was too narrow, limiting applicants to only certain subjects within the humanities and social sciences.

In the future, Circus is going to engage in forskarutbildningar by supporting supervisors of multidisciplinary projects since multidisciplinary collaboration is the center's main focus. It has been stressed that the new research networks who have received financial support from Circus and will start their work now are encouraged to engage PhD students in their work. At least one network got this criticism of their application from the external evaluators and has been encouraged to involve PhD candidates in their work. Circus also has an open application for multidisciplinary initiatives among PhD students at UU, and all applications have been approved. Only one initiative that was not multi- or interdisciplinary has been sent back for revision with the hope of a later approval. All in all, Circus continues to support PhD students in the humanities and social sciences and now also in other areas at the university.

The board has also again asked me to convey their wish that the student representative who has been with them during these major changes would continue to represent DN for another year in order to create some continuity. The board asks that this might be taken into consideration during the upcoming DN elections later in the spring.

FDR: We are able to attract plenty of participants in the monthly meeting by choosing "a meeting theme" e.g.: Good conferences, good courses, how to prepare for halftime, and how to prepare for dissertation. Will have the next meeting this Thursday: "Research exchange and funding opportunities". Other themes planned include: Social activities in the planning, PhD day with MDR also ongoing, will promote PhD study in PharmaDay.

§6 Election of PhD student representatives

The electoral roll was determined (see list of attendees above). Attendees were asked to review application statements from candidates beforehand. 2 positions were interviewed for, and 7 candidates submitted an application statement. Voting for contested positions was done by digital poll.

Pascale Wehbe was elected as representative for the Center for Disability Research Board.

Ricardo Fiallo Kaminski was elected as representative for the Steering group for the revision of UU's pedagogical program.

§7 Brief introduction from SULF members

Xin and Mohamed are PhD students at Uppsala University and this year's board members at SULF Uppsala. As SULF Uppsala is endeavoring to enhance its representation of PhD students and work on motions to promote Uppsala University's PhD students' interests, they want to have better communication and cooperation with DN for the betterment of PhD students' working conditions at Uppsala university.

Xin and Mohamed introduce what SULF aims to do this year, including a big national congress and a push for discussions for motions and decisions this year on topics related to PhD students. If there are strong motions, SULF can raise it to the central office, and they will raise it to the central executive level.

SULF has also activities planned for this year in the form of informal after-work seminars: the first one plans to focus on PhD students migration status, with perhaps having Robert Andersson give a seminar and allowing the audience to have a personal dialogue with him. The next seminar is planned to focus on pension funds, taking your pension if you're moving to another country, securing a retirement, etc. The third one is planned to focus on disruptions in study, including parental leaves, sick leaves, what rights students have and how to get support.

SULF hopes that the DN can help them reach out to PhD students, including those who are not SULF members, and continue to collaborate for any future opportunities. The board and chair agree that a collaboration is a good idea, and Jila suggests that SULF have a representative attend the DN meetings and be on our board email list. For any event-related matters, SULF is recommended to get in touch with DN Event Manager.

§8 Feedback on and approval of the migration survey report (decision)

Board members are asked to review and provide feedback on the report prior to the meeting. The report [may be accessed here](#). The board unanimously approves the report and to send it out.

§10 Other comments or issues

DN allocates budget to support upcoming PhD gasque: The board proposes to use between 5000-7000sek from the DN events budget to support TNDR with financial costs for the upcoming PhD gasque. A vote is held and the board unanimously agrees to allocate up to 7000sek to TNDR for the PhD gasque.

Evelina will also ask UDR if they can offer support for their PhD students.

The following issues were not able to be discussed and will be added to the meeting agenda for March:

Suggestion to have a shared document to keep track of ongoing activities and projects, their status, any related documents we have prepared etc. so that new members and chairs can be aware of what has been going on, and what to prioritize.

Suggestion to give a brief outline of vacant positions in vacancy announcements about how many hours of work is required and indicate language requirements to increase applications.

§11 Closing of the meeting



Lux Miranda, Chair



Ayesha-Mae Bilal, Secretary



Marco Tjakra, Attestant