

Meeting Minutes – Meeting of the Doctoral Board, 23 April 2025 15:15 – Hybrid meeting

Location: 12:228, Blåsenhus

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/62862998769>

All of the meeting materials can be found in the [Drive folder](#)

Attendees

Dolores Fors, Chair

Ayesha Mae Bilal, Vice-chair

Sai Viswanadha Sastry Upadhyayula, Secretary

Alireza Ataei, Social Organiser

Rachel Dwane, TNDR representative

Elizaveta Yakovleva, TNDR representative (Adjuster)

Laura Galeaone, UDR representative

Samuel Wennel, TDR representative

Matylda Jonas-Kowalik, HDR representative

Foteini Tzioufa, FDR representative

Carolina Londono-Escudero, SDR representative

Nazira Hammoud Shahwan, Student and PhD student ombudsperson

Jakob Beise, Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC)

§1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was declared open at 15:17.

§2 Election of Adjuster for the protocol (decision)

Elizaveta Yakovleva was elected as the adjuster.

§3 Approval of the agenda (decision)

Despite a request from the Theological Doctoral Board to remove §9, the agenda was approved with majority vote.

§4 Approval of the call procedure (decision)

The call procedure was approved.

§5 Approval of previous meeting minutes (decision)

Meeting minutes for March was approved.

§6 Information - presidium, faculties, representatives, UUFS, others

Dolores: Budget for Swedish for Academics is being reduced. Participated in a faculty-union meeting. Representing DN at CUFF 24 on May 8. Working on the new business plan and upcoming elections.

Sai: Nothing to report.

Ali: All going well; may need minor support from DN if needed.

Mae: Collaborating with Ali on PhD Gasque.

Laura: Joined the housing working group and suggested including guidance for international PhD students interested in buying property, based on her personal experience. She is also preparing a motion on equal opportunities regarding the Swedish for Academics course. Laura asked if other departments offer extensions for the course, to which Mae responded that some departments do offer extensions or support, and that this is already on the agenda of the working group.

Nazira: Available as a confidential, third-party contact for PhD students facing any problems. Currently not included for Ångström (UTN).

Rachel: Nothing to report.

Matylda: Reported financial difficulties in the faculty. Two advertised PhD positions were cancelled, and a hiring freeze is expected for the next 1-2 years.

Carolina: No updates.

Foteini: Swedish for Academics course is out of funding. Only the first part is guaranteed; discussed at the faculty level.

Eliza: Informed that during the Saco-S seminar on local collective agreements, collective agreement regarding vacation has been cancelled and is being renegotiated. Prolongation terms are not consistent across the university, but Saco-s is trying to make sure that they are.

Jakob: Nothing to report.

§7 Working groups - business plan

Outreach: Regained Facebook access. Working on posters, flyers, and Instagram ads to raise awareness of DN.

Housing: Engaging with Campus Gotland and Bostadsförmedlingen. Looking into housing statistics and apartment-buying processes for PhD students.

Salary: Survey ready to be distributed to HR/payroll to assess awareness of salary structures.

Swedish Language: Awaiting meeting with Koko.

Work Visa: Sent out a survey and received nice response. Planned to prepare a report based on the survey response and share it with the board and other interested parties.

§8 Changes in funding for Swedish for Academics program

Foteini raised the issue of funding cuts and suggested reaching out to responsible contacts. Matylda noted that only courses beyond Level 1 would continue and shared her personal negative experience with the course's structure. Laura shared her experience of completing four levels and highlighted dependence of Swedish knowledge on departmental teaching hours. Mae mentioned conflicts with mandatory course schedules, making it difficult to attend. Suggested to draft a proposal and share it with DN for collaborative input. Samuel mentioned possible university-level funding (omställningsmedel).

§9 Email protocol (UU career)

Why this email was sent out, what are the routines for that?

DN didn't forward this email, because UU career has access to the DN email list and was automatically forwarded. Concerns were raised about the process for forwarding external emails from UU Career. Matylda noted student responses, particularly regarding content related to international politics. A protocol is needed for deciding what gets forwarded. Foteini suggested using notice boards or a central page instead of mass emails. Elizaveta noted useful information is often missed. Dolores will also investigate the issue and, for the next meeting, investigate establishing a protocol in collaboration with Uppsala University. She will send out an email asking for input on what should be included in the protocol.

<https://www.unt.se/debatt/artikel/uppsala-universitet-maste-sluta-stotta-israel/re7nd95j>

§10 Request for funding - Appendix A

Ali presented a funding request for the May 8 PhD Gasque. Planning is complete and finances calculated. Elizaveta asked for specific figures and clarified DN support. Ali mentioned 6,300 SEK currently available and plans to apply for more via student funds. Rachel asked about DN's role and how any profit will be handled. Dolores confirmed it's not a DN event. Any profit that will be made of the PhD gasque will go back to the unions (UUFS). Voting on whether to grant funding for Gasque was postponed to the next meeting.

§11 Any other business

No additional matters raised.

§12 Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 17:10.

Dolores Fors, Chair

Sai Viswanadha Sastry Upadhyayula,
Secretary

Elizaveta Yakovleva, Adjuster

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