

PhD Council Autumn Meeting

Meeting minutes

Thursday 26 November 2020 at 10.00-12.00 via Zoom

Present: Kajsa-My Blomdahl, Jorge Laraña Aragón, Nadia Flodgren, Joakim Flinckman, David Sundelin, Alexandre Adler, Alice Schmidt-May, Kunal Deoskar, Aliko Litsa, Fredrik Kalholm, Roger Cattaneo, Sara Boscolo Bibi, Ana Sagués Carracedo.

1) Opening of the meeting

- a) Meeting opened.

2) Meeting formalities

a) Confirmation of meeting being announced according to procedure

- i) Confirmed.

b) Confirmation of the agenda

- i) Confirmed.

c) Election of chairperson

- i) Kajsa-My Blomdahl elected as chair.

d) Election of secretary

- i) Nadia Flodgren elected as secretary.

e) Election of two adjusters

- i) Alexandre Adler and Roger Cattaneo elected as adjusters.

3) Approval of previous minutes (Spring meeting (200831) minutes)

- a) Approved.

4) Report from the cashier

- a) Kunal Deoskar is the cashier. Budget: 1465 kr (500 kr in account, 965 kr in cash).
Kajsa has expenses she will bring to Kunal.

5) Report from the revisors

- a) Revisors: Filip Backman, Alexandre Adler. They will report at the next Phd Council Board meeting.

6) Application for council funding at SUS

- a) The application for funding for the Autumn term might have been missed by the last treasurer (Gustav). Kunal will check the deadline for applications. Kunal Deoskar is appointed to apply for the funding for the Spring term 2021. Kunal will look up if he can apply for funding for the Autumn term 2021.

7) Information about the different councils and faculty work in general

- a) Jorge gives a presentation about the PhD-student representation at Fysikum and the faculty of Science. Jorge also informs about prolongation for the different councils.

8) Nominations and elections of representatives to faculty level

a) PhD and Student Councils (university and faculty level)

- i) Elections and nominations are carried out, see Appendix A for a list of positions.

- ii) Alexandre talks a bit about the NFR meetings. This year it has been a lot of work to coordinate with the students concerning Covid-19. PhD-students are well represented in NFR.

b) Committees and boards within the faculty of science

- i) Nominations are carried out, see Appendix A for a list of positions.

c) Committees and boards within the section for mathematics and physics

- i) Nominations are carried out, see Appendix A for a list of positions.

9) Reports from the chairperson

a) Vote for the second time for the new bylaws

- i) The new bylaws are approved.

b) ISP/corona

- i) Kajsa reminds us to write in the ISP (there is an ISP-attachment regarding Covid-19, designed by a university level task force) how we have been affected by Covid-19. Jorge informs about another form about Covid-19, a form from CDR designed by a student council. We should all have received this form via email. Jorge thinks they might use this second form (from CDR, designed by students) to push for more action to help PhD-students affected by Covid-19. Jorge encourages us to fill it out for this reason.

- (1) Alice asks about stipends for travel and how to handle it when travel is cancelled but you have been granted travel stipends. Kunal says to talk to the Professor who is responsible.

10) Other issues

- a) Colloquium course: Jorge says that several PhD students from Fysikum have contacted him to complain about the Colloquium course and he asks for extra opinions on the subject.
 - i) Jorge informs that the complaint was that less colloquia are offered due to Covid-19 and therefore it is hard for some students to finish the course, particularly because some topics are rare and you have to get a certain number of modules in each topic. Ana points out that is also not clear which topic a colloquium is counted as. Additionally, the schedule is not very fixed so it is difficult to plan ahead which colloquia you can take. The PhD council board will send this onto KUF. Kunal asks if the committee that organizes the colloquia are aware of the colloquia course and the different topics that PhD students need to take a module on. Alice asks if you can send suggestions of speakers to the committee that organizes the committees. Kunal thinks the colloquium committee depends on suggestions of speakers from professors and they might be willing to accept suggestions from PhD-students. Kajsa says it might be that the case that the colloquium committee asks for recommendations for speakers via email.
- b) Alice brings up the problem that the PhD contracts are 1-2 years at a time but when you look for housing and need a loan the bank may think you do not have work for the next four years, which you do. Several people say that they had to contact the administration to get a certificate that shows you are employed for four years. Kajsa suggest asking the administration what their protocol is and suggest to them that they should give information on this more clearly. Alice suggests that this information

should be given to everyone when they start their PhD so that there is no risk that it is forgotten. Jorge suggests we ask to get a certificate (that shows you are employed for four years) when we get our first employment contract. Kajsa will ask around and we will come back to this at the next Spring meeting.

- c) Alice also mentions that the Swedish social system is difficult to understand and an explanation/advice in the beginning of the PhD would be helpful. Kunal suggests that SU starts a student blog where students can write their experiences and advice. Maybe KUF and/or PR can be contacted regarding this. Jorge thinks SUS might have information or help. Alice says organization is needed and that one problem might be that the administration/HR people change a lot. Kajsa suggests talking to the administration about this. Kajsa also suggests to write down a list of problems those who are new to Sweden face so we can bring them to the correct person. This list would lead to advice that would be good to have in a 'Welcome package' for PhD students from abroad. The suggestion is to open a google document and then share it with more students. Kunal volunteers to do this. The PhD Council Board will bring the resulting list to KUF and/or the administration and/or the person in charge of the introductory course. This will be discussed in the next PhD Council Board meeting. Google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ItUwCWyPFV_OTeCNu65t-mCRJxMLdmiG9CeGFeFvAM0/edit
- d) In connection to Covid-19. The task force (Kajsa, Jorge, Nadia, Per-Erik and Sten) will meet soon. Jorge asks for anything to bring up. Roger asks what the plan for the future is. Kajsa thinks they do not have one but will bring it up in the taskforce.

11) Closing remarks

- a) Meeting closed

Appendix A: Faculty elections and nominations

Faculty elections

NFR representative for Fysikum:

Ordinary: Alexandre Adler

Secondary: Nadia Flodgren

Faculty nominations

NFR presidium:

Chair:

Vice-Chairs: Alexandre Adler

CDR nomination:

Ordinary: Jorge Laraña Aragón

Secondary:

Områdesnämnden:

Ordinary: David Sundelin

Secondary:

Arbetsutskottet:

Ordinary:

Secondary:

Grundutbildningsberedningen:

Ordinary:

Secondary:

Befordringsnämnden:

Ordinary: Alice Schmidt-May

Secondary: Matti Jansson

Docentberedningen:

Ordinary: Eike Müller

Secondary:

Samverkansberedningen:

Ordinary: Sara Boscolo Bibi

Secondary:

Infogruppen:

Ordinary: Ana Sagués Carracedo

Secondary:

Nomination for committees on section level

Sektionsberedningen:

Ordinary: Matti Jansson

Secondary: Nadia Flodgren

Forskarutbildningsberedningen:

Ordinary: Nadia Flodgren

Secondary: Ana Sagués Carracedo

Stipendieberedningen:

Ordinary: Sara Boscolo Bibi

Secondary:

Läraryörlagsnämnden:

Ordinary: Kajsa-My Blomdahl

Secondary: Matti Jansson