



Agenda – Science Faculty Council 2023 December 6th, kl.16:30

In attendance:

- Samyuktha Rajan (SR - Chair)
- Angela Ceballos (AC - DBB)
- Gandharva Appagere (GA - Vice Chair, Fysikum Ph.D. council)
- Melissa Bartom (MB - SRC Ph.D. council)
- Katja Belec (KB - SCEO)
- Bart van Baal (BB - Astronomy Ph.D. council)
- Matilda Johansson (MJ - SUS Ombud)
- Despoina Kouvosi (DK - SCEG)
- Robin Stoll (RS – Math Ph.D, council)
- Robert Dunst (RD - IGv)
- Erza Eisbrenner (EE - MISU Ph.D. council)
- Alva Åkerlind (AA, Guest)
- Felix Almax (FA, Fysikum)
- Daniela Guasconi (DG, Natgeo)
- Nielja Vnecht (NV, Guest)
- Anna Stuekalourkaya (AS, Guest)

Opening of the meeting

- a. Round of presentation
Meeting opens at 16:35
- b. Election of chairperson
SR elected as chairperson
- c. Election of secretary
AS elected secretary
- d. Election of adjuster
- e. Approval of the agenda
Agenda approved with no objections
- f. Approval of last meeting's minutes
Minutes approved with no objections.

2. Election of NFR board for 2024:

1. Chairperson (1) – Samyuktha Rajan nominated and approved

Stockholm University Student Union

Visiting
address
Universitets
vägen 2A

114 18
Stockholm

Phone +46
(0)8 15 41 00
www.sus.su.se

Org. nr. 802003-
6425



2. Vice chair (3) – Gandharva Appagere (continuing) and Ezra Eisbrenner nominated and approved

3. Matilda Johansson: Presentation on which boards NFR can elect representatives to

Presentation will be available

Expectations: no prior knowledge required to fill the roles.

What is expected? Representatives receive invitations; vote during a meeting; report back to NFR; find alternates if unable to attend

Swedish-English board meeting discussion

Most impactful groups to have representatives: NFR board of Science – Faculty-wide issues; Preparatory Working Group – preparing documents for the board

4. Reports from boards and committee and by-elections of NFR representatives

Brief reports from those bodies which have convened since last meeting, and by-election of representatives

a) SUS

Meetings running now and faculty elections in February; PhD-level courses and new DISP in spring

b) Central PhD-Council

Representative absent

a) Area Board/Områdesnämnden

What was discussed that is relevant to undergraduate students?

Nothing

What was discussed that is relevant to PhD students?

From the doctoral research education committee

(Forskarutbildningsberedningen, FB) it was reported from a meeting of the directors of studies on the theme of PhD level courses. It was stated that there are very few PhD level courses that are specialised. There is a requirement of 10hp of broadening PhD level course so they exist, but there are very few PhD level courses that allow for more specialisation. One issue to cause this might be that teachers do not get paid to give

a PhD level course (unlike for bachelor and master level courses). New version of the digital ISP to be launched in the spring.

What issues dealt with in the committee in question do you think should be discussed in the upcoming NFR meeting?

Maybe it would be good to see if the PhD students feel there is a need for more specialised PhD level courses. If there is then maybe we should bring this up to the new ON next year.

Lack of methods courses. Most people have taken courses at other universities.

It would be good to have cross department courses. A catalog for courses (like SLU).

- c) Arbetsutskottet: Representative absent
- d) Central student council – there is an ongoing discussion about using AI in exams; Discussion about budget problems

b) Grundutbildningsberedningen

What was discussed that is relevant to undergraduate students?

- There are still problems with the administrative side of Ladok, which can be troublesome when creating new syllabuses etc.

They are prioritizing and solving the most important bugs. - The recruitment of a communicator for the Science Faculty has been paused (due to parental leave of the person that would be responsible to introduce the new communicator?). - Early discussions on (re-)starting a teacher's program in

Science/Physics and Mathematics. - The feedback from the departments and program councils concerning the course modules (kursmoduler) of statistics, sustainability, and programming, are that the content is needed and useful, but no program has the possibility to exchange this module for one of their courses. GB discussed that all programs should make sure to incorporate these topics in already existing courses. How that could be made successfully is an ongoing discussion. - The report of the review of the introduction courses

(orienteringskurser) is done, and most importantly all departments need to make sure that the contents of their courses fill out the credits of the courses, i.e., a 7,5-credit course should be ~200 hours of study.

e) Department & Section Committees

All vacant positions for ordinary groups and committees are found at the NFR site at sus.su.se (<https://sus.su.se/rad-och-natverk/nfr>). The language requirement is also mentioned on this website.

5. Joint discussion

Discuss the SUS position document (attached in email)

SUS document approved

6. Split discussion:

1. Information from student councils

Problems with the IT service and the lack of communication between departments. Also, implement more awareness about student assistance for special needs, so new students know more about this. And finally, some departments are planning on doing more activities like career fairs for students to explore the possibilities after graduation.

2. Information from PhD councils

1. Discussion with NFR about time-specific salary raises. Some departments against making them time-based instead of 50% requirements as judged by the supervisor (Astronomy). Vague directions in some departments. Review the ladder after the decision from the student union on Spring 2025. Subjective assessment by supervisors.

2. New dISP launched next spring.

3. Overwhelming support for more PhD level courses. Specially for courses that are cross department and are on Methodology (statistics, Bayesian stats programming etc), writing, research time management courses are more appealing.

SLU has a course catalogue. It would be good if SU also has a similar catalog about courses available.

7. Other

8. Meeting closed