

## Agenda – Science Faculty Council

2024 April 24th, kl.16:30

In attendance:

- Samyuktha Rajan (SR - Chair)
- Gandharva Appagere (GA - Vice Chair, Fysikum Ph.D. council)
- Disa Ahlbjörn-Berg (DB, SUS President)
- Kelsey Moreland (KM, Zoology PhD council)
- Derio Giendinoto (DG, Mathematics Ph.D. council)
- Bart van Baal (BB, Astronomy PhD council)
- Despoina Kouvosi (DK - SCEG)
- Felix Almay (FA, FÅR, SMC Board)
- Erza Eisbrenner (EE - MISU Ph.D. council)
- Daniella Lillicoth Caharalambous (DC, SCEG)
- Unnimaya T. Veetil (UV, MMK, Ph.D. council)
- Devika Sunil Kumar (DK, SCEG)
- Matilda Johansson (MJ, SUS)
- Robert Dunst (RD, IGV Ph.D. council)
- Anna Strekalovskaya (AY, NatGeo, Bolin Center, Ralv)
- Anawarana Sagathan (AS, NFR rep from MBW)

### 1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opens at 16:35

- a. Round of presentation
- b. Election of chairperson  
SR elected to chair the meeting unanimously.
- c. Election of secretary  
GA elected as secretary unanimously.
- d. Election of adjuster  
BB elected as the adjuster unanimously.
- e. Approval of the agenda  
Agenda for the meeting is approved without no additions.
- f. Approval of last meeting's minutes  
Minutes from the last week's meeting is approved with no amendments.

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

Stockholm University Student Union

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

a) SUS

MJ:

Student union elections:

- Have time till tomorrow to cast your vote, a chance to directly affect the decisions and issues to be focussed for the coming year.

- Upcoming network meetings for student councils and PhD student council meetings :- Student council May 21, PhD council May 30.

- Social science faculty council: rule to attending meetings.

- Rule: If you do not attend meetings, 2 opportunities to attend NFR meetings, if a student/rep misses 2 meetings, then the representative cannot be a member anymore.

- Sam suggests, it will be a burden and the board agrees to implement such a rule within NFR.

- DB:

- Survey on harassment and extension of studies. Lisa is touring various faculty councils to get opinions and seek out possible problems.

- Sam interjects with a question on the survey: Lisa responds with 2 questions being asked.

- How to report harassment?

- How to know, calculate the extension of the studies ?

- MJ stresses to fill out the survey for all the PhDs

- Survey is open for another week.

b) Central PhD-Council

Neilja reports:

CDR discussed about different rules per department on what regulations are valid for thesis (monographs or compilation of papers). The regulations vary widely across the departments and we discussed that it would be useful to collect regulations

from all different departments to get an overview of what is demanded.

With regards to the teaching regulations and that students were being treated unfairly as we had discussed in the last NFR meeting. It seems this is mainly a problem in the natural sciences and students at other departments said they did not really have the same issues.

The university conducted a survey about hate and threat among teachers. Several PhDs reported they had received cases of verbal assault and threat by students, and it seems like currently there is very little that affected PhD students and lecturers can do.

*Discussion:*

- Monograph thesis: Most departments in NFR have Compilation and this may not be an issue.
- Teaching: Sam suggestions the reps may talk to the Ralv representative to raise this issue.
- Harsh treatment of teachers from students: No such instances reported.

c) Area Board/Områdesnämnden

No reps yet.

d) Arbetsutskottet

No reps yet.

e) Central student council

Input for student parties, two points: - Pressure to akademiskahus related to high prices, poor management, few rooms available. - Safe and welcoming university: routines to handle dangerous situations, threats or any kind of situation that put students in danger.

Student council Championship: will be on the 8th of May.

Moving from Athena to Canvas. Starting 2027. What do we want to have in canvas?

Can it be extended as a platform for teaching materials, to make

it interactive, quizzes etc. develop info bank, videotaped meetings.

f) Grundutbildningsberedningen (GB)

No reports.

FAs nomination for GB rep is accepted unanimously.

g) Department & Section Committees

Stipendibergen: Fillipo- Assignment of Högskoleföreningens pris (there were three candidates), winner will be publicly announced

AY reports:

Bolin center early career FIKA:

- Discussed what type of grants there are, continuing research and post-docs.

- Only major grants besides Marie curie fellowships is VR and Wallenberg.

### 3. Joint discussion

Language representation at SUS:

- Encourage more international students to participate in the SUS committees.
- Begin with reaching out all the faculties and take a survey on number of international students.
- Most department boards function in swedish
  - some departments have documents in swedish but communicate and hold meetings in english.
- Sam will request the faculty office to get the share of international students. If faculty office has no information on this matter, Sam will reach out to the department reps.
- Plan is to collect all necessary information and tackle the issue next semester.

### 4. Split discussion:

#### 1. Information from student councils

The discussion did not take place due to no quorum but DC sent an email to NFR summarizing the points of interest.

## **2. Information from PhD councils**

Teaching standards and timelines at Natural sciences Faculty:

- Chair sets up the issue.
- Chair of CDR suggests we give a write-up on the teaching conditions at various PhD councils.
- Sam suggests if Robert would be interested in preparing the document and Robert agrees.
- Resolve the issue internally within the departments and move the issue to OM or CDR. It is more practically raised the issue at local Ralv and to move it up to CDR.
- Teaching heads are trying to prepare a document for do's and don'ts for the PhD students in the Zoology department.
- Sam suggests Bart could join Robert in preparing the proposal document.

AMEX GBT travel agency:

- Roberts sets up the issue about the increase in expenses with the new AMEX travel agency.
- Department and the university rules that the bookings and reservations have to be made through AMEX and this is challenging for departments and research groups with limited resources and funds.
- IGV department council has taken the initiative to raise the issue within the CDR or Section level.
- Robert shares the letter to NFR highlighting some cases and general issues with AMEX GBT.
- Sam will forward the letter to CDR.

***Other issues:***



Change of supervisor issue within NatGeo:

- Supervisor and co-supervisor being related defeats the purpose of independent opinions and support.
- Student is ready or prepared to defend the thesis but in existing situation, this act might antagonize the supervisor.
- The student him/herself or approach Director of studies to search for an opponent
- Student can approach Lärare Kollegie (LK), the committee that approves the thesis.
- *Change of supervisor issue*: Bring the issue within the Dept. council and then move it up to ON.
- Student can speak to the Ombudsman at the department on working department.

**Next NFR meeting is on May 28, 2024 at 16:30**

## **5. Meeting closed**

**Meeting closed at 18:12**