

1. Opening of the meeting

a. Round of presentation

Present: Kevin Dorst (OK, NFR Chair), Nora Bergfeldt (AU, ON, NFR presidium), Jason Krogh-Pedersen (SCC bachelor), Hari Nair (CDR VP, Carl Tjernell (SUS), David Sundelin (ON), Nadia Flodgren (FB), Hanna Dort (Zootis), AC (Biology, GB, ON), Kruger Nyasulu (SRC), Abraham Beyene (MND), Alexandre Adler (Fysikum, NFR presidium), Alice Schmidt-May (BFN), Divya Bharati (Civis Group)

b. Election of chairperson

Kevin is chosen

c. Election of secretary

Alex volunteers

d. Election of adjuster

Hanna is chosen

e. Approval of the agenda

Agenda is approved

f. Approval of last meeting's minutes

Still waiting on adjuster's report

g. Information from SUS

Carl presents a proposal to change NFR membership: each council would send (1) voting representative per department they represent instead of 1 per council. There are currently 15 PhD and 6 student reps, but some student councils represent more than 1 department: the suggestion would balance NFR's composition better.

Action item: Revise NFR bylaws to make that possible.

Application for SUS funding second half of term open in a couple of weeks.

No NFR reps to CSR at the moment.

2. Concerning NFR's representation

i) Open election ON-AU: One ordinary representative (David Sundelin)

The council agrees to nominate David to that position

ii) Ordinary groups:

All vacant positions for ordinary groups and committees are found at the NFR site at sus.su.se (<https://www.sus.su.se/fakultetsrad/blog-post-title-two-enyzx>).

ii) Groups within the quality assurance system:

3. Reports from NFR representatives

CDR: Hari reports there already has been a short discussion of the migration law's effect on PhD students.

ON: There has been a discussion of the government's "strategic profiling" requirements.

GB: University bought a new system for online examination that can integrate with ladok.

BFN: A tenure-track staff was evaluated negatively, what would happen to the PhD students of such a person since the supervisor's contract ends?

4. Update Survey Regarding Influence of Online Teaching on PhD Students

At the NFR meeting in March, it was decided that NFR should conduct a survey on the influence of online teaching on PhD students regarding workload and compensation. The survey can be accessed through the link below and should be distributed within the PhD councils at the faculty of science.

<https://forms.gle/dBVciP5EvLi5sgvx7>

Kevin updates us on the survey's participation, only 20 people participated so far.

A majority of participants think preparation takes much longer than in-person lessons. PhD students also found it more stressful, but only 30% got some support, even technical, from their department.

Action item: prolong survey period, add question about proper compensation. Take it to departmental PhD councils, send to council chairs.

5. Topics for discussion.

“Good practices at your local student/PhD-council – a handbook”

Kevin: the buddy system at DEEP helps new students get acclimated to the department and involved in council activities. Jason says that he would like to meet his council physically, which might draw in people. Hari suggests to hold Zoom fikas and use the opportunity to recruit for council efforts. He also suggests to communicate with students through WhatsApp and Zoom. Kevin suggests “council hours”, maybe on Zoom. AC and Hanna talk about possible uses of Athena, in particular to engage undergraduates. Carl says that each council is allowed to have their own Athena page.

6. Information from student- and PhD-councils

Jonathan Wiskandt sent a report indicating that the Fysikum/MISU merger exploratory committee recommends no merger, since there are no predicted synergies and some low risks. Kruger reports that students helping set up the IT for defenses etc. will now be compensated with prolongation by the department.

Hanna is temporarily chair of her council.

7. Other

Prolongation: Kevin says that 90% of prolongations are granted. Nora says that deans can overrule heads of department that refuse to grant prolongation. Alice thinks that prolongation is not necessarily the best answer, since the extra time doesn't fully balance the lost productivity, and the application process is an extra burden on the students. Hari says that prolongation should be weighted based on the impact each student faced

Changes to immigration law

The council agreed to discuss it in more detail at its next meeting, and the board will inquire to SULF about the subject.

8. Meeting closed