

Minutes – Science Faculty Council (NFR)

30th November, kl. 16.30, Zoom

Present:

Participants with voting rights: Victor Karlström (PhD student at MBW, vice chair of NFR and student representative in Områdesnämnden), Martin Schultess (Master's student at the Department of Physical Geography, chair of SCEG and vice chair of NFR), Leila Hussein (Bachelor's student at Fysikum, representing FÄR), Kevin Dorst (PhD student at the Department of Organic Chemistry), Nora Bergfeldt (PhD student at the Department of Zoology), Jonathan Wiskandt (PhD student at MISU), Alexandre Adler (PhD student at Fysikum), Oskar Nyberg (PhD student at DEEP), André Löfgren (PhD student at the Department of Mathematics), Hari Nair (PhD student at ACES), Abraham Beyene (PhD student at MND)

Others: Pil Maria Saugmann (PhD student at Fysikum and chair of NFR), Latifa Amini (student at Fysikum), Ann-Christine Troberg (Master's student in Biology), Linnea Andersson (Master's student, SCEG, and student rep. in Grundutbildningsberedningen), Tobias Grøsfjeld (PhD student at the Department of Mathematics), Yuan Guo (PhD student at MBW and student rep. in Områdesnämnden), Erik Lindsund (PhD student at MBW and student rep. in Områdesnämnden), David Sundelin (PhD student at Fysikum), Martin Endara (PhD student at MBW), Carina Schiele (PhD student at MMK), Marcel Tarbier (PhD student at MBW), Pedro Barrales Vergara, Elis Wibacke (Student Union)

1. Opening of the meeting

Pil Maria Saugmann opens the meeting at 16.41, after informing everyone about how the voting procedure will take place in Zoom.

a. Round of presentation

People introduce themselves. Only one representative from each student or PhD student council have voting rights, but everyone can partake in discussions.

b. Election of chairperson

Pil Maria Saugmann is elected.

c. Election of secretary

Elis Wibacke is elected.

d. Election of adjuster

Victor Karlström is elected.

e. Election of two people to count the votes

Pil Maria Saugmann and Elis Wibacke are elected.

f. Approval of the agenda

- The agenda that has previously been distributed is approved with only minor changes, e.g. correcting the number of representatives in Forskarutbildningsberedningen.
- g. Approval of last meeting's minutes
The minutes from the meeting on the 19th of October are approved.
 - h. Co adjungation
No adjunction needed.
 - i. Information from SUS
Elis Wibacke informs about Universitetskanslersämbetet's evaluation of the quality assurance system at Stockholm University and the student union's response. Conditional compensation for undergraduate student representatives in faculty councils and the central student council, CSR, will be introduced in 2021. The first meeting of CSR will be on the 14th of December.
 - j. Freeing past representatives of their duties from Jan
All incumbent student representatives appointed by NFR are freed of their duties from January onwards.
2. **Reports from NFR representatives**
- a. The presidium of NFR
Pil Maria Saugmann gives a summary of what NFR and its presidium have achieved during 2020. Pil and Victor were elected chair and vice chair at the annual meeting last year; Martin was elected vice chair in the spring semester. Christina and Elis have been assisting the presidium and taken the minutes during the spring and autumn semester respectively. Major topics for discussion have included language issues, the Corona pandemic and bylaw changes. It is important to continue monitoring the pandemic situation next year and its effects on e.g. prolongation. The presidium also introduces the idea of expanding the voting rights to two representatives from each (undergraduate) student council. This is something that may be taken into consideration for the next annual meeting.
 - b. Central PhD-Council
Hari Nair reports about CDR's work relating to Corona and prolongation issues. CDR will have its annual meeting on the 16th of December.
 - c. Area Board & its preparatory working group (Arbetsutskottet)
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- Victor Karlström reports from the Corona group and discussions within Arbetsutskottet. The Area Board, Områdesnämnden, will continue the discussion about merging MISU with Fysikum. A working group has been created and will report during next year; NFR decides to push for at least one PhD student representative from MISU in the working group. Another topic for discussion is the merger of MND with departments at the Area of Human Science; Elis Wibacke informs NFR that the student and PhD student councils at MND will be contacted by SUS over this and asked for their input.
- d. Undergraduate preparatory working group
Linnea Andersson reports about recent discussions in Grundutbildningsberedningen about syllabuses and economic aspects. A new Chemistry programme is also taking form.
 - e. Section Committees
Issues discussed in the section committees include prolongation on individual basis because of Corona. The joint Bachelor's programme in Physics, Astronomy, Meteorology and Medical Physics requires a student representative.

The meeting is adjourned between 17.30 and 17.40.

3. Suggestions for change of bylaws

Everyone present gets to read through the suggested bylaw changes, since different versions have been distributed before the meeting. NFR approves of the new bylaws, with some small editorial changes, and the bylaw changes are accordingly passed with the necessary absolute majority. The appendix to the bylaws will later be changed to correspond with the new bylaws. Future bylaw changes could, for example, include a clarification of when the changes take effect (e.g. 1st of January).

4. Election of NFR presidium 2021 (Eng, though at least one should read Swedish fluently)

The election was briefly paused in order for all of the candidates to get the opportunity to present themselves.

- a. Chair
Kevin Dorst is elected.



- b. 3 vice chairs

Latifa Amini, Nora Bergfeldt and Alexandre Adler are elected.

5. Election of ordinary and secondary members in CDR (Eng)

- a. Two ordinary members

Hari Nair and Pascal Meier are elected.

- b. Two secondary members

Jorge Laraña Aragón is elected.

6. Election of ordinary and secondary members in CSR (Eng)

- a. Two ordinary members

Left vacant.

- b. Two secondary members

Left vacant.

Pil Maria Saugmann informs NFR that Elis and she will call all the student councils at the faculty to a new meeting on the 7th of December where more information about CSR will be provided. After this meeting, the presidium of NFR can nominate representatives to the CSR meeting the following week.

7. Nomination of NFR representatives for the area board and the council for undergraduate education

- a. The area board (Swe)

- i. 3 ordinary members

Nora Bergfeldt, David Sundelin and Leila Hussein are elected.

- ii. 3 secondary members

Ann-Christine Troberg is elected.

- b. The preparatory working group for the area board (Swe)

- i. 1 ordinary member

Nora Bergfeldt is elected.

- ii. 1 secondary member

David, Leila and Ann-Christine will choose between themselves.

- c. The council for undergraduate education (GB) (Swe)

- i. 3 ordinary members



- Linnea Andersson and Ann-Christine Troberg are elected.
- ii. 3 secondary members
Left vacant.
 - d. The preparatory working group for the council for undergraduate education (GB-AU) (Swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
Linnea Andersson is elected.
 - ii. 1 secondary member
Ann-Christine Troberg is elected.

8. Other nominations at faculty level

- a. The information group (Swe) (1+1)
Anna Sagues Carracedo is elected as an ordinary member; Liselott Källsten is elected as a secondary member.
- b. Samverkansberedningen (Swe) (1+1)
Sara Boscolo Bibi is elected as an ordinary member.
- c. Befordringsnämnden (Eng) (1+1)
Alice Schmidt-May is elected as an ordinary member; Matti Jansson is elected as a secondary member.
- d. Docentberedningen (Eng) (1+1)
Eike Müller is elected as an ordinary member; Yvette Gramlich is elected as a secondary member.

The meeting is adjourned between 18.55 and 19.00.

9. Nomination of NFR representatives at Section level

- a. The section boards (Swe)
The presidium of NFR will send more information about the section committees to the councils before the next NFR meeting.
 - Geo: (2+2)
Left vacant
 - Bio: (2+2)
Left vacant.
 - Chem: (2+2)



- Left vacant.
Mat-Phys (2+2)
Matti Jansson is elected as an ordinary member; Nadia Flodgren is elected as a secondary member.
- b. Lärarförslagsnämnden: Academic nomination boards (Eng)
Geo: (2+2)
John Hader and Roxana Cremer are elected as ordinary members.
Bio: (2+2)
Left vacant.
Chem: (2+2)
Nicklas Österlund is elected as an ordinary member.
Mat-Phys (2+2)
Kajsa My Blomdahl and Matti Jansson are elected as ordinary members.
- c. The research educational preparatory working group (Eng)
Geo: (1+1)
Liselott Källsten is elected as an ordinary member.
Bio: (1+1)
Left vacant.
Chem: (1+1)
Left vacant.
Mat-Phys (1+1)
Nadia Flodgren is elected as an ordinary member.
- d. The stipend committee (Eng)
Geo: (1+1)
Eleftheria Theodoropoulou is elected as an ordinary member.
Bio: (1+1)
Left vacant.
Chem: (1+1)
Left vacant.
Mat-Phys (1+1)
Sara Boscolo Bibi is elected as an ordinary member.

10. Nominations of NFR representatives in centers.

- a. Stockholms matematikcentrum (SMC) (1+1)

- Left vacant.
- b. Bolin Center for Climate Research (1+1)
Emelie Graham is elected as an ordinary member; Charlotte Haugk is elected as a secondary member.
- c. Stockholm University Centre for Circular and Sustainable Systems (SUCCeSS)
1 PhD student representative.
Left vacant.
- d. Bergianska botaniska trädgården ()
Undergraduate students: (1+1)
No nomination from undergraduate students.
PhD student: (1+1)
Olle Thureborn and Ruben Blokzijl are elected as ordinary members.

11. Nominations for quality assurance task.

- a. Nomination for student pool for undergraduate evaluations.
There is no cap on the number of people in this group. More information will be made available.
- b. Evaluation committee for the PhD education in environmental science
1 PhD student representative.
The election does not take place, since this group is no longer active.

12. Other nominations

CIVIS hub council for Climate, Environment and Energy (English, international collaboration)

- 1 undergraduate student representative
Left vacant.
1 PhD student representative
Julika Zinke is elected as an ordinary member.

13. Information from student- and PhD-councils

The Corona related ISP template is treated differently between departments, which is a problem. Some PhD students are even discouraged from using it.



Another issue that is raised concerns international (PhD) students and the Swedish social security system. There is a problem at some departments that some PhD students are not formally employed for the entire 4 year-period from the start which creates difficulties with other government agencies. This may be an issue for SUS and CDR but also for labour unions, like SULF and other SACO unions. A question for the councils is: *How are international (PhD) students integrated at your department?*

14. Other

No other questions.

15. Meeting closed

Pil Maria Saugmann gives thanks to everyone and is in return wholeheartedly thanked for her service before closing the meeting at 19.30.

Pil Maria Saugmann,
Chair

Victor Karlström,
Adjuster

Elis Wibacke,
Secretary

Appendices

I. End of the year report from the presidium of NFR

Stockholm, November 29th 2020

The presidium of NFR has in 2020 consisted of Pil Maria Saugman (chair, PhD student), Victor Karlström (vice-chair, PhD student) and Martin Schulthess (vice-chair, undergraduate student, from February). In the spring term Christina Lindström served as the studiebevakare at the faculty of Science, and in that capacity also as the secretary of NFR. As of the fall term 2020, the studiebevakare position at SUS no longer exists, but Elis Wibacke has as the vice-president of SUS served as the secretary for NFR.

1. Meetings and communication of the presidium of NFR.

Through the year there have been 6 NFR meetings, 3 in the spring term and 3 in the fall term. The first meeting in the spring term was held in Kårsalen at SUS, the rest of the meetings were held online.

There have been 6 pre ON meetings where we have gone through the agenda for ON together with faculty. Usually they are held on the same day as the NFR meeting. At these meetings the presidium of NFR has participated, a representative in ON has participated, and from the faculties side the head of administration Katariina Birgersson has participated.

There have been 4 meetings between the dean, Katariina and the NFR presidium. The first was the spring semester meeting, the second was about language policies in council and boards within the area, the third was about the doctoral students situation due to corona, and the fourth was the fall semester meeting.

There has been 1 meeting between the NFR presidium and Carl-Johan Högberg about quality assurance at the faculty of Science.

Beside this the presidium has held a number of meetings internally, and have communicated regularly through the year.

2. Language policies at the Faculty of Science.

For many years NFR has worked towards creating more opportunities for the non Swedish speaking students within the faculty to take on representational roles at faculty level. This has been a slow process, where more and more positions have become available for non Swedish speaking students, but so far no formal decisions have been made about this at the faculty.

We are therefore happy that we succeeded in making a more formal agreement with the faculty.

For the stipend committee, Forskarutbildningsberedningen, Docentberedningen, Befordringsnämnden, and Lärarförslagsnämnden the official Language policy now is: *Documents are in Swedish, discussions are held in English and non-Swedish speaking students are welcome to participate.*

For quality assurance tasks the language follows the language of the education.

For CIVIS the language is English (it is an international collaboration).

For ON, ON-AU, GB, GB-AU, the info group, samverkansberedningen and the sections boards the language requirement is Swedish.

3. Bylaw changes for NFR.

The presidium of NFR has put forward suggestions for changes of the bylaws twice this year.

At the first NFR meeting we put forward the suggestion that the NFR presidium should consist of 3 people rather than 2: A chair, an undergraduate student vice-chair and a PhD student vice-chair. Furthermore

For the annual meeting, we have put forward some suggested changes regarding the size of the presidium. The new presidium consists of 4 people, 1 chair and 3 vice-chairs. As the presidium of NFR is to take over tasks that was previously covered by SUS, we move away from the strict requirement that one vice-chair has to be an undergraduate student and one has to be a PhD students, the suggested bylaw changes still says that one should strive to have two undergraduate students and two PhD students in the presidium of NFR.

4. The corona pandemic and its consequences.

There is no way we can avoid mentioning the corona pandemic. Practically it has meant that since March NFR has held its meetings online.

In general we have tried to keep an overview of the situation. We have raised the issue that many representatives, especially those in the students and PhD student councils, have had a different and harder workload than anticipated. Below we briefly mentions what we have raised

About the undergraduate student situation.

Especially in the beginning of the pandemic we advocated that it was important that the undergraduate students were including, as they have the right to be, in the decision making process of changing the curriculum and examination form. We have lifted the issue that undergraduate students doing field and project work are in a vulnerable situation.

We have invited Joakim Edsjö to the NFR meeting to inform us about the situation twice. Once in the spring, and once in the fall.

About the PhD students situation.

Most PhD students have experienced some kind of delays to their education due to the corona pandemic, and for many it has led to a significant setback of their research.

On the initiative of the PhD councils within the faculty we send a letter to the area board regarding these issues. This led to a survey that has just finished. Besides this it has also led to an increased awareness of the situation at faculty level, and we have in our meetings with the dean tried to elaborate further on the situation for PhD students, especially focusing on all the intangible delays PhD students experience.

5. Some things to consider in the new year.

It probably goes beyond saying that we would recommend the new presidium of NFR to continue monitoring the situation for both undergraduate students and PhD students due to corona. *In particular we would recommend that for the undergraduate students the presidium continues to bring focus on that they should be included in the decision process when changes are made to curriculum and exams. For the doctoral students we recommend that the presidium continues to bring up the question of prolongation, and bring light to the many intangible delays doctoral student experience. For both groups, we think it is important to monitor their mental health.*

Besides the consequences of the corona pandemic, we would recommend that more is done to include the undergraduate student councils better in NFR. While NFR to a high degree succeeds in reaching all 15 of the PhD student councils, it has been harder to engage the 6 undergraduate student councils. *What we have been able to identify as an solvable issue, is that it for the undergraduate students can be rather lonely participating in the NFR meetings. Our suggestion from the presidium of NFR would be that all the undergraduate student councils would have two representatives rather than 1. This would potentially grow the number of members of NFR from 21 to 27.*

II. End of the year reports from student representatives

The following online reports from NFR representatives in committees at the Faculty of Science were handed in prior to the meeting:

Befordringsnämnden

Report by Erik Thorsén

- I am in the Promotion committee. It "decides" who gets promoted from Assistant Professor up to Professor at the faculty level. For some roles we can only suggest if a candidate will get a promotion. The role as a student representative in this committee is as any other role in a committee, make sure that the students are kept in mind when taking a decision. An example in this role is whether or not a promotion should be granted/suggested when the

applicant has a good track record in publications but poor teaching evaluations and/or relations to their PhD students etc. The workload is quite volatile. Most of the time there is nothing to do. Then there might be many applicants which results in many long meetings and a lot to read. A meeting for one applicant is usually around 3 hours. There is approximately 50-100 pages to read per applicant which varies heavily depending on promotion level and field.

- 8 meetings this year
- It suggests who gets promoted from Assistant Professor up to Professor at the faculty level. We read a lot, listen to presentations and ask questions to the applicants.

Stipendieberedningen

Report by Patrick Bryant

- Allocating stipend funds. Reading applications and stipend allocation guidelines every few months.
- 3 meetings this year
- The committee takes part in deciding how stipend funds are most appropriately allocated according to predefined guidelines.

CDR

Report by Pascal Meier

- 7 meetings this year
- Our annual planning has been overthrown and changed due to the current situation. The main work of CDR in 2020 was focused on the affects that the ongoing pandemic had and has on the PhD students. From Spring and until June, a campus-wide petition was set up by CDR with the support from all faculties. The document named "Petition for extension of PhD (Doktorand) contracts under Covid-19" was handed to the University senior management team/Universitetets ledning and was presented to the University board/Universitetets styrelse in the June. In Fall, CDR was writing a response-and-following-up letter to the University board regarding the COVID-19 situation and how the supervisor/PhD student should write in the ISP regarding the effects of the pandemic. ST unionen was contacting CDR that they will start negotiations with the Universitetets ledning as well. CDR also set up a ISP template in which we include space for how students were affected by COVID-19. Especially with closed departments and libraries, as well as working from home.

Forskarutbildningsberedningen

Report by Liselott Källsten

- We discuss different aspects of the research education and ways to improve its quality. There are usually 3-4 meetings per semester, and each meeting is about 2 hours long. In addition to meeting attendance there is some additional workload in reading documents and answering e-mails, but not that much.



- 6 meetings this year
- This year the main focus has been on discussing how to evaluate the pandemic's impact on the research education, how to improve the connections with the job market (preparation for after the PhD), and developing a guidance document for the thesis (a draft has been sent to the Faculty Board). These topics will continue to be discussed next year as well. We've also discussed ways to make it easier to find PhD-courses in the course catalog system, a suggested code system was drafted, but I'm not sure if it's been implemented or not.

LFN (Geo)

Report by John Hader

- 4 meetings this year (2 per position being interviewed for)
- Between January and February of 2020, the LFN reviewed applications and interviewed candidates for an assistant professorship in atmospheric science specializing in air quality and human health. Based on the LFN's recommendation, one candidate was hired and is now part of the Department of Environmental Science. Similarly, between May and September of 2020, the LFN reviewed applications and interviewed candidates for an associate professorship in nature and environmental management with a focus on sustainable development. The top candidate was identified and recommended for hiring. No further updates available on the state of that hire.