



Agenda – Science Faculty Council 2023 May 02nd, kl.16:30

In attendance:

- Samyuktha Rajan (SR - Chair)
- Raluca Tifrea (RT - Vice Chair)
- Gandharva Appagere (GA - Vice Chair, Fysikum Ph.D. council)
- Jenny Wirén (JW - SUS)
- Hanna Dort (HD - Zootis Ph.D. council-CDR)
- Matilda Johansson (MJ - SUS Ombud)
- Helin Malekshashi (HM - SUS Ombud)
- Divya Baharathi M (DB - CSR)
- Melissa Bartom (MB - SRC Ph.D. council)
- Eshan Hadi (EH - MMK Ph.D. council)
- Laveena Kansara (LK - MBW Ph.D. council)
- Leonard Kersting (LK - OrgChem Ph.D. council)
- Erza Eisbrenner (EE - MISU Ph.D. council)
- Robert Dunst (RD - IGV)
- Desponina Kouvousi (DK - SCEG)
- Robin Stoll (RS - Math Council)
- Bart van Baal (BB - Astronomy Ph.D. council)
- Erik Schwarz (ES - NatGeo Ph.D. council)
- Nadia Flodgren (NF - ON-AU)
- Ellen Nein (EN - BÄR)
- Sachi Dilami Ilangasekara (SI - MCR Ph.D. council)

1. Opening of the meeting

Meeting starts at 16:30

- a. Round of presentation
- b. Election of chairperson
SR Elected as the Chairperson
- c. Election of secretary
GA elected as Secretary
- d. Election of adjuster
LK was elected as adjuster
- e. Approval of the agenda
Agenda approved with no objections
- f. Approval of last meeting's minutes

SR noted a correction to the last minutes from NF w.r.t. to the changes to mandatory Licenciate rule for Ph.Ds at the Fysikum

Stockholm University Student Union

- g. Co adjungation
None at this meeting

2. Jenny Wirén: short presentation on the structure of NFR

- 5 minute break -

3. 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

JW reported:

- Update from SUS elections - Results. They will decide on the new board and presidium
- New system in build: a portal to access information on the elected reps, student reps, apply for project funding, meeting fee etc.,
- An email will be sent to ask for the details from all departments, sections, and faculties.
- New student reps for the SUS(Ombud). Taking over soon.
- Ph.D. students *Rule* Document for the third cycle, exams and coursework. SUS went through the proposal and a response was sent today.
- Outlook of the proposal:
 - Many of the departments having hard time financially. This is also reflected in the proposal document.
 - EMAIL from Ph.d. council from Humanities, a Ph.D. student was said that there is a rule that there can be only one student rep per council. Financial strain reflected on Ph.D. students as extensions costs money for departments.
- Notification has been issued for Applications for activities at Faculty

b) CDR

HD reported:

- Put forward the focus questions for the SUS board for the upcoming year
 - 1. Review the Harassment reporting policy
 - 2. Prolongation, as in the responsibility of the Dept Head to aim for more transparency

c) Area Board / Områdesnämnden (OM)

NF reported:

- That NF brought up the Ph.D. student salary raise issue at the last OM board meeting.
- Response:
 - Area board cannot do anything about it but the students need to go to the Union.
 - 50% DEMAND requirements is interpreted differently by each faculty and departments
 - Remedies to be discussed as a separate agenda
- Question from HD: Is ON is going to reach put to the Employment Union ?
 - Response from NF: NO. Its the conflict between the Employees and the Employer that should be handled with Union intervention
- ON started a working group to look into different education pillars at the Faculty. Need of 2 student representatives.
- *Election to ON Ordinary representative: Nadia elected with no objections*

d) Arbetsutskottet

NF reported: Nothing relevant to NFR

e) CSR

Lucas McMaster (LM) reported through mail in absence:

- New planned library rules:
 - CSR unanimously agreed the rules seemed identical to those previously enforced and so no need to contest the decision made by the library.
 - the banning of full meals but allowing snacks etc respecting the quiet floor and keeping noise to a minimum in study areas.
- Advocacy topics for the new SUS body to raise with the university
 - CRS agreed that the top priority was A job portal and student wellbeing.

- The job portal refers to the idea that SU would have a portal on its main website allowing for the posting of all student work positions at the university from temporary library assistance posts to research assistant roles among others.
- So, this would give more opportunities for students especially international students to obtain temporary employment within their studies as well as creating a more transparent hiring process for student positions as well as making it easier for staff to find the necessary students they need for research roles and other tasks.
- Results from SUSs' study on rest post exams and the issue of weekend exams
 - The humanities department was seen to have the highest number of exams which took place over the weekend with some home exams being issued on Fridays with the intention of them being started on the Monday however this was not likely the case as students would ultimately work on them during the weekend.
 - The faculty of science was regarded as the best faculty when it came to allowing for rest days post exams as well as for avoiding hosting exams during the weekend.
 - There will be a formal event to unveil the report held by SUS this will be in Swedish, but it is hoped that by summer the report will be translated into English.

f) Grundutbildningsberedningen (GB):

EN reported: couldn't attend last meeting

g) Department & Section Committees:

No relevant reports.

4. Joint discussion

- ES raised a point that for the future: There should be a clear base to raise the issues like that of Salary raise etc., to avoid confusion and repeated
- Linnea Andersson (LA) reported through mail in absence:

- LA had a short discussion with Joakim Edsjö (JE), chair of GB, about the agenda for our lunch-to-lunch meeting 4-5 May (GB-internat), where we will discuss some questions that need more focus.
- LA asked if the problem with finding and recruiting student representatives is reasonable to have as a point on the agenda and was well received by JE.
- Suggested to bring the point at the sitting NFR meeting today and gather opinions from the reps if:
 - If we lack support to encourage students to volunteer as representatives
 - Do teachers bring up the importance of student representatives in the processes at the departments
 - How can the Faculty and departments help the student councils?

5. Question on Vacancies (Raised by LA and JW)

Problem with finding and recruiting student representatives: How can the Faculty and departments help the student councils?

- GB could benefit with another representative
- It should be the goal of the section to have at least one rep in each committee
- SR suggests that it would be beneficial to have a summary document with all the positions and requirements (especially stating the language requirements) and sent out to the Council Chair.
- LK mentioned that at MBW council, a presentation is shared to all Ph.Ds with a shortlist board rep positions and requirements tailored to the Ph.Ds that goes so far as to include the language requirements.
- Most of the reps showed interest in taking a look at the summary slides and incorporating similar protocol in all student council boards.
- 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.

- 10 minute break -

6. Split discussion:

1. Information from student councils

- Thoughts about the new job-related webpage: very helpful and needed
- Thoughts about master's thesis opportunities within SU:
 - At kth there is a page where the thesis supervisors publish their research if they have any available spots
 - ⇒ makes it easier for students to find available thesis projects
 - Could be an idea for SU as well
 - There is a need for more diverse thesis options within certain departments
- Thoughts about master's thesis opportunities outside SU:
 - There is a need for having more thesis opportunities outside of SU/Sweden and more information about the Erasmus projects is required for all the sections
 - At the chemistry section there is an Erasmus contact person who deals solely with Erasmus-related matters which could also be the case for the other sections
 - ⇒ need for erasmus representation

a. LA's Email:

Problem with finding and recruiting student representatives: How can the Faculty and departments help the student councils?

- Is there support that is lacking? With respect to the issue mentioned above, more help is needed for students thinking of going abroad for all the sections
- Do teachers bring up the importance of student representatives in the processes at the departments, etc?
- Not really. We were told about the master's council but no one mentioned the general student representative positions/ faculty and central councils
- How can the Faculty and departments help the student councils?

- Improve the communication by providing them constant updates; giving them the overview of the structure of the faculty along with the vacant spots that was discussed during the meeting today should help as well

2. Information from PhD councils

a. Ph.D. Salary Raise issue:

Discuss how to proceed with the PhD salary raise issue: Write to the Union ST before local salary negotiations in fall

- ON is not going to help with the issue
- Salary negotiations in October - we have until September to pen down an issue proposal and send it to the Union
- ST is the union that negotiates the Salary contracts - So it is the union to contact with the issue proposal
- Proposal from SR to send a response to both ST and SOCO
 - Working group to right the issue proposal on Raise issue: LK and MB will help SR to draft a response. Aimed to have it ready before summer
- LK raised the a point of order to distinguish between e issues: Raise at 50% for PhDs and Timely Union initiated salary raise negotiations.

b. Feedback on ISP's that can be brought up at the national assembly by Hanna Dort

- To be raised at FUM, proposed by HD
 - Who initiates the ISP/DISP meeting ?
 - ISPs reviewed from time-to-time from an independent
 - Teaching hours and expectations should have there own sections
 - Reflections on the past year
 - Option to Request changes in the ISP
 - Follow up regarding the work environment and related issues with an independent reviewer
- Comments:
 - Question from SR - What to do in the cases for supervisor change, should the ISP be re-written

- Response from HD: Only if the research project/problem statement is changed.
- EH suggestion to customise the DISP specific to the departments and groups. Appears to be focussed on the Humanities
- LK mentions that MBW is not using the DISP but is proposed to transition to the
- MB suggestions that their could be a review form updated from time-to-time as an addendum to the original DISP. As being done at SRC
- HD suggests to take look at the SULF DISP review
- EE asks, who is responsible to call in the meeting ?
- EH - It would be nice to have LADOK integrated with DISP where the courses are automatically updated and graded recorded
- LK points out that the TA hour assignment is missing in the ISP/DISP. Suggests to include the hours spent in preparation, teaching and exam assistance.

7. Other

a. Thesis dedicated to a controversial Figure (Raised by EH):

- Publication of SU, so its reflective of the SU ownership
- So far, suggestion was to put a footnotes to include a marker that the dedication/pages do reflect the policies and the philosophies of SU
- SR points the question to be discussed with JW / SUS reps

b. 20% Extension to the Contract (Raised by EH)

- Requests for an ACT that indicates/mandates the possible 20% extension for the out of research work since there is a confusion in the EH's division on this matter. Extensions are not being granted as a result.
- Cap for the working hours, sd it is mandated cannot exceed 20% i.e. maximum of 1 year extension.
- EH Requests for a Formal announcements so it could be put in the Rulebook for the PhDs at their division.

c. Activities Fund (Raised by EH):

- EH pointed out that the MMK council applied for 3 activities, approved for just 1.



- SR and LK clarified that Activities fund was budgeted at 70000 SEK but the applications exceeded to over ≈ 230000 SEK

8. Summary of issues to discuss at next meeting

Signoff and next meeting proposed to be held in September.

9. Meeting closed

Meeting Ended at 18:35