

Minutes from Central PhD Student Council (CDR) meeting nr 1

Monday 18th of January, 13:00-15:00, Zoom, online meeting

Present

Vice Chair, Pascal Meier, (NFR)

Hari Nair, (NFR)

Julia Dahlqvist, (JMK)

Maryann Tan, (HFR)

Ali Mohamed (SFR)

Kate O'Ferrell (HFR)

Jenny Wirén, Head of Student Advocacy and Governance, secretary of CDR Ole

1. Formalities

a) Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 13:05

b) Election of verifier

Hari Nair was elected.

c) Approval of agenda

Jenny wanted to ad 5. b) Områdesövergripande rådet

Agenda is approved with the proposed changes.

d) Co-option

Ole Johnny Fossås is co-opted as the PhD student representative in REBUS.

e) Approval of minutes from last meeting

The previous minutes was approved.

2. Election

a) Chair

Stockholm University Student Union

i. Pascal Meier is elected

- **b)** Vice Chair
 - i. Hari Nair is elected
- c) Secretary
 - i. Vacant

3. Reports

a) University Board (Rebecca/Pascal)

No meeting has been held since the last CDR meeting.

b) Humanities Faculty Council (Kate, Maryan)

During the break out sessions on the last HFR meeting the PhD students discussed how the issue if prolongation due to the Covid-19 situation has been handled in the various departments. One thing that was raised was the fact that prolongation is given at the end of the employment which can create uncertainties. The dean has stated that she wants to know how this question is handled on the different departments which seams to signal that the aim is a it should be managed streamlined.

c) Social Sciences Faculty Council (Ali, Allison)

The Faculty will be getting a new dean by the name Ylva Svanström. The faculty board had a meeting on the 7^{th} of January where budgets and hiring of new professors where discussed.

d) Law Faculty Council (Julia)

Within the council a discussion about how the council is to be seen. If it is to be seen as a department council or a faculty council.

e) Natural Science Faculty Council (Hari, Pascal)

The last meeting was the annual meeting where focus was on electing new representatives.

f) Student Union SUS (Jenny)

The student union has since December a new website which means that the CDR-site looks a bit different.

The union has had a meeting with all the contact persons for student governance at central and faculty level at the university. One issue that was raised was the fact that

it differs quite much in if the students get an introduction from the chair of the university bodies which they have been elected to. In the rules for student governance it is made clear that this is the responsibility of the chair but many seams to be missing this.

g) Others reports

i. REBUS (Ole)

SU: s self-evaluation has been sent in to UKÄ, Swedish Higher Education Authority. In this document the university evaluate their quality work within sex different areas. A lot of universities have problems with the quality of the work they are doing in different areas, for example concerning diversity in recruitment. This question, about diversity in recruitment, was raised and talked about during the last meeting. This is also a question that UKÄ will work, together with the universities, on during this semester.

One issue that has been discussed in the group was how the university can be sure that the PhD students are followed up and that the same rules are used for all on the issue of prolongation due to the covid-19 situation. How can they ensure that the quality is upheld in those errands.

There is a sub group to REBUS that has been working on developing a new digital course evaluating tool. This has now been introduced at the university and should be easier to use and it will be easier to summarize all the evaluations.

ii. ON (Amanda)

Amanda could not join the meeting but has instead send in a written rapport

On the last Meeting, Astri told us that there will probably not be any general prolongations due to corona, at least as it looks right now. She said that it is up to the institutions to decide about this matter, and that the institutions have handled it differently. Overall, her/their view is that prolongation should only be given if the PhD students concretely can show that she has been interrupted in her work due to corona. They think that if the students has been interrupted due to mental illness, the student should consult a physician to get sick leave. I said that I and other PhD students think that there should be at least one month of general prolongation since a large proportion of the students experience stress and that they have been interrupted in various ways.

We also discussed PhD courses that students from several departments can join. I said that it would be good if especially more methodology courses opened up to students from other departments. For example, methodology courses in the department of economics could open up for students in other social science areas if the course don't demand specific economic skills. However, generally they

thought that this already occurs, but that the information about possibility to take courses in other departments might be improved.

The council would like Amanda to raise the question about how mental illness has been a problem for many PhD student and is not something that should be brushed of. It is not just an individually problem but a problem for all. The council thinks that it is good that Amanda raised the question about general prolongation.

4. CDR 2020

a) Annual report

No annual report has been created but Rebecca is working on it.

5. Nominations

- a) University Board (US)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Pascal Meier is elected
 - ii. secondary member
 - 1. Julia Dahlqvist is elected
- **b)** Områdesövergripande rådet (OR)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Pascal Meier is elected
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Julia Dahlqvist is elected
- c) Human Sciences preparational board for PhD education, BUF (swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Sebastian Sirén is elected
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- **d)** Employer- and employee committee for RALV, AM-committee (swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member

- 1. Vacant
- ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- e) Education organizer- and student committee for RALV, US-committee (swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Vacant
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- f) Centre for University Teacher Education Board, CeUL (swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Vacant
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- **g)** OM-group (swe)
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Vacant
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- h) Working group for AV-equipment in hybrid teaching
 - i. 1 ordinary member
 - 1. Vacant
 - ii. 1 secondary member
 - 1. Vacant
- i) Stockholm Trio Research Education Working Group
 - i. 1 ordinary member

1. Vacant

ii. 1 secondary member

1. Vacant

6. Discussion of issues raised by local PhD councils

All discussions with in the local councils are about the covid-19 situation basically.

7. Next meeting

a) The council will determine on dates for all the council's meetings for this semester via email. Pascal will send out suggestions for upcoming meeting dates during the following week.

8. Other issues

No other issues.

9. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 14:40.

Pascal Meier

Chair of meeting

enny Wirén

Secratary

Hari Nair Verifier