

Minutes from the Central PhD council (CDR)

Meeting nr 4, 2020

Wednesday 13th of May, 12:00-14:00, Zoom, online meeting.

Present

Chair, Rebecca Bengtsson, (SFR), Psychology department

Vice Chair, Pascal Meier, (NFR)

Hari Nair, (NFR)

Anna Horn, (JFR)

Conrad Bakka, (HFR)

Maryann Tan, (HFR)

Clàudia Figueras, (SFR)

Allison Geerts, (SFR)

Cecilia Bergqvist, (Co-opted REBUS)

Jonas Eklund, PhD student ombudsman, secretary of CDR

§ 1. Formalities

a. Opening of meeting

The meeting was declared open at 12:05 pm.

b. Election of verifier

Maryann, was elected, together with the Chair to verify the minutes.

c. Co-option

Cecilia was co-opted.

d. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

e. Previous minutes

The previous minutes was approved.

§ 2. Reports**a. University board**

Rebecca informs, that the board will change many members to the next meeting as the members appointed times are running out. There will also be a new chair of the board.

The university has some problems with the finances and employments may be postponed. The PhD students and postdocs may be affected as this is a cost to elaborate on. There might be fewer available PhD positions and postdocs for the future. The CDR will continue to keep track of this matter.

There is a new plan for buildings and premises at the university. A decision has been made to not build any new buildings when Albano is done. Some of the previous temporary buildings, such as the pavilions, are being phased out and taken down. Some contracts outside of campus Frascati is being phased out, (Studentpalatset, Nod Kista, Sveaplan). The risk analysis for the university show some concerns regarding the economy, the working environment, cheating, student completion, and Covid 19 has caused yet other concerns.

Next meeting of the University board will be the 5th of June.

b. Humanities Faculty Council (HFR)

At HFR the Corona situation is the main topic of discussion. HFR wants a general prolongation, as some people may find individual negotiations difficult and it is hard to make sure that PhD students will be treated equal. HFR wants a wide petition from the unified PHD student body, where most of the councils needs to agree.

There is also a discussion on the evaluation of research schools at the university where the collaboration calls for smaller units and for shorter time periods.

c. Social Sciences Faculty Council (SFR)

Claudia, informs that the 6 month prolongation of employment after successfully finished the PhD that is given at the Department of Philosophy had been discussed. However, Conrad informs that this might be cut at the Department of Philosophy due to the economic situation.

The security concerns with Zoom was discussed and the new update of Zoom is improving security.

d. Law Faculty Council (JFR)

Anna informs that a survey directed at doctoral candidates at the Law department is made to get knowledge on their consequences of corona. It was sent out the 13th of May, the respondents have a week to answer. Conrad asked for template and Anna will send it forward.

e. Natural Science Faculty Council (NFR)

Hari informs that they did not have any meeting since last CDR. But information on how the PhD students deal with the corona situation is being gathered.

f. The Student Union (SUS)

Jonas, did not have any news but informed about the upcoming Student Union election.

Claudia, informes about a survey on online teaching at the Department of Computer and System Science. Claudia will send the questionere.

g. The Swedish National Union of Students Doctoral Committee (SFS-DK)

No report.

h. Others

Cecilia informs from Rebus, where the evaluations are being discussed. Due to the corona the dealines for the assessments are being prolonged by 6 month.

§ 3. Nominations

a. Vacant position

Still vacant positions in ON, BUF, RALV, Hörande församling, Ethics and a new position in Stockholm Trio.

Jonas, will send information on this to representatives in each faculty councils to pass along.

§ 4. SFS nomination for Chair of Doctoral committee

Unclear about the situation. Jonas will look into it and send information on upcoming election for the SFS doctoral committee.

§ 5. CDR rules and procedures

Nothing to add.

§ 6. CDR annual plan

In the last CDR meeting we decided to focus on the Covid-19 situation at least for the rest of spring semester.

The open letter/ statement was discussed and the decision was to go send out a draft for local councils to respond to before May 29th. The proposal is an open letter/statement asking for the difficult situation for PhD students to be recognized. The discussion on reasonable compensation will be a future discussion. The goal is that the statement/open letter should be sent to the university before summer.

We should also propose that there should be a survey on the cost of the Covid 19 situation for the PhD student is.

At the next meeting we will discuss a plan of how to move along with the discussion with the university.

§ 7. Discussion on issues raised by local PhD councils

Rebecca got a question from the Psychology department PhD-council about what happened with the statement about “Compensation for learning Swedish”, which was something that CDR worked a lot on during the spring 2019.

Jonas will look into it.

§ 8. Next meeting

A doodle will be sent out for next meeting that is planned for early June.

§ 9. Miscellaneous

The need to present CDR and our work was brought up by Rebecca. A newsletter has been discussed earlier and we will continue with that plan.

§ 10. Closing of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 14:08 pm.



Chair of meeting

Rebecca Bengtsson



Secretary

Jonas Eklund



Verifier

Maryann Tan