



Minutes from the Central PhD council (CDR) Meeting nr 7

Tuesday the 6th of October, 13:00-15:00, Zoom, online meeting

Present

Chair, Rebecca Fältén, (SFR)

Vice Chair, Pascal Meier, (NFR)

Hari Nair, (NFR)

Milena Podosak, (HFR)

Allison Geerts, (SFR)

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

1. Formalities

a. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was declared open at 13.05.

b. Election of verifier

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

c. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

d. Co-option

No co-option.

e. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The previous minutes was approved.

2. Reports

a. University Board

Many matters were discussed during the meeting. One item of interest to PhD students is a survey conducted by the Center for University Teacher Education. The survey has been sent out to students and teachers asking about their experiences in connection with covid-19 during the spring semester. The students answered, among

other things, that they experienced a declining motivation. 69 percent of the teachers felt that they have spent much more time than usual on teaching, which has resulted in an increased workload. This is interesting as PhD students are both students and teachers and therefore effected in both ways.

b. Humanities Faculty Council

The faculty council had their meeting on the 2th of October. The problems for PhD students that have arisen in connection with covid-19 was discussed. Milena informed the council about a letter that two PhD councils at the Institute for Swedish and Multilingualism have jointly sent to the Head of Department to raise the problems that PhD students are facing in regard to the covid-19 situation. Milena will ask the PhD councils if she can send out the letter to CDR so that it can be used as inspiration for other PhD councils wishing to do the same.

c. Social Sciences Faculty Council

A discussion was brought up on how many of those present had raised the issue about the problems that have arisen in connection with covid-19 and its effects upon their ISP with their supervisor. No one of the present PhD students had raised the issue with their supervisor. The council also discussed how the money that the departments had budgeted for conferences, which has now been canceled, is going to be used. It seems that it differs from department to department.

d. Law Faculty Council

No representative present.

e. Natural Science Faculty Council

Meeting was held on the 7th of September where representatives were elected. The council discussed how the pandemic affects the new PhD students who have now started their employment at Stockholm University. The result of the pandemic is that it is hard for the new students to get a social context.

f. Student Union SUS

New instructions for CDR has been decided by FUM and can be found on SUS website. Jenny has started working on a process for nomination of representatives and for the upcoming annual meeting.

g. The Swedish National Union of Students Doctoral Committee

Nothing to report.

h. Others reports

No other reports.

3. Nominations

a. Vacant positions

No nominations have come in for the positions in ON, BUF, RALV, REBUS and *Revidering av regler för utbildning och examination på forsknivå samt antagningsordning för utbildning på forskarnivå*. Jenny will send out the ads to all the PhD council for them to post on their Athena-page.

b. Upcoming election

Jenny asked the present members if they were planning on staying on in CDR during next term as well. Hari and Allison said they were interested in staying on. Rebecca will send out an email to the absent members asking them to get back to Jenny with information if they are planning to stay on or not.

4. CDR annual plan

a. The COVID-19 situation

i. Update in the written reply to the university board

A reply has been drafted and sent out to all of the members in CDR. The board approved the letter that will be sent out to all the council on local level for information. Two days later the letter will be sent out to the University board and to the Faculty boards.

Allison presented a draft of a template that can be submitted with the ISP to shed light on the problems that have arisen in connection with covid-19. This letter can also be used with the next semester's ISP. The next step will be to send out the draft to all of the chairpersons in the PhD councils at the departments at SU and tell them to forward the message to the rest of the PhD students at their departments.

ii. Union ST will try to negotiate with SU

Nothing to report. Rebecca has been in contact with her contact at ST but nothing has changed since the last meeting.

5. Discussion of issues raised by local PhD councils

Milena informs that in her local PhD student council has been contacted by a teacher at the department who has requested feedback from the council on how the budget that has not

been spent on conferences, due to covid-19, should be used. It may be worthwhile for the various councils at department level to raise the question with their management on how they plan to use the part of the budget that will be left over due to canceled conferences.

6. Next meeting

The next CDR meeting will be in November – a Doodle will be sent out with suggestions.

7. Other issues

a. <https://centraladoktorandradet.wordpress.com/>

The website has been taken down since it had not been updated for a long while.

b. <https://sus.su.se/rad-och-natverk/cdr>

CDR page on SUS website has been updated with new information and links to all the signed minutes from 2020.

c. Survey; How are the PhD students doing?

SFS-DK (Sveriges förenade studentkårer/Swedish National Union of Students - doctoral student committee) will conduct a survey that will be sent out to selected PhD students in spring 2021. The study will examine how PhD students feel during the prevailing circumstances. The CDR is asked to inform PhD students at SU that this survey is coming, with the hope that more will answer. The issue will be discussed again during next meeting.

8. Closing of the meeting

The meeting is closed at 14.46.

X 

Rebecca Fälteén
Chair of meeting

X 

Jenny Wirén
Secretary

X 

Allison Geerts
Verifier