



## Minutes from the Central PhD council (CDR) Meeting nr 8

Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 15:00-17:00, Zoom, online meeting

### Present

Chair, Rebecca Fältén, (SFR)

Vice Chair, Pascal Meier, (NFR)

Hari Nair, (NFR)

Claudia Figueras, (SFR)

Julia Dahlqvist, (JMK)

Maryann Tan, (SFR) §5- §8

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

### 1. Formalities

#### a. Opening of the meeting

Meeting opened at 15:09.

#### b. Election of verifier

Hari Nair was elected.

#### 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.

#### f. Per capsulam decision

Since the last meeting two per capsulam decisions has been taken.

Amanda Almstedt Valldor was elected as ordinary PhD student representative in ON during the term of office 2019-2020.

Ole Johnny Fossås was elected as ordinary PhD student representative

in REBUS during the term of office 2019-2020.

## **2. Reports**

### **a. University Board**

During the last meeting mainly information issues were raised. Rectors position on the situation for PhD students during the Covid-19 pandemic was presented as was an internal revision about the university's handling of students who are suspected of cheating.

### **b. Humanities Faculty Council**

The faculty council had their meeting last week and the main discussion was about the Covid-19 pandemic and how it affects PhD students.

### **c. Social Sciences Faculty Council**

Claudia could not attend the last faculty council meeting but according to the protocol the annual meeting will be held on the 11th of December where elections for next years positions will be held.

### **d. Law Faculty Council**

The council had their last meeting 31st of October. During the fall semester the main topic that has been discussed has been the Covid-19 pandemic and how it affects PhD students in the faculty.

### **e. Natural Science Faculty Council**

The annual meeting will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November. The template to go along with the ISP has been sent out to all councils. However, it seems like another template has been circulating which creates an uncertainty on which should be used. After a brief discussion it is clear that the second template originates from the one CDR sent out.

### **f. Student Union SUS**

This semester 44 PhD student councils have been registered which is 100 % of the councils that are known to exist on SU. This is an increase with four more councils than last semester.

The new instructions for CDR and the faculty councils have been translated to English and will be available on SUS website.

SU is revising the rules for student governance and one of the things within the rules that the university are looking at is the amount of student representatives within a group. SUS does not share SU: s interpretation of the section in Högskoleregleringen that refers to this. Therefore a meeting has been scheduled to discuss this section especially.

**g. The Swedish National Union of Students Doctoral Committee**

Nothing to report.

**h. Others reports**

Nothing to report

**3. Nominations**

**a. *Vacant positions***

No nominations has come in for the positions in BUF, RALV and Revidering av regler för utbildning och examination på forsknivå samt antagningsordning för utbildning på forskarnivå. All positions will be up for election during the next meeting.

**4. CDR annual plan**

**a. Reply from rector**

Rebecca received a reply from the rector regarding the email sent from CDR regarding how the PhD student has been affected during the Covid-19 pandemic. The email from CDR emphasized that the situation for PhD students must be raised and noticed. It was also emphasized that there must be a clearer explanation on how the PhD student and supervisor should work with the ISP in relation to the effects caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The CDR template was enclosed in the email.

In the reply the rector thanks for the email and states that it has been discussed in the university board. It is clarified that it is the Board of Science and the Board of Human Science that is responsible to follow up on how the departments are working with the ISP in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic and then report back to the rector. It is also clarified that it is okay to send in the template even though the deadline for the work surrounding the ISP has run out.

**b. How will we move forward**

A letter will be written where it is explained how the template should be used and where it is clarified that it is up to each PhD student if he or she wants to use it. This will be sent out to all PhD student councils.

## **5. Discussion of issues raised by local PhD councils**

There is an ongoing discussion within Claudia's department about the funds that are usually given to PhD students for cost surrounding conferences and books. The funds must be used within a year, however this year a decision has been made that half of the funds can be transferred to next year. A discussion is raised about this and it is clear that this differs quite a lot between departments. The law and psychology department for example has no deadline on when the money should be used as long as it is within the PhD-employment. It also differs in how big the funding is.

## **6. Next meeting**

### **a. Annual meeting**

Ads for the positions that are vacant for the next term will be sent out to all PhD student councils during the first week of December. The annual meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

## **7. Other issues**

### **a. Question about extension of employment**

Rebecca has received an email from a PhD student in the education department who has noticed that prolongation is given in her apartment in calendar days and not working days. A discussion is held as to whether this is common within the various faculties, if this systematic within the various faculties. The discussion will be held via email and Rebecca will then summaries it in an email to the PhD student.

### **b. Survey, How are the PhD-student feeling?**

A reminder that the survey has been sent out to selected PhD students. It has been sent out in paper format and is in English.

### **c. Language used at SU**

At earlier meetings the issue of why many of the university organs have Swedish as the meeting language har been discussed. Jenny promised to look in to it and has done so since the last meeting. The main reason is that the university is a government

authority and the government language is Swedish. However, many of the organs at the faculty of natural science has chosen to have their meetings in English, since many of the students and PhD students do not speak Swedish. This could be an issue for CDR to look more into during the next year.

### 8. Closing of the meeting

The meeting is closed at 16:53.

X 

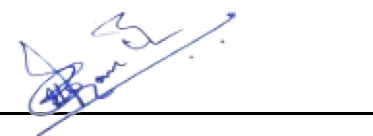
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Rebecca Fältén  
Chair of meeting

X 

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Jenny Wirén  
Secretary

X 

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Hari Nair  
Verifier