



**Date:** 20 October 2022, Thursday

**Time:** 1400-1600

**Place:** Zoom

**Participants:** Sherry Israel, Karl Lysén, Carl Tjernell, Tinna Valgeirsdóttir, Natalia Kalyva, Alvi Suipov, Magnus Ahlthorp, Anna Mammitzsch, Zoé Pochon, Rebecca Borg, Giada Brighi, Kristine Dalby, Hermela Embaye, Tesfaye Woubshet Ayele, and Sofia Warkander.

## Agenda

1. Open the meeting.  
Meeting officially started at 14:02.
2. Assign adjuster.  
No adjuster was selected as Zoom's poll function was used for election of student representatives.
3. Assign an interpreter  
No interpreter was selected. This role will be removed from future meetings as it is not needed.
4. Approve meeting agenda.  
The agenda was approved with the addition of point 8.5.
5. Review of HFR's previous meeting minutes/protocol.  
The SUS ombudsman had some corrections to September's protocol which will be amended prior to the next meeting.
6. Information points
  - 6.1. Information on any pertinent, relevant, or interesting emails received by HFR  
HFR has not received any pertinent, relevant, or interesting emails.
  - 6.2. Information from SUS
    - SUS is a currently understaffed, but a third ombudsman has just started working for SUS at 50% and will increase to 100% by this semester. A fourth ombudsman will start in January 2023 which would make it a full team.
    - An additional member, a fifth ombudsman who will be working at 50% will be hired to specifically help students with individual cases



such as students' rights. SUS has recently released an advertisement for this position which was also included in the newsletter sent to student and PhD councils.

- SUS is also working on a revised list of student groups which students are to be represented in. There might be changes to the number of student representatives elected to each group and there might also be new groups. Additionally, the document will include whether non-Swedish speaking students (international students) can be representatives in each group with English as the main working language. This document will be published in the middle of November.
- Project funding can be applied until October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- SUS has reworked their website to include contact information for all student and PhD student councils in one page, rather than separate pages for each language (English and Swedish). The new page will be published both in English and Swedish.

6.3. Information from the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

6.3.1. Item to discuss or clarify at the next meeting with the Dean.

No meeting with the Dean has taken place since the September meeting.

6.4. Central PhD council (CDR)

No report received from the student representative; possibly because no meeting has taken place since the last HFR meeting.

6.5. Central Student council (CSR)

No CSR meeting has been held since the last HFR meeting.

6.6. Humanities Faculty Board

The Philosophy Department has extended their exception so that prospective PhD students can apply to the program despite not finishing their master studies yet, as long as the requirements have been fulfilled before the start of the PhD program. This exception is unique to the Philosophy department which has been the case for the past three years. The Linguistics department is also considering this requirement but has not applied it yet. The Humanities Faculty Board will continue to monitor this method to see if this could be good for other departments to employ so that there will be more students applying for PhD positions.

6.7. Academic Appointment Board – Historical and Philosophical Subjects

They held interviews for a lecturer position in Global History for the History Institute, but the student representative wasn't present for the



interviews, so they are not sure of how the interviews went.

6.8. Academic Appointment Board – Language Science Subjects

There were interviews held for the position of Director of Computational Linguistics, but the student representative was not present for the interview as they knew the people involved and wanted to avoid a conflict of interest. However, they had a discussion regarding pedagogical merits such as re-introducing lectures (1 hour) in the interview process and the current interview format only includes a 10-minute presentation. SU is one of the few universities that has this format, and a lecture would be far more beneficial to the pedagogical evaluation for new hires for lecturers.

6.9. Committee for Budgetary Management

The student representative wasn't present at the HFR meeting.

6.10. Språkstudion Reference Group

No meeting has been held since the last HFR meeting.

6.11. Board for Education and Quality (HUGO)

- Distribution of funds from the research school's resource for Quality Assurance Activities – from the 3rd round call for applications, 7 requests for funding came in. 4 were approved as is, 1 was approved for a lower amount, and 2 were discussed further during the meeting (unsure of the recommendation the committee came to). Also, HUGO is putting together its quality report for 2021/2022.
- Regarding the quality report for 2021/2022, there was discussion around how to increase focus on sustainability. A survey was sent out at the beginning of the year and the response showed that social sustainability is the dimension judged to be most relevant for education within the humanities. There also appeared a need for more information on how the concept of sustainability can be interpreted and how it can be integrated into the training courses. The survey response led to the creation of a panel which is planning a workshop to train the directors of studies in sustainable development. The issue of clearer communication to students about the faculty's contribution in this area has also been raised.
- Over the year, HUGO has been discussing how courses within the Humanities can give students appropriate opportunities to meet the degree requirement “to demonstrate the ability to perform



tasks within given time frames”. Further discussion is planned with the directors of studies.

- 6.12. Centre for Indo-European Languages and Cultural Studies  
No student representative has been elected to this group.

## 7. Discussion points

### 7.1. PhD student group

- The new format of forum for PhD students remains unclear as not every council has received the invitation to the forum. This could be due to the fact that the invitation sender might not have the updated list of student representatives. Some invitations have been sent to the previous chairs of the councils.
- There will be an informal meet up for PhD students to mingle and get to know each other at Kåriander on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.
- Some PhD students would like to find out how the following cost-cutting measures have affected the learning experience of BA and MA students: - packing too many students in one hall or classroom; less hiring of PhD students; and cutting of hours of introductory students.
- A suggestion was made that PhD students have a post-defense doctoral studies evaluation with their supervisors as a lot of PhD students feel that after all ties are cut to the department after their defense. This way, students and their supervisors can discuss what went well during their studies and ways the department can improve the learning experience of PhD students.

### 7.2. Masters and Bachelor's student group

- Students have experienced problem with Athena during online examinations because a high number of students log in at the same time while doing the exams which causes the platform to slow down. Subsequently, the log takes much longer time whilst some students are barely log in. This takes away time from completing the examination.
- Incorporating sustainability in education - Students think that the current course requirements compel them to buy more literature than what is necessary (they only have to read very little of the book) for every course, and that it's a waste of resources.
- Student finances - Students have suggested that a loyalty program with a coffee card would help students save money since they purchase and consume a lot of coffee.
- A student suggested that the university should provide housing instead of aiming to lower the rent. The starting point should be housing security because moving around not only causes a tremendous amount of stress, but also is time and cost consuming. Housing insecurity is a more cause

of concern than expensive rents.

- Also, some students stay in a student housing for many years when new students should be prioritized (the student thinks that you shouldn't be able to take advantage of student housing like that for such a long time).
- Allhuset can be converted to student dorms and that the university should build on top of the building to create more apartments.

8. Decision points (Elections and notice of available positions)

8.1. Committee for Budgetary Management

Karl Lysén was elected as a student representative.

8.2. Språkstudion Reference Group

Tinna Valgeirsdóttir was elected as a student representative as Natalia stepped down from the position.

8.3. Central PhD student council CDR

Sofia Warkander was elected a student representative.

8.4. Secretary of HFR

No one was elected.

8.5. Future meeting format

A majority voted for a hybrid version of meetings where half the meetings will be in person and the other half will be held on Zoom.

9. Other questions

No other questions.

10. End of meeting

The meeting ended at 15:44.



Sherry Deborah Israel  
Chairperson of HFR



Hermela Embaye  
Vice Chairperson of HFR