

# Verksamhetsberättelse för 2018/19

## Activity report for 2018/19

PhD Student Council at the Faculty of Science and Engineering -- Teknisk-naturvetenskapliga doktorandrådet (TNDR)

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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### The board

The board consisted of:

Chair:	Anna E. Frost, Engineering Sciences
Vice-chair:	Tobias Warnatz, Physics and Astronomy
Secretary:	Gwenna Breton, Organismal Biology
Treasurer:	Agne Ciuciulkaite, Physics and Astronomy
IT officer:	Tatiana Potapenko, Engineering Sciences
Social organizers:	Belinda Rimgard, Chemistry - Ångström, and Georgios Niarchos, Earth Sciences

Ten TNDR board meetings were held during the fiscal year:

- July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at ITC6143, Polacksbacken
- August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Luftrummet, Geocentrum
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Å12630, Ångström laboratory
- October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at room 07-1051, EBC
- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Luftrummet, Geocentrum
- December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Å12630, Ångström laboratory
- January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the meeting room of the Human Evolution program, EBC
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at Ångström visualization lab, Å11240, Ångström Laboratory
- May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Luftrummet, Geocentrum
- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at room 07-1051, EBC

In between, the board had discussions over email on various TNDR issues and activities. The whole board from the previous year as well as the TNDR chair for the year before that were invited to the first board meeting in July 2018.

The election committee consisted of Johann Schmidt (chair) and Mohsen Bazargan. The auditor for TNDR for the financial year 2018/19 is Frauke Augstein.

## **Council Meetings**

Five TNDR council meetings were held:

1. September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: A9:017b, BMC

Number of participants: 10

Details: The council reviewed the financial report for 2017/18, the auditor's report, and relief of responsibility for the board. Some vacant representative positions were filled.

2. November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: Å4004, Ångström laboratory

Number of participants: 17

Details: The council meeting filled some vacant representative positions. Directly after the council meeting, there was a brainstorming session where PhD students could give their ideas on what the faculty, TNDR, and PhD student representatives should do.

3. January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Where: Beurlingrummet, Å10238, Ångström laboratory

Number of participants: 17

Details: Before the council meeting the university library gave a demonstration of the Ångström visualization lab as well as the Maker-space at Ångström. The council meeting went through the half-year activity report and the half-year financial report. One vacant representative position was filled.

4. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Where: Interactive classroom, 10-203, Blåsenhus

Number of participants: 8

Details: Before the council meeting the participants got an introduction to the interactive classroom and how it can be used in teaching. The council meeting discussed possible alumni activities for PhD students and ate “sempla” (traditional Swedish bun with almond paste and whipped cream). One vacant representative position was filled.

5. June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Where: 6K1113, Ångström laboratory

Number of participants: Approximately 20

Details: The annual meeting of TNDR.

The council meetings should be in different geographical locations within the faculty, in order to encourage students from all campuses to attend the meetings. During the last year, the council meetings have been at Ångström, BMC, and Blåsenhus.

## Representation

TNDR has elected representatives for the faculty board, the graduate education board, the doctoral board, the faculty equality board, the recruitment board, etc. All representatives are listed in the table below. People who were not elected at the annual meeting 2018 have the month they were elected in parenthesis after their name.

<b>Organ</b>	<b>PhD-student representative/-s</b>
Doctoral board	Gwenna Breton and Anna Frost Deputies: Svenja Lohmann (September) and Huu-Phuc Vo (November)
Faculty board	Anna Frost and Karla Münzner Deputy: Frauke Augstein
Research subcommittee	Viktor Djurberg (January)
Education subcommittee	Belinda Rimgard
Collaboration subcommittee	Johann Schmidt
Graduate education board	Gwenna Breton (September) and Katharina Rudisch
Faculty scholarship board	Georgii Shamuilov (September)
Library committee	Gustav Mörée
Recruitment committee	Tomas Löthman (September) Deputy: Mohsen Bazargan (November)
Associate professorship committee	Frauke Augstein Deputy: Viktor Djurberg (November)

Equality committee	Astrid Nilsen-Moe
International Science Program (ISP)	Agne Ciuciulkaite
Centre for Discipline-Based Education Research (MINT)	Jennifer Leijon (March)
Centre for Interdisciplinary Mathematics (CIM)	Elizabeth Wetzer (September)
Upptech	Matthew Davis (November)
UPPMAX board	Willem Jaspers (September)
Tandem board	Svenja Lohmann (September)

One position in the research subcommittee and the position on the board for admission of excellent teachers were vacant the whole working year. There are fewer vacant positions than there have been in the previous two working years.

One major obstacle to find representatives is that many committees and boards require knowledge in Swedish. According to The Diversity Report 2016 from Uppsala University, 64% of the PhD students at the Faculty of Science and Engineering are born outside of Sweden. The two vacant positions require Swedish knowledge.

No representative was elected to the UPMARC board since the project will end. A representative was elected for the university scholarship board, but TNDR received the information that TNDR is not responsible for electing a PhD representative on the university scholarship board anymore.

### **Report from the doctoral board (DN)**

During the year 2018/19, the Doctoral Board (DN) had nine meetings, approximately one per month. The tenth and last meeting will happen on June 11<sup>th</sup>. There was at least one PhD student representative attending each meeting, and most often two PhD student representatives. In particular, one representative attended the May meeting during which representatives were elected for the year 2019/20.

Uppsala University has been working on a Language policy. The student unions were consulted and they asked DN to comment on the Language policy. The chair of DN summarized the comments of the DN board. The language policy was finalized by the end of 2018.

Another important project for Uppsala University is the revision of the UU document 'Mission, Objectives, and Strategies'. DN received a visit of the deputy vice-chancellor Anders Malmberg, who is leading the project. Following his visit, DN wrote a statement of the PhD students' perspective to help with the project. One of the DN vice-chairs represented PhD students' opinion on the draft during a seminar on April 2.

A working group was started, with the aim to formulate and conduct a PhD survey. The survey might become recurring to see how PhD studies change over time at the university. Gwenna Breton, from the Faculty of Science and Engineering, has volunteered to be in the

group. A link to answer the survey has been sent to all PhD students at Uppsala University in May. Results will be presented to DN and to relevant boards.

UU is working on guidelines regarding stipend PhD students. The general trend is to favor employment rather than stipends.

The Chair of DN is working on a handbook about DN, which will be useful for future representatives.

DN and Kårsamverkam have contacted the vice-chancellor management office concerning the issues of sexual harassment at UU.

### **Report from the faculty board (FN)**

During 2018/19, there have been six meetings with the faculty board (FN), whereof two were lunch-to-lunch meetings. There was at least one PhD student representative attending all meetings. The last meeting is on June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

Especially noteworthy for PhD students is that FN adopted guidelines for the evaluation of PhD education. Upon Anna Frost's suggestion, academic teaching as an important competence for an academic carrier was included as an example in the section about future perspectives of PhD students. FN also decided that professors responsible for postgraduate studies of larger programs can delegate some of their tasks to reduce their workload. Those changes have also been added to the rules and procedures of the faculty.

There is a working group looking over the rules and procedures at the faculty. A first referral (remiss) from that group was sent out in April asking mainly about which constitution of the faculty board would be desirable. A second referral with a more finalized suggestion on new rules and procedures is expected to come after the summer.

One of the major things which will happen during 2018 and 2019 is a review of the basic funding of research programs (översyn av forskningsprogrammets basfinansiering - ÖB19). The faculty's Activity Plan 2019 (Verksamhetsplan 2019) was finalized during autumn 2018. There have also been discussions regarding the internationalization of the faculty, including determining missions and goals with the internationalization. FN also decided upon official translation of some academic titles, to get a more homogenized vocabulary at the faculty.

There is a suggestion to split the Engineering Department into three parts. The final decision will be made by the university assembly (Universitetskollegiet). Most likely the new three departments will be within electrical engineering, materials engineering, and industrial and civil engineering. The plan is that the split will be prepared during the autumn 2019 and start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The suggestions for the constitution of the university assembly was discussed and the faculty board decided based on the opinion of the departments to answer the university board that TekNat prefers the option which would imply that "remaining employees" would be represented directly and not through the union but which at the same time means less student representation.

In addition, deputy of the vice-chancellor Anders Malmberg presented the work on the new document summarizing the aims and strategies of Uppsala University and ask the faculty board about their opinions and ideas.

## **Report from the graduate education board (FUN)**

During the year 2018/19, the Graduate Education Board had eight meetings (including one per capsulam). There was also an internat (lunch to lunch meeting) in May, as well as a meeting with the FUAP (Forskarutbildningsansvarig professor), and a meeting with the FUS (Forskarutbildningsstudierektor – Directors of PhD studies). The last meeting will happen on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There was one or two PhD student representative(s) attending all of the meetings.

One current important topic is the Evaluation of PhD education (“Utbildningsutvärderingar på forskarnivå”) which will start in September 2019 with the Technology section. Part of the evaluation will be done by an external panel, composed among others of one PhD student from another university. TNDR is in charge of recruiting PhD students for this task. The two FUN representatives and Georgii Shamuilov have sent out a call to fourteen (PhD)-student boards in Sweden to find representatives for the first three sections to be evaluated. Some of the representatives will be elected during TNDR annual meeting. This process should be done again in fall 2019 and in spring 2020 to find PhD students for the evaluation committees for the remaining sections. During this first call for applications, we received 3 applications from 2 different universities. To increase the number of applications, the call for applications could be sent out earlier and using other channels to reach PhD students from other universities because we question whether all of the boards forwarded our email.

During a meeting with FUS, the new study plan template was presented as well as suggestions to fill the “Progression” section using the “SMART goals” method (Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Time-bound).

It was decided that from 2019 the FUAP will be able to delegate some of their tasks to another professor.

One of the interesting ideas that were brought up was to introduce a “Congratulations letter” sent to each PhD supervisor when a new PhD student starts. The letter should congratulate and also remind of the duties of the supervisor. The idea is to make the supervisor feel included in the faculty and responsible for the student. A draft was made for this letter.

The PhD student representatives have asked whether a “Scientific Swedish course” would fall in the criteria for the faculty-wide PhD courses. It was not completely ruled out but the proposal did not receive much enthusiasm. Some critics were that it would be too domain specific; that it is not a goal of PhD education; and who could give such a course?

The faculty is working on guidelines for stipend PhD students and FUN gave feedback and a draft. Stipends will be allowed in some circumstances only, for example EU projects or for students from certain countries. All exceptions will require agreements between UU (department, faculty, or university-wide) and the partner. Particular attention will be given with respect to sick and parental leave, holidays, etc. It is also planned to make a document summarizing what it means to be employed versus to have a stipend.

A working group at FUN is focusing on the idea of having a “pre-check” of the doctoral thesis four months before the defense. The committee would recommend the defense to be allowed or not.

The new internationalization goals from TekNat faculty board were discussed, in particular the goal that 25% of doctoral students spend at least one semester abroad during their studies.

## Social Activities

This year, TNDR has organized the following social activities:

1. September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: EBC

Title: Board Game Night

Number of participants: 40

Details: Several board games and card games available. TNDR provided pizza, snacks, and sodas for the participants.

2. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: The nations

Title: Pub crawl

Number of participants: 20

Details: The PhD students could together explore different nations. Starting at Norrlands, ten different nation pubs were visited.

3. November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: Ångström

Title: Murder Mystery Game

Number of participants: 80

Details: Murder mystery role-playing game; an annual favorite.

4. December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Where: Ångström lunchroom floor 4

Title: Insane Christmas Party

Number of participants: About 10

Details: Potluck dinner with an “insane” Christmas theme.

5. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Where: Östgöta nation

Title: PhD Gasque

Number of participants: About 200 from the whole university, with the majority being from the faculty of science and engineering.

Details: Dinner party including quizzes, live music, a speech from the chair of the doctoral board and more.

Social events were also organized during the PhD days, see below.

## PhD days

The PhD days are a social and academic event consisting of lectures, workshops, and opportunities for socializing with colleagues. The PhD days for this year took place at EBC, BMC, and Ångström between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. The PhD days 2019 included three themes, one for each day; lectures offered were focused on work environment, work tools, and career. The themes were selected based on an “express-your-interest” survey that took place at the early stages of the planning. One social activity was planned for each day of the event.

During the first day (work environment theme), presentations covered the topics of sexual harassment, stress management, and suppression techniques. The participants also had the chance to meet their representatives and express interest for available positions. The first day's social activity was planned to be a Kubb tournament but was canceled due to bad weather. Second day's workshops included a variety of seminars on different software such as Rhinoceros, Arduino, Python, and Mendeley. Second day's activity was a board game night. The last day's theme was focused on career development, including lectures on how to choose the right career path, the rights of PhD graduates (Trygghetsstiftelsen, Migrationsverket), and insights from alumni coming from different departments. The final event of the PhD days was a "Pub crawl", during which students visited different nations and participated in a puzzle challenge. Each speaker of the PhD Days received a book as a thank you gift from TNDR.

In total, approximately 100 people showed interest in the "express your interest" survey and signed up for the event. For certain seminars, fewer people showed up than the ones that originally registered. While participation varied among the offered lectures, an estimation of the average participation rate is about 50% of the PhD students who signed up. For the social activity "Board game night" about 50 people participated, including visitors from Linköping University, while the Pub Crawl attracted 12 students. A takeaway point for the subsequent PhD Days is to consider hosting them earlier in the year, to potentially increase participation rates.

## **Information and website**

The website of TNDR has undergone continuous updates for the website platform and its security system during 2018/19. The information on board members was updated at the website together with the corresponding contacts. Information about events, such as board and council meetings has been continuously posted on the web page with a brief overview of the agenda. Apart from uploading relevant documents, e.g., minutes from TNDR's council meetings, we noticed that the administrator rights for some tasks of the TNDR website as well as TNDR's social network accounts still lay in the hands of previous TNDR board members. This situation has now been solved. Web domain account was connected to unavailable email address. However, the address was recovered and security information was updated for the sake of communication between web domain account and IT officer.

There are two different introduction courses for PhD students at the faculty; one at EBC and one at Ångström, BMC, and Geocentrum. TNDR visited both during week 43 and held a 45-minute presentation about rights, obligations, and representation for PhD students. TNDR visited courses at Ångström, BMC, and Geocentrum again during week 12. Furthermore, TNDR representatives attended the IBG course information events (one per semester) to inform bachelor and master students about possibilities and the daily life of PhD students at the faculty.

Several times during the year information emails were sent out to all PhD-students at the faculty. The first one was sent out in August and contained information about what TNDR is, when the next council meeting will be held, and TNDR financial grant. In September information was sent out regarding three upcoming social events (board game night, pub crawl, and Murder Mystery), a link to the evaluations of postgraduate education at each department, when the next council meeting is, and information that TNDR will visit both the introduction courses at the faculty. In November information regarding the TNDR financial

grant, asking for input about the process to review the rules and procedures at the faculty, and linking to a webinar about PhD students' employment conditions and rights. In February a request for a PhD student which could help to evaluate the postgraduate studies at the faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy and a pusher for a seminar with information for non-Swedish employees. In May information regarding a kubb-tournament, organized through the TNDR grant, information regarding the PhD days, and information on how to apply for positions as PhD student representatives at the faculty was sent out.

## **Summary of focus areas of TNDR in 2018/19**

In the activity plan decided upon at the annual meeting in May 2018, some specific points were about what TNDR should focus on during 2018/19.

### **Information to newly elected representatives**

During the brainstorming session right after the council meeting in November, all attending PhD students received information about what the bylaws say that the representatives should do. All attending PhD students also got the opportunity to say what they expect from the representatives.

### **Rewriting the bylaws**

The board has been working on a draft for new bylaws during the autumn. A draft of new bylaws was discussed at the council meeting in March 2019. After the council meeting in March, some final improvements were made and a final suggestion from the board was sent out with the call to the annual meeting. The council will decide whether to approve the new bylaws or to keep the current option during the annual meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Following up on the survey about the teaching situation for PhD students**

During 2017/18 TNDR conducted a survey about the teaching situation for PhD students. During this fiscal year, TNDR continued spreading information about the results. Chair Anna E. Frost visited the education subcommittee on August 31<sup>st</sup> as well as TUK 2019 on March 19<sup>th</sup> to present the results from the survey.

The introduction course for new PhD students at Ångström, BMC, and Geocentrum have added a lecture about teaching after the course responsible got informed about the results from the survey. The lecture was first in place when the course was given during the autumn 2018 and was given again when the course was given during spring 2019.

### **TNDR financial support**

In order to increase TNDRs visibility across the faculty and to strengthen initiatives to create representation structures at departments, TNDR established the TNDR financial support during 2017. TNDR financial support continued this fiscal year. Five different initiatives were supported with SEK1'000 each during HT18 and five more initiatives have been approved for VT19. There were six applications for HT18 and ten applications for VT19.

The initiatives for HT18 were distributed among different departments. The financial support was mainly dedicated for fika in projects which otherwise have no costs, such as Shut-up-and-write, or where other costs were covered by another project, such as the joint workshop between Astronomy and researchers from Stockholm University.

Initiatives for HT18:

- Fika during networking meetings at Theoretical physics
- Fika at a workshop between Astronomy and researchers from Stockholm University
- Fika during “Shut-up-and-write” sessions at EBC
- Fika and gift for invited speakers during a seminar series at ICM
- Pizza during a joint board game night at Theoretical physics, and Algebra and geometry division

Initiatives for VT19:

- Pizza, snacks, and soft drinks at board game nights at Ångström, ITC, and Geocentrum
- Kubb-tournament for PhD-students preliminary at Geocentrum
- Trying curling for PhD-students at the department of Mathematics
- Fika during “Shut-up-and-write” sessions at EBC
- Seminar about non-academic career options at BMC and EBC

## **Miscellaneous activities**

The faculty has put together a working group which should look over the faculty’s rules and procedures. Anna E. Frost is on the workgroup to bring the PhD student perspective.

A new dean for research was elected in September 2018. Three PhD representatives, Tobias Warnatz, Belinda Rimgard, and Frauke Augstein, were present to ask questions and give their opinion on the candidates.

A new deputy vice-chancellor was suggested in February 2019. Two PhD representatives, Anna E. Frost and Tobias Warnatz, were present to ask questions and give their opinion on the candidates.