

Teknisk-naturvetenskapliga doktorandrådet

Minutes for council meeting, Monday September 28 at 1 pm
Ångström – Beurlingrummet

Participants

Li Balkeståhl	Phys-Astr
Vivekanand Shukla	Phys-Astr
Iulia Brumboiu	Phys-Astr
Dorothea Ledinek	Engineering Sciences
Zahedeh Bashardanesh	Cell & Molecular Biology / Center for Interdisciplinary Math
Diana Fuentes	Earth Sciences
Andreas Frisk	Phys-Astr
Rasmus Luthander	Engineering Sciences
David Lingfors	Engineering Sciences
Lee Fowler	Engineering Sciences
Timofey Mukha	Engineering Sciences
Petter Bertilsson Forsberg	Engineering Sciences
Katharina Rudisch	Engineering Sciences

Minutes

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
Chair Rasmus Luthander greeted all attending and opened the meeting at 13:15.
- 2. Co-optations**
There were no co-optations.
- 3. Election of meeting secretary**
David Lingfors was elected meeting secretary.
- 4. Election of attestant and teller**
Iulia Brumboiu was elected attestant and teller.
- 5. Approval of call procedure**
The call for the meeting was approved.
- 6. Approval of agenda**
The agenda was approved.
- 7. Postponing of the discharge of the previous board to next council meeting**
The decision is postponed until the next meeting
- 8. Approval of minutes from previous meeting**
The minutes from the council meeting on May 28, 2015 were approved.
- 9. Election of vacant positions**

- (a) TNDR secretary (1 regular)
David Lingfors was elected.
- (b) TNDR election committee (at least 2 regular)
Postponed until next meeting.
- (c) TNDR auditor (1 regular)
Alexander Edström was re-elected.
- (d) Research committee (2 regular)
Dorothea Ledinek was re-elected. Election of one regular position postponed until next meeting.
- (e) Collaboration committee (1 regular)
Petter Bertilsson Forsberg was elected.
- (f) Recruitment/Appointment committee (1 deputy)
Postponed until next meeting.
- (g) Board of appointment of associate professors (1 regular, 1 deputy)
Dorothea Ledinek was elected as regular. Deputy election postponed until next meeting.
- (h) Board of appointment of excellent teachers (1 regular)
Iulia Brumboiu was elected.
- (i) Library collaboration committee (1 regular)
Postponed until next meeting.
- (j) UPPMARC (1 regular, 1 deputy)
Stavros Aronis was elected as regular and Fredrik Wahlberg as deputy.
- (k) UPPMAX (1 deputy)
Timofey Mukha was elected as deputy.

10. Current financial position

Iulia presented the current status. The student union will pay around 10 000 SEK less this year which implies application for more money from the faculty.

11. Activities and ideas for 2015/2016

- (a) More social events together with other faculties



- (b) Increase visibility of TNDR, committees and boards
For example with a newsletter with reports from representatives of boards and committees. The best way of doing this was discussed. Should the title of each board meeting be included in the newsletter with link to the written report or should a short summary (a few words) be included directly in the newsletter?
- (c) Prolongation for representatives
The list for prolongation for all representatives will be updated. It is not clear today what the compensation is for different board representatives at faculty level. For some positions the university rules found in UFV 2014/72 are applied.
- (d) Condition for scholarship students
'Utbildningsbidrag' is not allowed at the university. However scholarships, for example Erasmus Mundus, should be compensated according to the doctoral salary ladder. Scholarships are commonly lower than regular doctoral student salaries. Also, it is difficult for scholarship students to change supervisor. The PhD student ombudsman will look into the scholarship employment conditions this year and Vivekanand Shukla from the board will do this also. Anyone else interested could contact Rasmus Luthander.
- (e) Joint course list at each department and/or the whole faculty
Would be desirable, but difficult to implement.
- (f) Web design updates
A few web design issues were discussed. Vivekanand Shukla will make a few updates.

12. Social events

Diana commented on activities already done. People are keeping in touch after the events which is good. Coming up is beer tasting night and a screening for 'the PhD movie 2'. Posters will be distributed to raise money for the screening. Knitting and origami courses are also coming up.

13. PhD students day(s)

Next year PhD days will be held in May. The outline will be discussed by the social events committee. A working group should be formatted to plan for the PhD day(s). Zahedeh, Diana, Iulia and Petter will be part of this group and others are welcome to join.

14. Messages

(a) Faculty board

Vice dean for research Kristina Edström was reporting about the governmental proposition that the condition for young researchers should be improved.

'Basanslag' will be prioritized, probably meaning that TekNat will get less funding and HumSam will get more.

The government also wants higher research output for what is invested. This has declined over the past few years.

SciFest will include other faculties, and also SLU. TekNat can not finance it due to other

activity ('Teknikåttant' for pupils in the eighth grade)

A plan of action for internationalization at TekNat has been compiled.

(b) Graduate education board

The pedagogical course has been updated and is currently evaluated. A dedicated course for teaching mathematics was desired from the department of mathematics. Dorothea suggests that the general pedagogical course should be divided into a shorter general course and a subject-oriented course on department level could be introduced instead. The bridge is missing to subject-oriented teaching today and this could be worked on. Application of joint PhD position (Sweden/France) was discussed. Guidelines for these kinds of positions should be worked out.

Study plan; should this really be discussed by graduate education board or on a different level within the faculty? Visa application are today handed out before employment, but Visas are at the same time needed to get employed. This has worked before but now Skatteverket can not do this anymore. A solution will be further discussed in the board.

(c) PhD student board

No chair at the moment.

(d) Others

Attached to these minutes is a report from Dorothea of the activity in the equality committee board, associate professor board and research committee.

15. Other issues

The Biology Education Centre (IBG) is hosting a course information event at the 30th of September 14:00-16:00. Excellent opportunity to inform Master students about PhD studies. Poster presentation possible. Anyone interested to participate? Contact Rasmus Luthander if interested.

Representatives: send in summary of meetings!

Certificates for representatives for 2014-2015 were handed out. Contact Rasmus Luthander if you have not yet received your certificate.

16. Closing the meeting at 15:00



David Lingfors, secretary



Rasmus Luthander, chair



Iulia Brumboiu, attestant

Reports from representatives

- Faculty board (Fakultetsnämnden)
- Faculty equality committee (Utskottet för lika villkor)
- Associate professorship board (Docenturnämnden)
- Research committee (Forskningsberedningen)

Faculty board (Fakultetsnämnden) – Rasmus Luthander

In the faculty board, issues about the whole faculty are discussed. Much is based upon reports from the three subcommittees at the faculty – research, education and collaboration committee. Here is a short summary of issues regarding research and PhD students.

The head of the research committee Kristina Edström gave a report from the governmental research committee (Regeringens forskningsberedning), which she is a part of. In brief, the government wants Sweden to be a leading research nation. They will also have more research per invested amount of money, since the trend in Sweden has declined during the past few years,. It is however unclear how they measure and evaluate research.

Important for PhD students who want to continue within the academia is also that the government wants to improve the conditions for young researchers, like career paths, follow ups after three years and so on. Equality aspects should also be taken into consideration when funding is distributed to researchers.

It was also discussed how many persons with a doctoral degree the society needs in the long run. Today, it is cheaper to employ postdocs than PhD students, since a postdoc often come up with more results in a shorter time-period than PhD students and they do not need the same amount of supervision (i.e. money), but the society, like companies, organizations and the public sector are still in need of persons with a PhD degree and therefore it is important not only to focus on postdocs.

The head of the collaboration committee reported that the faculty (TekNat) wants to continue with SciFest, since it was regarded as successful last time. Funding for the project was however a problem, since TekNat is also responsible for another arrangement, called “Teknikåttan”. An idea was therefore to involve other faculties at the university as well as SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences). Moreover, both ABB and Uppsala municipality have representatives in the collaboration committee, and they want to continue to collaborate with the university in research and education.

TNDR will together with UTN from now on have regular pre-meetings with the secretary of the faculty board, to discuss issues before the meeting starts. Exactly what will be discussed is not yet clear.

Faculty equality committee (Lika villkor utskott) – Dorothea Ledinek

I missed the first meeting as I was on holiday. At the second meeting we discussed mostly three subjects:

1) How to support women without discriminating against men.

A Swedish university was recently sued for having discriminated against a man as they sent out an e-mail about funding only to the underrepresented group (women) and the university lost the case. In the previous meeting we got some advice from a lawyer. The university will no longer fund special positions only for women or run mentorship programs only for women. There might however be activities like mentorship programs with a gender focus, but both men and women will be able to apply. Men should know about gender issues too.

2) How to formulate a suggestion for extra months after a long absence (like a parental leave)

The original suggestion by the Marika Edoff was to support employees only after a long leave of uninterrupted absence (for example 4 or 6 months). I and some others in the committee argued however, that it should not matter if one takes out those four or six months at once or splits them up over a whole year or even takes 50% off for 8 or 12 months. Only the absolute number of days during a year should matter and not the way they were taken. Marika Edoff will come up with a new suggestion.

3) Lika-behandlingsplan för studenter

The faculty equality committee has the right to comment and make suggestions on the likahandlingsplan för studenter 2016. Unfortunately, the plan focuses only on gender and people with special needs. I have written about 1 ½ pages on how to improve the plan.

Associate professorship board (Docenturnämnden) – Dorothea Ledinek

Apart from approving or delaying applications we discussed about language requirements and teaching requirements. Teaching is in my opinion still undervalued and our approval or disapproval relies mostly on the evaluation by an external expert in the field and on the number of first authored papers. There will be new criteria soon, but we agreed that those still need to be developed further.

Research committee (Forskningsberedningen) – Dorothea Ledinek

Surely the most exhausting meeting so far. I often did not know enough about the matter of discussion and thus could only make some comments.

Apart from decisions that were mostly formalities, we discussed a lot about the following points:

- The future of SFOs, which were recently evaluated by the government.
- The responsibility concerning the fund for material research that finances the clean room at the moment. Responsibility will be shifted from TEKNIK to TEKNAT.
- Prof Lindblad made a short presentation about samverkan.
- We decided to propose to the faculty board that they should help financing the Gröan Gustafsson prize.
- Centers (centrumbildningar) at TEKNAT: The committee was pretty skeptical about centers and wants to ensure that centers give a real added value and do not lead to a parallel structure within the university. A suggestion for starting a center around antibiotic resistance was rejected as it proposed far too large overhead cost.