

Minutes, DS Board Meeting #VT15-3, 2015-02-25

Time: 14.00-17.00

Place: Gamma, Mechanical Engineering Building CTH (Maskinhuset studiesalen), Hörsalsvägen 7A

Point on the agenda

Rapporteur

§1. Opening of meeting

§2. Election of meeting officials

- Chairman - Oskar
- Secretary - Fatemeh
- Someone to adopt the minutes - Alberto

§3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved, Ronja asked to add a point in other issues about input for a workshop in internationalization at Chalmers.

§4. Meeting notice in due order

Invitation and agenda should be sent out no later than 1 week before the meeting.

The meeting notice was found to be in accordance with the statutes.

§5. Minutes from previous meeting

Oskar

The minutes from the previous board meeting (2014-11-11) was approved.

§6. Short news and information from the Chair

Oskar

Reaching out to departments – Good news from Architecture!

- A candidate from Architecture has been supported by the local PhD students to represent them towards the DS board. The candidate is intended to be nominated by us at the general assembly and will participate in some activities in DS from now to get to know the DS board. Architecture has also gotten a local PhD student representative towards the department management and a meeting culture together with the PhD students at the department is intended.
- Still working on the other departments that lack proper representation locally as well as in the DS board. The goal is that we have DS board members from all departments in the

next years board. S2 and AIT is currently missing representatives on the DS board

- Mecenat question: SJ rebate is not solved completely yet, but meanwhile we advice to use Mecenat App to show the student card. Chalmers is working on a solution.
- Discussion on the article for the Sveriges Ingenjörer magazine:
 - The article is about the Swedish academia and the problems in the phd students life
 - Reward/risk ratio is low for us because it is not clear how the answers would be treated. And we have no full picture about the student situation.
 - We could quantify it with respect to the satisfaction survey.
 - Regardless of how we are handling this in the future we have to get approval by the student union
 - They can contact to SACO and DOMB, we suggested.
 - We can have it as a point in a meeting agenda to discuss media strategy in general. We should think about how to proceed if this happens again in the future.
- Some questions from students, Election of new head of departments:
 - PhD students should have a representative when electing a new Head of department according to Chalmers centrally.

§7. Financial and economic update

Virginia

- We have some funding for PhD satisfaction work from Student Union of 30000sek
 - This is for the PhD satisfaction work : a survey was send an earlier year were we reached out and asked the PhD students. Now DS is working on increasing the PhD student satisfaction based on these findings.
- The hours should be sent to Virginia middle of March.

§8. Key topics from the committees

Oskar

- AJK – Virginia on behalf of Maria
 - Work environment regulation is pushing the managers to make sure work place and environment is according to Chalmers guidelines.

- Chalmers will cover for the cost if departments want bike parking with roof and shower. Contact person: Jennica Kjällstrand.
- Chalmers AB Board – Oskar
 - Rector’s selection is done, it was a good process that led to this candidate, student union has an article about the decision.
 - Venture creation at Chalmers: Entrepreneurship experience for PhD students, we will try to make sure they include us in campaign to bring entrepreneurial experiences to all students.
- Chalmers Research Fund – Matteo
 - No news.
- Charm – Alexandra and Ronja
 - 150 people came to talk with us.
 - The arrangement of the science corner can be improved next year, and more companies could be part of it.
- DS homepage – Fatemeh
 - No news.
- Election committee – Ragnar
 - The email will be sent out some time before GA (GA will be sometime in May)
 - It is important to think of and suggest nominees of SS and AIT.
- SFSDK (Swedish National Union of Students)
 - Ragnar will quit next year from that, they elect a new committee in Spring, so if you want to be in there for next year get prepared and inform Ragnar, 4-5 meeting a year (Meetings are in English). 9 members now. Any PhD student can volunteer to be in there. However the elections of the SFSDK members are done before the our GA, therefore we need to find a candidate for SFSDK before the new board is decided.
 - Ragnar will send an email about that to board. It is like applying for a job to get the position in that committee but should be probable to get it by DS support.
 - Evaluate PhD program in each university (by UKÄ),

opinions

- They want to go back and read all the student plans for all PhD students (which is criticized by FUN as well.)
- Some of the suggested work was overlapping with previous projects
- Ragnar will send out info to board.
- Fakultetsrådet – Alexandra
 - Departmental funding: Discussion on how to handle the education of bachelor and master students with the change in the funding system and which parameters should be considered.
 - Faculty is funded 75% from Chalmers now. Some alternative career paths were discussed for employees that are not faculty members (assistant professors).
- FUN – Ronja
 - A professor at Sahlgrenska has started to send out mails to all they he cited in the research groups paper. This has been utterly successful. Could be a Chalmers standard in the future.
 - Evaluation committee for your defense, conflict of interest (challenge) between PhD student, supervisor and opponent.
 - Rules limiting the relation between supervisor and the opponent, (e.g. no shared publications or former PhD student together, in the last years) etc.
 - Money distribution is discussed in relation to the size of the group: some suggestions about the metric like number of PhD students, postdoc etc. A point by Alberto: relate the maximum number of PhD to the number of research assistants and intermediate level seniors are in the group, not to the number of PhD per supervisor.
 - GU will join to make it easier to take courses from GU and vice versa (Except GGS only for Chalmers as they are expensive except joints departments)
- Introduction days – Alberto
 - No news.

- Investigation of departmental work together with local PhD councils – Oskar on behalf of Eskil
 - Some progress in FFF (also in AM), ongoing work. Will spend more time on the DS side of it in future.
- Library Council and Repub – Oskar on behalf of Erik
 - Strategy in Map for the library till 2019
 - Page research.chalmers.se, new portal for our publications
- Newsletter - Alberto, Fatemeh (tech)
 - Probably one newsletter before next GA, and one in conjunction with the GA. Depends on possible content.
- Research misconduct – Matteo
 - One case for misconduct, in 2 weeks will be a meeting.
- SACO and Wage negotiations – Oskar on behalf of Eskil
 - Has been a problem that guest PhD students doesn't get proper compensation.
 - SULF will have a seminar on Work in sweden for foreign PhD students (in May), good to announce this in the newsletter.
- Satisfaction in PhD studies – Virginia and Francesco
 - Toni and Maria is now also brought on the project
 - Francesco and Virginia work on presenting this observation, how is it to be PhD student, at which level should we present, so would make it a seminar in departments, raise awareness about rights, a positive example of PhD/supervisor relation, etc.
 - Important to take a role of coordination of different competences, also make sure to push departments to do a better work
 - The master suppression techniques video and workshop in departments could be interesting, some departments have already had this but not all
 - Everyone should try to give inputs to the workshop to improve this.
 - Toni and Maria should find out how Chalmers defined the policy with respect to the issues.

- Supervisor of the year - Dinesh, Emma, Alberto
 - 15 candidates. Committee selected 2 to interview
 - Criteria are defined from previous years but they can be more clear and decided by the DS board.
 - Committee would write and agree on a candidate and send it out to the board to have extra feedbacks

§9. Discussion point

Oskar

Some guideline discussions for DS main activities.

§10 Discussion point: How do we communicate with departments that lack local representation

Oskar

Some departments lack proper representation, how do we in DS make sure that information travels properly in both directions. Please think of candidates from departments that are missing representation that can be nominated for next business year (Applied Information and Signals and Systems).

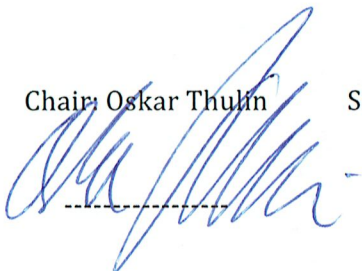
Point deferred to next board meeting.

§11 Other issues

- Ronja (will participate in a panel discussion):
 - How to make Chalmers more internationalized?
 - Double degrees, have research visiting, etc.
 - Send your suggestions and comments to Ronja before tomorrow 26thFeb. 13:00.

§12 Closing of the meeting

Chair: Oskar Thulin



Secretary: Fatemeh Ayatollahi



Adopt the minutes: Alberto Alamia

