

Minutes - DS board meeting

18. ~~October~~ 2014
September

Time: 10:00-13:00

Location: Gamma, Mechanical Engineering Building, Hörsalsvägen 7A

Attending: See attached list + (At 11:55 Ceena joined the meeting.)

Number of pages: 5

Attachments: Attendance list, list of activities.

Points on the agenda – Rapporteur

§1. Opening of the meeting

Oskar Thulin declared the meeting open

§2. Election of meeting officials

Meeting chair: Oskar Thulin

Secretary: Ragnar Larusson

Adopter of meeting minutes: Alexandra Bergman

§3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved. No points were added.

§4. Meeting notice in due order

It was approved that the meeting notice and agenda were in due order.

§5. Minutes from previous meeting

New business year, no previous board minutes.

§6. Election of representatives for positions in Chalmers committees – Oskar

The list of activities was discussed and DS representatives for the various committees selected. The list of activities along with the responsible people is attached to the minutes. This list will also be available on our shared directory along with some comments on how/why each person got selected.

During these discussion the following was also discussed / announced:

Karin will quit DS due to other obligations.

On the next GA we might want to elect a new member from the future K-department and hopefully Signals and Systems, Architecture and applied information technology as well since we lack a representative from there.

Some discussion regarding how to manage the meeting “fika” took place as well (Pay for all or buy for all?). Nothing was decided.

§7. Financial and economic update - Virginia

Virginia informed DS on the current budget and the fact that there is an accumulated budget deficit from the last two years of around 68 thousand SEK. This is because the DOMB cost exceeded the amount that DS gets from CHALMERS to fund DOMB and that extra cost was not accounted for correctly. The accounting procedures are such that errors in regards to the DOMB costs have occurred on more than one occasion during the years and found out towards the end of last fiscal year. We have confirmation in an email from Alf-Erik that any future extra cost will be paid by CHALMERS but this does not apply retroactively.

This means that DS needs to monitor DOMB activity closely, apply for more money to Alf-Erik in a timely fashion if needed, and understand if and how DS has the faculty to stop DOMB activities and service to the students due to budget restrictions.

Because of this situation, DS members need to be careful on how they allocate time to avoid a budget deficit this year and make sure to send their hours in good time to Virginia. This does not mean DS should not engage in any extra activities but be aware of the current budget status and try to plan ahead.

Eskil pointed out that it is usually the responsibility of the auditor to check if the budget is sensible or not and warn us if it is not.

Virginia expressed her concerns that it is likely that all activities might have to be stopped towards the end of the academic year, as previously occurred. She has estimated that, given the current budget and considering last year activities and correcting for salary increase, that there will be between 20 to 50 thousand SEK left extra activities (that is, activities that are not part of core duties of DS).

A discussion on this year’s budget will continue and Oskar and Virginia will present more details on the next meeting. Virginia will keep the members updated through email.

§8. Discussion on plan of operations 2014/2015 - Oskar

The plan of operations will be postponed to next meeting because of time constrains. Meanwhile, a preliminary plan will be sent out by email that everyone should read and comment on if they see room for improvement.

Oskar requested a suggestion on how to proceed with the work on the PhD student survey DS conducted two years ago and what to do with the results. This should be assigned to Nojan. One point was to shift focus into finding possible solutions to the identified problems

§9. Information – Oskar

DS is open to collaborating with other PhD councils on writing opinion articles.
This is also a very good point to take up with SFS-DK.

At 12:50 Viktor gave us an update on his talk with the union.
The PhD students have been taken out from the trygghetsstiftelsen even though PhD students pay to it. This will be addressed with the union.

§10. Other issues – Oskar

Oskar will meet with people from a recruitment agency regarding finding a new rector for CHALMERS. Eskil said that it is hard for DS to formulate any specific set of qualities we want in a rector now but it is important that DS gets to see the list of candidates when that is ready and give an opinion on those candidates.

One good quality for a rector to have was mentioned and that is that a rector should have some research understanding.

The DS mailing list needs to be limited to the current DS board and the auditor. Eskil and Fatemeh will take care of that.

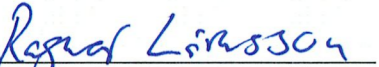
§11. Dates for upcoming meeting


Next meeting will be held in November. A doodle will be sent out.

§12. Closing of the meeting

Oskar Thulin declared the meeting closed.


Oskar Thulin (Chairman)


Ragnar Lárusson (Secretary)


Alexandra Bergman (Sealer of the minutes)

Attachments

1. List of activities

Activity	Responsible
<i>Introduction days</i>	Alberto
<i>Chalmers AB board</i>	Oskar (Chair duty)
<i>AJK</i>	Maria
<i>Fakultetsrådet</i>	Alexandra
<i>FUN</i>	(Need Chair of Vice chair), Ronja
<i>Supervisor of the year</i>	Dinesh, Emma, Ceena, Alberto
<i>Charm</i>	Ronja, Alexandra
<i>Repub</i>	Erik
<i>National PhD issues (SFS-DK)</i>	Ragnar (Elected in his own name)
<i>Chalmers research fund</i>	Matteo, Maria
<i>GUN</i>	Francesco
<i>Research misconduct</i>	Matteo
<i>Library council</i>	Erik
<i>SACO</i>	Eskil, overlap with Viktor
<i>Utbildningsutskottet</i>	
<i>DS webpage</i>	Fatemeh
<i>Wage negotiations</i>	Eskil, overlap with Viktor
<i>Accounting</i>	Virginia (Vice chair duty)
<i>Newsletter</i>	Fatemeh (tech), Alberto, Ceena
<i>Election committee</i>	Ragnar

2. Attendance List

Oskar Thulin	AM
Ragnar Larsson	AM
Eskil Varenius	ESS
VIRGINIA CLAUDIO	TF
Fatemeh Ayatollahi	CSE
Alberto Alamia	ExE
Emma Dingnan Zhang	CEE
Maria Ekström	Mc2
Alexandra Bergman	KB
Karin Jonsson	KB
Matteo Molteni	MV
Rouja Thies	FF
FRANCESCO BALDI	SMT