

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2022/11/16

Time: 12h00 - 13h30

Place: B520

Present: Núria Alcalde Herraiz, Vittorio Buccheri, Ferrand-Drake Del Castillo, Joey Frey, Junjie Li, Hanna Linn, Erik Strandberg, Nermin Trnjanin, Ariadna Soro Álvarez, Martí Gutierrez Latorre

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro Álvarez
- Secretary: Nermin Trnjanin
- Adopt the minutes: Joey Frey

2. **Approval of the agenda:** Unanimously approved

3. **Meeting notice in due order:** yes

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna
 - IT-department came to discuss reduction in financing, new head of IT. More hirings to improve the IT-department.
 - Nominations for a new Rector.
 - New signing up system for GTS courses.
 - Who can become an examiner? Rectors' decision, you must be faculty (Going to be enforced).
 - Hanna brought up the previously discussed issue that TA allocation procedure is problematic, as it is not structured or transparent. LG agrees. Per Rudquist is the main responsible for that, so we want to meet with him. He has tried to gather information from PhD students before by sending a teaching survey, with not much luck, so we need to join forces. To bring to the meeting with Per: Ariadna has a template from E2 on how they distribute and count teaching duties, and Erik will ask Peter Andrekson for a similar template from Photonics. We want to ask Per what exactly is the role of others involved in the teaching allocation process (e.g., Thomas Löfwander).
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Nermin
 - 20-year plan
 - * Need to contribute more in the teaching department
 - * How to work towards excellence

- * External recruitments get starting package (which is already implemented today)
- * Higher general base funding (through increased revenue + less faculty members). Another way would be to increase base funding for already employed faculty who are high achievers. Who will get this funding could be decided through evaluation on a 3-year perspective.
- * Stefan Bengtsson will step down as rector (stay as chairman of university board), so we need to recruit a new rector by the spring 2023
- Supervisor of the year
- JäGR (jämsällldhetsgrupp)
 - * MC2 has about 20-25% female faculty, a single person changes these numbers a lot.
 - * Action points implemented:
 - a. Department day with focus on equality
 - b. GENIE funded family room inaugurated
- It would be good to exchanging information and experiences on supervision (including challenges for PhD students), among supervisors (see re-establishment of supervision forum above) but also between PhD students and supervisors.
- Course on ruler techniques including countermeasures would also be appreciated. Åsa Hedin could recommend a person to lead this.
- Externally funded faculty will be removed. Now we will have staff scientist instead (academic career limited).
- Extra question brought up:
How to handle the VISA situation, requiring non-EU citizens to apply at embassy? This is handled by Chalmers centrally and will not be handled at this meeting
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
 - Analyzing the PhD survey. Will update in the next council meeting.
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Junjie
 - On November 3rd, there was a career seminar in software, digitalization and physics at Volvo cars.
 - Next seminar is on December 8th, with the secretary from VR (Hybrid meeting)
 - There will be a symposium/mingle with master's and bachelor's students on November 24th. PhD students have the chance to do their popular science presentations and present posters.

- Next spring, FFF may host a joint introduction day with all the FFF departments (MC2, Chalmers F, GU F and SEE). We should hold a tour at MC2 for PhD students to get to know the other divisions and the cleanroom.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Ariadna
 - They want to start a series of workshops on topics like leadership, healthy working environments, how to give/ask for feedback, handling harassment, etc., to foment an environment of trust within the department, the divisions and its working groups. The format and the concrete plan are still being discussed.
 - There used to be a “supervisors’ hub”, where faculty members met to discuss supervision issues. This may be organized again. Physics has something similar and the local PhD council met with the supervisors to raise issues in a flipped-classroom style.
 - There used to be a pedagogical award at MC2 but it’s unclear the group would want to bring it back. It could become a good opportunity to have conversations about what makes a good supervisor/teacher
- Dr Genie – Azega
 - No updates. Azega has been very busy lately so Ariadna will talk to her to make sure someone is attending Dr Genie meetings.

5. Other issues

- Alumni network – Nermin, Ariadna
 - Next meeting
- Cleanroom fares – Núria, Ariadna
 - Change in structure of payment to clean room for access and tools
 - Now 200 000 kr per person for a flat rate
 - It seems to affect mostly QDP, as other divisions have different funding sources
 - Hanna will bring it up in the LG
- Course list – Martí
 - Next meeting
- Visa reimbursement – Joey
 - Next meeting

- Actions to take by next meeting:
 - Ariadna: Schedule a meeting with Per Rudquist. Ensure we have representation in Dr Genie.
 - Erik: ask for the Photonics teaching allocation document.
 - Hanna: bring up cleanroom fares at the LG

6. **Next meeting:** 2022-12-14, B618, 12h.

7. **Closing of the meeting:** 13:46