

## MC2 PhD council minutes - 2024/05/17

**Time:** 12h

**Place:** B618

**Present:** Ariadna Soro, Ragnar Ferrand Drake del Castillo, Hanna Karlsson-Fernberg, Nermin Trnjanin, Núria Alclade Herraiz, Patrik Blomberg, Achintya Paradkar, Joey Frey, Isak Brundin, Simon Pettersson Fors [first 30min only]

### Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro
- Secretary: Ariadna Soro
- Adopt the minutes: Núria Alcalde Herraiz

2. **Approval of the agenda:** Yes.

3. **Meeting notice in due order:** Yes (except Sherry, who got the invite two days ago)

### 4. **Extraordinary point – Yata agreement w/ Simon Pettersson Fors**

- Simon is a PhD student at AQP but also owner of the company Yata, together with a PhD student from Physics. Yata is a software tool for teaching, correcting, and discussion forum for students. Yata has been used by Hanna Linn, Ariadna, Erik, and Nermin in the capacity of TA, and by Isak and Núria as students.
- Yata has agreements with other departments at Chalmers (Physics, ACE, MV) and has been running for 5 years. They have also tried to sign with MC2, but MC2 has concerns about conflict of interest due to Simon being employed here. There is an official procedure to resolve such conflicts: the matter needs to be brought up to the Executive Board (LG) and, if it's signed by the Head of Department, the conflict is considered as resolved. This is how it has been dealt with at the other departments. Simon notes that MC2 is not actively resisting signing, since they have not presented arguments against, but they have been putting off the decision whether to sign with Yata or not. Simon wants our support in getting the matter in Executive Board's agenda.
- The department as a whole needs to sign the agreement for *any* course at MC2 to be able to use Yata.
- Per Lundgren and Åsa Haglund support Yata and Simon's this motion, since they want to be able to use the platform.
- We, the PhD student council, don't want to back up Yata in particular, but we do agree that there's a need for more modern tools that helps us teach and moderate discussions among students. Thus, we decide to contact the Executive Board and ask them to discuss how we can improve the education we provide. We urge them to decide on Yata, and if they vote against, they should propose an alternative. Ariadna will contact Magnus about it.

## 5. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Hanna Linn
  - No updates.
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Isak Brundin
  - Types of employment will change. More lecturers and specialists (researchers, engineers), less tenure-track positions. More specialists would help ensure the continuity of knowledge; more lecturers would help ease the teaching load of researchers. Reducing amount of faculty members will help increase the base funding for the remaining faculty members.
  - Chalmers Next Labs AB will expand to other departments outside the quantum testbed.
  - Chips Act will not be based in MC2. LTH, KTH and Chalmers are making an application together for LTH to lead the project. MC2 will still be part of it.
  - All the balconies will be glassed, except the tip which will become a French balcony. This is because of the noise levels.
  - The training seminars in gender balance and harassment have been well received.
  - Recruitment for Head of Department:
    - \* Had interviews with 3 candidates, the group has decided to put 2 of them forward to the next step: meeting with an external firm. Out of the 2 candidates, one is internal, one is external; one is male, one is female.
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Ariadna
  - GA next Monday where a board for 2024/2025 will be elected.
- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Ariadna
  - Planning of FFF seminar on balancing PhD + industry still ongoing. Will probably take place on June 11.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Erik Strandberg
  - The seminar is a good baseline for everyone to take, although for some people it was not that useful (basic concepts).
  - Since people are happy with Paul, the line managers will get the second training. They tried to push to do it before the summer, but Paul has no time, so it'll happen in the fall. He will also repeat the seminar that has been given.
  - New member: Sherry, who will replace Frida Olofsson.
  - A flow chart was made for reporting misconduct at MC2. We gave comments to improve it.

- Dr Genie – Achintya Paradkar
  - Núria takes the Menti for collecting stories of “experiences that surprised me” to create a safe space for people to share their harassment or discrimination experiences. The Menti will be open for max 14 days, but we think that is enough.
  - New elections for members, Achintya will continue.
  - Dr Genie budget has been reduced to 10.000SEK, but there is an open possibility to ask for more if needed.
  - So far, Dr Genie has (co-)organized 7 events.
  - Updates from Maria Elmquist:
    - \* DEI office being set up. Directed by Angela Hillemyr, Head of HR. Applications are now closed. Recruitment group will be formed by Maria Emlquist, Angela Hillemyr, Maria Saline, and a member from Dr Genie (to be decided).
    - \* At each department there will be two representatives: 1) Equality representative: equality focused, elected by the Head of Department. 2) Genie representative: gender equality focused, elected by the faculty body.

## 6. Other issues

- School evaluation – Patrik Blomberg
  - Grad school evaluation report was sent to everyone and is due today. Ariadna gave comments.
  - A highlight of the report: the PhD student council is listed as one of the main strengths of the department regarding doctoral students.
- Department Day – Everyone
  - Not discussed.
- Open access publishing – Ariadna
  - Ariadna reached out to Ann-Sofie to get a timeline of negotiations but has not gotten a reply yet.
- Teaching duties table – Isak
  - No updates.
- Social media updates
  - Ariadna posted Nermin’s trick about printing posters at the ACE department and many people have already used it and thanked for how useful it was. It was posted on Facebook, AQP Slack and QT Slack. Attached at the end of these minutes too.
  - Ragnar made interviews for alumni. We gave feedback. He sent it to a few alumni, we now have answers for a few. Fatemeh’s interview is now on LinkedIn.

- Teaching duties allocation
  - Remember to update it with new PhD students, as well as updating the plans that are probably more definite now!
- TRC – Joey, Achintya, Ariadna
  - Witlef brought up that PhD students report very different experiences with the TRC. They don't seem to be consistent in the requirements.
  - TRC is formed by professors from different departments. Do they have directives on how to proceed with the review?
  - Would be good to have an individual assessment before the discussion.
  - Suggestions: can we add TRC aspect to alumni interviews? Do they talk about TRC in the exit interview? Ariadna will contact Magnus.
- Inclusive products – Núria
  - Hair bands at the cleanroom: Mattias and Petra have been contacted.
  - Menstrual products: talked to Ximena, will talk to the head of the Department.
- Psychological help – Nermin
  - Nermin saw a flyer from GU stating that we can get psychological help from psych students for 100kr. He will email them and ask for more info. Ariadna will share on Facebook once the details are clear.

#### 7. **Actions to take by next meeting.**

- **FROM LAST MEETING:**
- Ariadna: 1) Write Magnus about Yata. 2) Write Magnus about TRC: are there directives for the committee members? Do they talk about the TRC in the exit interviews?
- All: update the Teaching Duties Allocation spreadsheet.
- Ragnar: Add TRC question to the alumni interviews.
- Núria: 1) Check on the status of inclusive products. 2) Send out the text to share the Menti.
- Nermin: contact GU for details on therapy.

8. **Next meeting:** 12 June, 11h30, C511

9. **Closing of the meeting:** 13h59

## **HOW TO PRINT A POSTER AT THE ACE DEPARTMENT**

Did you know you can print posters in the moment AND for free? No need to wait for the Chalmers Printing Service if you're in a hurry! Here's how:

Did you know you can print posters in the moment AND for free? No need to wait for the Chalmers Printing Service if you're in a hurry! Here's how:

- Go to the ACE building (samhällsbyggnad) and enter through the closest entrance to the student union building (Sven Hultins Gata 6)
- Go to the left and downstairs through Kunskapstrappan
- Straight to the end and then right, following the instructions to the Plotterum / Skrivarrum 060
- Choose one of the plotters that is free: either SB1-0138-Plot4 or Plot3
- Go to any group room on that floor that has computers (eg Data 040)
- Sign in with CID and password to one of the computers
- Log into your email and retrieve your poster (you should have emailed it to you beforehand)
- Open the file in Adobe Acrobat Reader and press Print (Ctrl+P)
- Select the printer you want (eg Plot3) and click on Properties
- Go to Paper/Quality > Document size: Custom > Custom...
- Enter the size of poster you want (A0 is width 841mm x length 1189mm), accept and print
- Go to the printer and collect your poster. It will take approximately 5 minutes to print
- Finally, use the cutters in the room to remove any white margins you may not want
- Don't forget to log out on the computer!

I have to say that I used to love printing on fabric, because the poster would fit in my backpack and I wouldn't have to walk around airports with the poster in my hand. However, the last poster I printed on textile looked so bad (faded colors, blurry edges — apparently they have a worse quality fabric now), and I couldn't take it! So after the debacle, I went and printed the poster in ACE. So happy with the result! Thanks Nermin for the valuable tip!

PS. You can find empty poster cases in any of the supply rooms.