

MC2 PhD council minutes - 2024/09/05

Time: 12h00

Place: C511

Present: Nermin Trnjanin, Achintya Paradkar, Núria Alcalde Herraiz (remote), Zeidan Zeidan, Isak Lyngfelt, Sherry Damercheli, Ariadna Soro Álvarez

Election of meeting officials

- Chair: Ariadna Soro
- Secretary: Joey Frey
- Adopt the minutes: Isak Lyngfelt

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

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

4. Updates from boards and committees

- The executive board (Ledningsgruppen, LG) – Zeidan
 - There have been two meetings since last.
 - Meeting 1 before the break
 - * Maria Messing was there, while Magnus was still there as acting prefect. She wanted to see how the meeting went, and she gave a good impression.
 - * There is going to be a new role equality representation for each department at Chalmers.
 - * There was an accident at Chalmers, where someone got hurt. Because of that arbetsmiljöverket wants Chalmers to make a list of all equipment that is built by Chalmers or that is not CE marked. This means that various lab responsible people will need to go through each lab and write up documents. The documents will also cover how to operate the tool.
 - * Göran Johansson has taken over as director of WAQCT.
 - Meeting 2
 - * Maria Messing now held the meeting. They had some feedback from Chalmers, they want to decrease the faculty so that each faculty member has more money. They want to do this naturally by hiring fewer people and let people retire.
 - * They had some feedback from the graduate school, next step is to create some sort of plan based in the feedback.
 - * They were looking to get amanuensis (bachelors and masters) to help with the teaching from students.
 - * 40 different master programs will become 25. They want MC2 to look into a new masters that would be combined with embedded electronic systems master program.

- * They discussed the teaching platforms, and MC2 will do a procurement for what type of systems. Physics does not want to commit to a similar procurement.
- * Its hard to book a meeting with TRC and the members are changed for this year. Before you used to contact Debbie and she would schedule it. Now you need to reach out to the TRC members, and they get back to you with a time slot that works. There have been some feedback that the new system also causes difficulties with scheduling.
- * Now there is a ban for bicycles and scooters indoors.
- * They've been interviewing candidates for the 11 assistant professor positions and next week there will be seminars held that are for everyone. Then anyone can give feedback on how pedagogical they were or how interesting their research was.
- * They talked about recruiting someone for candidates for Genie representative. Any senior person can be the representative. We should consider giving a nomination from PhD council. Achintya will email Victor and see if we can give nominations.
- * They want to move the MC2 relay race to May instead.
- * Maria likes the idea to have a "institutionsdag", the idea is to have it on the 5th of November. There will also be the Christmas party sometime, but date not set.
- * Witlef wanted to discuss who gets each offices, in other departments there is someone who decides offices for the department. Witlef suggest we should get someone similar here, but no conclusion was found.
- Nermin brings out power outage issue.
 - * There was a power outage about three weeks ago which caused the cooling pumps to turn off. This turned off all cooling in the building which shuts down all fridge operations. In worst case, this can destroy samples. There are no current guidelines for spreading this information currently. There needs to be a protocol that the building can notify lab members when such an outage happens. This should be in place for different types of malfunctions in the building, such as pressure, cooling water temperature and air pressure.
- The department's advisory board (Institutionsrådet) – Isak Brundin
 - No update from the advisory board, last meeting was in May. Next meeting is in late October.
- Chalmers PhD student Guild (Doktorandsektionen, DS) – Sherry Damercheli
 - From previous meeting: "Exit interviews are usually held by the heads of the Graduate Schools, but only to the PhD students that graduate get them. We raise this issue at the next meeting with Magnus (HoD) and Sara (HR), after discussing employee survey." – Ariadna asked Magnus and he confirmed that there is no protocol for exit interviews on PhD students that

don't graduate. He said he'll think about it. Do we want to follow up on that?

- The association of graduate students in Physics (Föreningen för Forskarstuderande i Fysik, FFF) – Ariadna / Malte
 - Nothing new.
- Equality group (Jämställdhetsgruppen, Jägr) – Erik Strandberg, Sherry Damercheli
 - There was an equality group meeting a few days ago. They discussed the Chalmers survey. Chalmers central usually only collects the data but then doesn't do anything about it. They also talked about cultural surveys, which are currently being done at Physics. They want to look at potential culture crashes within MC2, we'd need to adapt it so it fits. There is a company called "be engaged" which helps Chalmers with surveys and might be used for this as well.
 - There is a conference called Norndip (Nordic Network for diversity in physics), they are asking if Chalmers wants to host it in the future. They want to decide on key note speakers.
 - They are currently hosting a workshop on bystander effect in physics, but here at MC2 nothing is happened. Achintya will bring it up with HR and Sherry will bring it up with DS and equality group. Frida Olofsson might have more information about potential budget on this.
- Dr Genie – Achintya Paradkar
 - Núria made a menti and implemented feedback. We got feedback from Emma Minarelli feedback that it would be good if this also goes to post-docs.
 - We got some feedback that post-docs also want to be invited to the facebook groups.
 - Achintya will send out the menti.
 - Some of the meeting was used to discuss who should be elected for Dr. Genie positions.
 - There have been different working groups started, such as
 - * Working towards outreach and visibility
 - a. Some work has been done to work together with DS. For example participating in events with pink programming.
 - * Reducing sexual harassment
 - a. They have already gotten approval for a Dr.Genie flagship from Maria Elmquist, that will for example hold some speeches. They have looked at who might be good for this. Secondly they have also worked on some form of panel discussion. Lastly, there will be some type of workshop.
 - b. They are also working towards working more with the new day officer.
 - c. They are also working on getting some kind of canvas page with information.

- * They will look at following up on the letter back from HR about DS demand on Chalmers on actions to protect PhD students.
- * Let's also see if we can get the new department head to maybe fund the workshop on bystander effect.
- * Achintya brings up that some language course might be good for some people. It seems like a lot of issues at MC2 are from poor communications.
- * From now onwards Dr. Genie will be part of the first PhD introduction day.

5. Other issues

- School evaluation – Patrik Blomberg
 - Message from Patrik: In August we had meetings with the physics department (whose self-evaluation report we have read and evaluated) as well as SEE (who has read our self-evaluation report and is set to evaluate it). SEE has not uploaded their report on our self-evaluation whereas we have uploaded ours for the physics department. I personally think there are at least two things which we should take into consideration from their procedures to improve ourselves. Firstly, having joint announcements of new positions has improved the gender balance amongst new employees at physics (exactly why it has improved it is not clear, but it is a nice outcome). Secondly, they provide some extra support for new students through: (1) Buddy program led by their council, i.e. an "older" student is appointed mentor to a new student to help guide them (Ideally, this would occur naturally when a new person joins a lab but that might not always be the case). (2) When a PI is about to announce for a new hire, they must also include a reasonable 6 months start-up project for the soon to be Ph.D student. The student then has something concrete to start working on as they start their position, this is then also to be presented by the student to the supervisor ca six months after starting.
 - Feedback from council
 - * We are still not looking towards joint positions being announced.
 - * The buddy program already happens quite naturally.
 - * Implementing a small project in the beginning sounds like a good idea.
- Meeting with new Head of Department – Ariadna
 - We are meeting Maria Messing, the new Head of Department to introduce ourselves and communicate what issues we would like to focus on the following year. Which issues should those be?
 - * Recurring harassment: back it up with the data from the employee survey. Flow chart for harassment.
 - * Delay of licentiate: many people don't have their licentiate / midterm until year 3 or 4. This should not only cover new students, but also an action plan to get old students on track.

- TRC – Joey, Achintya, Ariadna
 - From previous meeting: “We will conduct the interviews informally with the corresponding PhD students of our divisions”. Please do that and fill in the TRC spreadsheet on OneDrive.
 - Employee survey also highlighted some TRC problems.
 - We are collecting data, and waiting more information.

- Inclusive products – Núria
 - We need to get money from somewhere to do this.

- New PhD students – Ariadna
 - Send welcome message, introduce yourselves as representatives. Invite to Facebook and LinkedIn groups.
 - Ask for their teaching and add to the spreadsheet.

- Social media updates
 - Núria posted on Facebook about the hairbands in the cleanroom and the Nanofab course. Also sent Primula tutorial to Susannah Carlsson (and QDP?).

- Replacements for council members
 - Staying in the council:
 - * Ariadna (AQP) – will graduate in June 2025 and can’t be chair for the whole period
 - * Hanna Karlsson-Fernberg
 - * Sherry
 - * Joey, unless other QT member wants to
 - * Núria
 - * Isak
 - * Achintya
 - * Erik – need to ask
 - * Patrik – need to ask
 - Needs replacement:
 - * Hanna Linn – replaced by Zeidan
 - * Nermin – will look for a replacement
 - * Ragnar – replaced by Lucian ?

- Set a date for GA
 - Set date for 31st of October at around 12.

- Department Day – Everyone
 - For next time we should aim to follow up on it better and be more coordinated.

- 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
 - There is not too much updates, there were some delays in getting replies. Next up he'll aim to put it on the intranet.

6. Actions to take by next meeting:

- Ask about hosting workshop on bystander intervention
 - Achintya will bring it up with HR and Sherry will bring it up with DS and equality group
- Achintya will send out the menti
- Nermin will talk with Per and bring up that supervisors should have an proposal for a paper than can be achieved within 1 year after starting when PhDs are hired.
- Zeidan bring up that PhD students and post-docs have received requests to take all their vacation days at the end of their contract.
- Achintya will ask if Dr.Genie can pay for the inclusive projects.
- Everyone: Remind PhD students that the fabrication course is starting again.

7. Next meeting:

- 241003 12:00

8. Closing of the meeting: 14h