PhD Chapter at THS | Doktorandsektionen vid THS
Board 2026/2027

Agenda for Board Meeting #02

Place: Zoom
Date: 2026-08-19
Time: 15.00
Invitees: KF Nominees, Gasque Presenters, Board Members, Auditor

Attendees:

Board members: *Aakriti, Kaung, Ivo, Henrik, Kamila, Adrian, Uli*
Functionaries: *Kathi*
Auditors: *Mohammad*
KF nominees: Kaushik Iyer, Péter Bondár

Formalities: [5 min – 10 min]

1. Election of Meeting Chairperson, Secretary and Minute Checker.

Chair: Kaung
Secretary: Ivo
Minute checker: Henrik

2. Approval of Agenda.

Adrian: Chapter Board Jackets

3. Eventual matters related to formalities.

Board Reports / Informs:

4. Chairperson: Committees and work groups distribution, and Kårfullmäktige (deadline-21st August) [5 - 8 mins]
    a. Electing: Hilma Karlsson, Ulysse Castet, Oskar Löf, Kaushik Iyer, Péter Bondár

Hilma, Ulysse, Oskar, Kaushik, and Péter have volunteered to become the kårfullmäktige of the PhD Chapter. As a Board we need to formally appoint them. We have 4 permanent kårfullmäktige and 2 supplementary members. The 4 permanent members have voting rights in the KF meetings, the 2 supplementary members do not.
Since Kaushik and Péter are the only ones present at this meeting, they shortly present themselves. Kaushik is a PhD student in the department of Engineering Mechanics. He has been a student council member before. Péter is a PhD student in the department of Engineering Mechanics.

Kaung mentions that Oskar would be okay to be a supplementary member, as he already knows that he cannot make all KF meetings.
Mohammad says he is willing to be a supplementary member.

The board is integratedly voting on:

1. Appointing as permanent kårfullmäktige for the 2026-2027 academic year (in alphabetical order):
    - Hilma Karlsson
    - Kaushik Iyer
    - Péter Bondár
    - Ulysse Castet
2. Appointing as supplementary kårfullmäktige for the 2026-2027 academic year (in alphabetical order)
    - Mohammad Abuashbeh
    - Oskar Löf

Choice	**Nr of votes**
Approve	7
Disapprove	0
Abstain	0

Kayshik Iyer and Péter Bondár leave the meeting.

5. Introduction rounds [5 mins]

Postponed to the next in-person meeting

6. Review of Previous Minutes [2 mins]
    a. Setting up next Secretary

Adrian is willing to take minutes next meeting. Ivo will be the checker. In general, the minute taker of the previous meeting will be the minute checker of the next meeting.

7. Chairperson: Board goals [1 min]
    a. Freedom to take initiatives

Kaung is planning to meet regularly with all members individually, to help and inspire where possible. During these meetings, Kaung is also eager to receive feedback on his functioning. It should be a moment where everything can be discussed from both sides, and just have some more contact besides the formal board meetings.

    b. Recruitment

The first Chapter meeting coming up at the end of September should hopefully see a nominee for the Event Manager position. It would be good to start scouting people who would be good for that. Also, it is in general good for the people whose term runs out by December to keep an eye on people who might be suitable for their position.

8. Chairperson: Operational plan discussions. [2 mins]
    a. Review of last year's operational plan

We currently have a listed overview of goals for the plan. Kaung wants/needs to present the overview on the next Chapter Meeting. Some topics are a continuation, others are new. If you have new inspiration, reach out to Kaung.

    b. Topics?
        i. Migration Support

Uli gave an update on the topic the last time FuSaM met. Then there was an idea to have a person who could help with migration issues. It would be relevant to keep a PhD voice here, as there are quite some migration issues for PhDs. Uli would like to continue working on the topic, but sees benefit of having someone else to have more ears in the meetings and prepare for when Uli will step off as board member after December. Adrian is interested to help out.

As a general remark, Mohammad mentions that he is quite knowledgeable on the topic. So if any issues are voices to the PhD Chapter, it is okay to forward them to Mohammad.

        ii. PhD Chapter Finance Revamp
        iii. Departmental Duties Workgroup
        iv. Supervisor Review
        v. Continuation of P-Hired and professional development

9. Chairperson: Chapter Meeting Proposed Dates [1 min]
    a. September 30th

Not yet confirmed by Flyg whether this is possible.

        i. Target - Event Manager

Ideally have an event manager nomination by the Chapter Meeting. Otherwise, it will be pretty close to the ski trip if there only is a nomination in December. But even without event manager we will make this work.

Kathi mentions that she might be interested.

    b. December 9th

10. Chairperson: Gasque 2026 [5 - 12mins]

Abhilsash Kulkarni joins the meeting.

Abhilash pitches the idea of a gasque in the autumn of 2026. It has been an annual event over the past years in autumn. There is a group interested in organising it, as there currently is no event manager.

If approved by the Board, the committee will try to execute and organise the event in name of the Chapter. If desired, a Board member can join the organisation of the event. The committee thinks it would be useful to use a @dr.kth.se email address (e.g. the event@).

Event is currently planned with 200 people in mind. Initial plan from the committee is a budget with 100 000 sek funding from the Chapter, and 150 sek pp participation fee.

Ivo thinks 100 000 sek funding for the Chapter would be a bit much, as that is half of the annual event manager budget. He proposed 50 - 60 000 so that the event manager has budget spare besides the ski trip. Abhilash understands this point, but 50-60 would be a bit rough. 70-80 could be better.

Adrian thinks 200 sek pp could still be okay. Abhilash mentions that previously, the non-jubilee gasques cost 100-150 sek. 200sek might be a bit much, as people sometimes do not know what they will receive.
Kathi agrees with Adrian that a higher price is reasonable. Also people might compare it with last year, which was expensive but also a jubilee gasque. Reducing costs can also be with a full vegetarian meal. Improves quality of vegetarian meal, and reduces costs.
Henrik knows about the gasques of the current BSc students, and they also pay 150-200 sek, and they do not have a proper income as we do. He agrees that a higher price can therefore be reasonable.

General conclusion is that a participation fee in the range 150-200 sek per person is reasonable.

Decision to be made in two weeks at the next Board meeting. Kaung proposes that the committee looks into best and worst case scenarios. Abhilash will informally ask around to get more details. Ivo will share budget templates with Abhilash.

Abhilsash Kulkarni leaves the meeting.

11. Chairperson: Early Career Researcher Science Diplomacy Lunch [1 min]

This event is a follow up from the British embassy lunch last semester. 42 KTH PhD signed up, not everyone will get invited.

12. Chairperson: WhatsApp Group - Events [5 mins]

The idea stems from last week's introduction fika. MCs and Event Manager as admins to send event info besides calendar. To be discussed next week. Ulysse’s opinion as communications manager on this is a leading aspect.

13. Chairperson: Swedish Election, Encourage PhD students to go vote [5 mins]

A SU PhD student reached out to Kaung about informing PhD students that they can vote in the Swedish elections based on their country of origin or how long they have lived in Sweden. Kaung wants to gauge interest in whether it would be good to organise an event or at least send out an email. Uli had been thinking about such an event as well.
We could organise a seminar with the SU PhD student, and simply neutrally say “go vote” to encourage participation in the Swedish democratic process, as it also influences us as researchers.. Kaung will reply to the SU guy and invite for a (online) seminar, and will be in touch about this with Uli as well.

14. Chapter Jackets

Tuesday 25 August 12:00 at TC (Chapter hall, not the tunnelbanastation)

Decisions: [10 min]

Decision to Appoint 4 permanent and 2 supplementary KF members for the PhD Chapter 2026-2027.

Hilma Karlsson, Ulysse Castet, Kaushik Iyer, Peter Bondar as permanent members
Oskar Löf and Mohammad Abuasbeh as supplementary members

Approved per capsulam decisions:

August 10th

The MCs, Athanasia Christou and Aakriti Mohanty, are requesting 1000SEK (for 40 people) for a "Welcoming Fika" on 14 August.

- Description -

Quick welcome back fika for everyone to catch up after summer and new students to get to know other students and the chapter. Possibility to recruit new drink members and event manager.

- Cost breakdown-

Fika: 800SEK

Fika drinks: 200SEK

- Analysis -

Total request is <= 25SEK pp,

Costs for fika are <= 50SEK pp

Funding was approved with request nr: 2627-PhD-001

Signed by:

- Meeting Chairperson

- Meeting Secretary

- Minute Checker