

# Chapter Meeting no. 1 – October 19th 2020

## Minutes



PhD Chapter at KTH

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**Place:** <https://kth-se.zoom.us/j/69633360195>

**Time:** Monday, October 19th 2020, 17:17

*The Chapter Meeting will be followed by an after work. If you'd like to join, please assemble by KTH Entré at kl. 19.00.*

### 1. Opening formalities [17.17]

- a. Meeting opening  
The THS membership status was checked for each attendee.  
After verifying that the meeting had met the quorum and other conditions as per clause §2 of the statutes and on account of §1.b, the meeting was declared opened at kl. 17:22.
- b. Attendees  
[Link to attendance list](#)
- c. Choice of meeting chairperson  
Gloria Samosir was appointed as meeting chairperson.
- d. Choice of meeting secretary  
Sofia Broomé was appointed as meeting secretary.
- e. Choice of meeting minutes checker  
Tanja Richter was appointed the minutes checker.
- f. Approval of the latest protocol  
The latest protocol has been uploaded to our website and was approved.
- g. Approval of the meeting agenda  
Tage Mohammadat proposed a new point to the meeting agenda regarding the motions. He would like to add 5.a.i. as an addendum to Motion 1 in case that the Chapter Meeting votes to approve of Motion 1.  
This was approved by the Chapter Meeting.

### 2. Introductions and Reports [17.30 - 17.40]

- a. Welcome (Gloria Samosir, Chairperson PhD Chapter 2020/2021)
  - Introduction of the Board Members
  - Introduction of Chapter Functionaries
    - WoP Members
    - Master of Ceremonies (Frederico Rorro and Inês Lourenço)
    - Nominating Committee

The board members and chapter functionaries were introduced.

### 3. Board Activities [17.40 - 17.50]

- a. Presentation of the [Operational Plan 2020/2021](#) (By PhD Chapter Board Members: Sofia Broomé, Mohit Daga, Saiman Ding, Tharagan Kumar, Inês Lourenço, Tanja Richter, Gloria Samosir, and Deniz Yildiz)



- Educational Advocacy
- Events
- Council Coordination
- Communication
- Treasury
- Meetup platform for PhD Students
- Launch of the Supervisor of the Year Award

These seven highlights were presented.

**4. Decision Points [17.50 - 17.55]**

- a. Approval of Resignation of a Nominating Committee Member  
Mohit Daga's resignation from the Nominating Committee was approved by the Chapter Meeting.

**5. Motions<sup>1</sup> [17.55 - 18.45]**

- a. Motion: Removing the "Webmaster" as PhD Chapter Board Member Position (To be moved by the PhD Chapter's Chairperson Gloria Samosir)  
Gloria Samosir introduced the motion, which had been made available to the Chapter Members beforehand. An extended discussion ensued.

Tage Mohammadat raised that the motion was justified and well-motivated, but suggested that the way it is supposed to be carried out should be different. According to him, the position should not simply be erased, but it should also be specified where the different tasks will end up (how will the board divide the relevant tasks among the current members).

Emma Riese asked how the board would ensure that the relevant webmaster work would be distributed fairly among the other board members? She mentioned that maintaining email lists and future faculty errands take a lot of time, and given that, raised the question of who would be the most suited to take on this work?

Mohit Daga replied that the statutes state that the board may appoint board members to the tasks they deem appropriate.

Rinat Yapparov said that during his time as a webmaster he was sometimes overloaded with work, which makes him concerned that the board could be overloaded if these tasks were spread out among the other members.

Mohit Daga said that the board is planning to hire someone down the line to remake the website. This could be done as a Chapter functionary. The main point that distinguishes between a Chapter Board member and a Chapter Functionary is that a Chapter Functionary needs not be a doctoral student, hence, it could be possible to avail of the service of a professional web developer.

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<sup>1</sup>For details see [www.dr.kth.se/minutes](http://www.dr.kth.se/minutes)



Sofia Broomé pointed out that the website is just a Wordpress blog that does not necessarily need a full Webmaster position, and that the board currently has a very active Communication Manager, who focuses on our social media.

Emma Riese, in reply to Mohit Daga, asked if the board had really thought the motion through, especially in regard to the budget needed to hire someone for the website.

Tage reiterated his point that he considers his addendum to overcome the issue of the reassignment of duties.

Deniz Yildiz said that she is in favor of the motion but agrees that the board should be careful with the budget and how we distribute the tasks among the other members.

Robin Palmberg pointed out that the webmaster role in the board is broader than just the webmaster tasks. He further suggested that an “uneven” board (numerically) would speak in favor of this proposal.

Gloria Samosir replied that the current board considers it more manageable to have nine members instead of ten, with the uneven number being also practical for voting matters.

- Gloria asks the Chapter Meeting to vote on the motion.
  - a. 11 voted in favor
  - b. 3 voted against
  - c. 11 abstained
  
- A majority of votes in favor would have been needed in order for the motion to pass, so the motion cannot be passed at this time.

Because this motion (“Motion 1”) did not pass, there was no need to go into the addition to the agenda point (5.a.i, addendum to Motion 1), which was proposed at the beginning of the meeting.

- b. Motion: Chair for Nominating Committee (To be moved by Robin Palmberg)  
Robin Palmberg introduced the motion. He said that it takes a lot of time to coordinate the Nominating Committee. A discussion ensued.

Sina Sheikholeslami suggested that the Nominating Committee Chairperson should be compensated for their time.

Rinat Yapparov said that he is against the motion because they (Nominating Committee members) are not time-compensated, and having a chair would be a risk. He suggested that the board’s Communication Manager should coordinate with the Nominating Committee.



Mohit Daga stated that he wants to reject the motion as well. He said that Nominating Committee work should amount to a maximum of 10 hours per semester, and that therefore there was no need to require (via the statutes) the appointment of a chair within the group.

Emma Riese pointed out that the work of the nominating committee is important. She added that writing things out is not over-legislating but it can ease the handover process to new people.

Tage Mohammadat said that this would just be a clarifying point rather than an added burden for the committee.

- Gloria asks the Chapter Meeting to vote on the motion.
  - 7 voted in favor
  - 5 voted against
  - 11 abstained
- A majority of votes in favor would have been needed in order for the motion to pass, so the motion cannot be passed at this time.

## 6. Elections [18.45-19.05]

### a. For open board positions (Nominating Committee)

Gloria Samosir hands this part over to the Nominating Committee. Tage explains the election process and reads out the Nominating Committee's assessment report, which Gloria shared on her screen.

- Education Manager (board member) -- until June 2021
  - Jasmin Höglund Hellgren (a nominee for the Education Manager's role) introduces herself.
  - The Chapter Meeting is invited to ask questions to the candidate. Emma Riese asked if there are any particular doctoral education issues she is interested in working on. Jasmin answered that she sees stress-related questions as a core issue that she would like to raise in forums such as UN and FU if possible. Emma Riese said that she had been in those committees previously, and that, yes, it is possible for the doctoral student representative to raise points onto the agendas.
  - Mohit sends Jasmin into the breakout room.
  - Tage asks the Chapter to vote for Jasmin's candidacy.
    - 24 voted in favor
    - 0 voted against
    - 0 abstained
  - **Jasmin Höglund Hellgren is found to be elected as the Education Manager of the PhD Chapter.**



- Webmaster (board member) -- until June 2021  
No one was nominated and no one moved to open for free nominations of the position of Webmaster.

Mohit Daga motions to open for free nominations for the vacancy in the Nominating Committee.

- The motion was approved by the Chapter Meeting.
- No nominations were received.
- Gloria Samosir declared the vacancy closed for nominations.

**7. Additional issues and information [19.05-19.06]**

Mohit Daga asked the Nominating Committee about the timeline for the upcoming nominations in the December meeting. Tage responded that the board could liaison with the Nomination Committee to decide on the dates. Gloria Samosir encouraged the meeting participants to be on the lookout on our website if you are interested in applying for any of these positions.

**8. Meeting closing [19.06]**

Gloria Samosir declared the meeting closed.

**Post-meeting Afterwork: Meet by KTH Entré @ 19.00. We will then go to some pub near Odenplan.**

Protocol,  
Meeting chairperson: Gloria Samosir

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary of the meeting: Sofia Broomé

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes checked by: Tanja Richter

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_