

# Motion: Removing the “Webmaster” as PhD Chapter Board Member Position



*Submitted for consideration to the PhD Chapter Meeting  
The PhD chapter at KTH/ Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår*

## Background

As described in §3 of the PhD Chapter statutes, The PhD Chapter Board is currently composed of 10 members, namely the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Communication Manager, Webmaster, Education Manager, Council Coordinator, Workgroup Manager, Business Liaison, and Event Manager.

We contend that the **Webmaster** is expendable as a board member position. In §3.1., the responsibilities of the Webmaster are outlined as follows:

- a) IT responsibility: Responsible for the information technology part of the PhD Chapter. Makes sure that web pages, social media and mailing lists are updated and working. Works closely with the communication manager.
- b) Representational tasks: Coordinates the chapter in the Future Faculty group at KTH
- c) Board tasks: Makes sure that the platforms for communication is working as they should and updates it accordingly to fit with new needs and possibilities in technology.
- d) Chapter tasks: Same as board tasks
- e) Union tasks: Represents the chapter at future faculty group at THS student union.

As described above, and as it has demonstrably played out in practice, the role of the Webmaster is redundant with the work and competencies of other board member positions to such an extent that, given the operational parameters and resource constraints of the PhD Chapter board, it is disadvantageous to maintain the Webmaster as a full-fledged board member position. The work of updating pages on the PhD Chapter website, social media, and mailing lists may reasonably be subsumed by the tasks of the Communication manager. Much of the website updating work entails uploading meeting minutes and documents, which is sufficiently covered by established routines of minute-checking and agenda dissemination, and would be rendered less efficient by shoehorning into them the services of a Webmaster. Moreover, the Webmaster’s specified “Representational tasks” and “Union tasks,” which focus on coordinating the Future Faculty group, do not require the skills distinct of a “Webmaster,” and can be (and indeed have been) adequately distributed among other members of the Board. It is therefore our evaluation that the Webmaster is redundant to the operations of the PhD Chapter Board.

## Suggestions

**To<sub>1</sub>** Remove the Webmaster as a PhD Chapter Board member position from §3 in the PhD Chapter statutes.

On behalf of the PhD Chapter Board,

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Stockholm 12th October 2020