

PhD Chapter at KTH

Place: <u>https://kth-se.zoom.us/j/69633360195</u> Time: 17:00-18:00, January 25th 2021

#### §1. Opening formalities [17:00-17:05]

a. Meeting opening

After verifying quorum and summon order as per statutes, "§3.7. Conduct of Business" and clauses of working directive "§23. Board meetings," the meeting was declared opened at 17.05.

- b. Invited: chapter board, head of educational affairs and chapter auditors Attendance: Gloria Samosir, Federico Izzo, Sofia Broomé, Jasmin Höglund Hellgren, Saiman Ding, Deniz Yildiz
- c. Choice of meeting chairperson *Gloria is voted chairperson*
- d. Choice of meeting secretary *Federico is voted secretary*
- e. Choice of meeting minutes checker Deniz is voted minutes checker
- f. Approval of meeting agenda Agenda is approved with the addition of §3.b.
- g. <u>The latest protocol checking and signing</u> \_*The latest protocol has been signed and uploaded.*

#### §2. Reports & updates [17:05-17:40]

- a. Board reports
- b. THS central (KL/KS) and KF

Last Friday there was a meeting with Charley THS president, the two CFUs, Agnes and Tilda, and Ävelin Head of Student Welfare. Because of discussion at FU, there is interest in KTH leadership to highlight issues

from the PhD Survey and the KTH Alumni survey from last years. Gloria and Federico propose we highlight pressing issues, present them to THS and together present them at FU.

Moreover, no definitive answer on how much money we will get from KTH, but the reception to our budget proposition was positive.

- c. From KTH Central Organizational Bodies
  - i. Konferens om KTH:s framtida utbildning ("Conference on KTH's Future Education") -- full-day conference for February 24-25



#### PhD Chapter at KTH

THS CFU Agnes said it could be likely cancelled. Gloria steps up, but would like some help in coming up with discussion points.

Third Cycle Education Committee (Sv: Forskarutbildningsutskottet, FU) ii. 1) PhD survey and Alumni survey: Alice Eklund asked FU how to work with these results, what to do. At FU they didn't know much about the survey, so it will be presented and discussed more at the next meetings. Jasmin asked in addition for feedback on the survey. Alice was encouraging about considering the doctoral survey and the alumni survey together, because they complement each other. If the survey is done regularly, it would also be good so that one has comparison points in time. Jasmin asks whether we want to have a survey every two/three years. Gloria mentions it is a costly undertaking in terms of effort, so if we decide to have it regularly we should ask KTH for additional time or technical resources. In the interpretation of the alumni survey, the PhD Chapter can have a "shadow report" which complements the KTH official report, without having to have the survey ourselves. One option could be to make KTH have the survey, and ourselves simply analyzing the data and producing a report. Counterpoint is that if the survey is handed out by the institution, then the answers risk being less frank and more mellow. Deniz proposes smaller, easier surveys, to make to more manageable to do the data analysis every two/three years. Then it would be easier for us to process and escalate the problems. Sofia agrees that it would be easier to handle, but still have lottery-like presents for people who join the survey. Jasmin mentions that a summary of the results is always needed in order to point to specific results instead of raw data when mentioning problems. Sofia mentiones that maybe it cannot be made smaller, because there would still be a lot of respondents (>600). 2) Next question at FU is: what to do with the results from the alumni survey. It would be interesting to list the issues which from the PhD point of view are more important. For the presentation, it would be good to focus on specific issues and results instead of given a general presentation, which was already given by Mohit.



#### PhD Chapter at KTH

Jasmin is also interested not simply in presenting the issues, but also in the useful questions which arise, and how to have meaningful and effective answers.

3) UKÄ asked KTH a report on shadow doctoral students (do the work as PhD but without the title and proper employment; e.g. research engineer). Problem: they're not apparent, and the FAs are probably not the roles with the best overview of this kind of situation. Every FA said they don't have a problem with this. Gloria, Federico, and Saiman attended the ITM School meeting, and it is possible that it happens there: students are hired as research engineering with a "promise" of being employed as PhDs when possible. PhDs should not finish more quickly using work carried out while they were not under PhD employment, as that would fall under shadow PhD student. At Karolinska, they asked for "results" before being admitted: that's shady at best.

Our position is that it is not a widespread problem at KTH, but it is something to keep an eye on. There's probably more of a grey zone.

#### iii. Workgroup "Time Compensation for Doctoral Students' Commission of Trust Assignments"

The theme of the meeting was which meetings to consider for the time-compensation and how many representatives at the meetings. As baseline the ABE routine document was considered (not every school has routines). Sofia and Federico worked on a small proposal to include all the meetings for representatives (doktorandråd).

Saiman believes everyone should have very transparent and clear percentages of workload, because that would strengthen our time-compensation proposals. Sofia mentions that making the time-compensation fair and transparent is exactly the work of the workgroup. Deniz says we shouldn't create a method which implies trustlessness of the students' reporting; Sofia and Gloria agree. Federico shows an example of time-reporting which could work with a possible future time-compensation, and a small guide on time-compensation is briefly mentioned.

Calculations by Per Olsson were presented by Federico, and the method of counting days is criticized. Sofia believes we should prepare a small paragraph to send out as an answer.

iv. Strategic Council (Sv: Strategiskt Råd, SR) Increased digitalization at KTH was discussed at large. The digitalization

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#### PhD Chapter at KTH

process has been sped up by the Coronavirus pandemic, affecting both the workplace and education. It is important that the impact of this process should be regarded holistically and complies with with workplace environment regulations (e.g. that systems or programs must be appropriately designed for the user, ergonomic principles have to be considered, work has to involve variety, including e.g. in social contact and cooperation, and self-determination).

#### §3. Discussion points [17:40-17:50]

a. Supervisor of the Year Award: planning the award ceremony; date? purchases? proceedings?

There is a bit of confusion about the timeline for jury members to make their evaluations. Gloria proposed that we announce the results and conduct the ceremony in March. Gloria, Saiman, and Ines will meet to talk more about the details.

b. KTH Relocation accommodation:

The surrounding issue was discussed. It looks like the best avenue is for the interested students to speak up to KTH Relocation and try to find personalized/individual solutions.

#### §4. Decision points [17:50-18:00]

a. <u>Time Compensation Prognosis for PhD Chapter Board Spring 2021 (VT21)</u> The document is approved for everyone except Deniz; Gloria and Federico will recheck the numbers and compare with last semester.

#### §5. Meeting closure [18:45]

*The meeting is closed.* Free chat with the Presidium [18:00-18:30]

Protocol, Meeting chairperson: Gloria Samosir

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

Secretary of the meeting: Federico Izzo

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

Minutes checked by: Deniz Yildiz



PhD Chapter at KTH

Signature: \_\_\_

# Attachments

# Attachment: Board Reports

Written reports before the meeting

Saiman Ding	1 Time compensation for winter semester 2020.2 Prognosis for 2021.3 EECS council meeting 20/01/2021. 4 Docent meeting 20/01/2021. 5 Supervisor of the year evaluation.
Deniz Yildiz	Prerpetation and attendance at the promotion board meeting for promotion to professor for Martin Lawoko (VL-2019-0149), Reading material for preparation for Stockholm Trio participation, meeting regarding workplace conflict of a PhD student
Sofia Broomé	*Meetings with Federico who covered for me the time compensation workgroup, Jan 15th and Jan 22nd. "Proposal"/draft for how to formulate the school-level guideline for student influence in attachments, to discuss at the meeting tonight. *Recruitment board on Jan 14th but that was technically via the school council
Jasmin Höglund Hellgren	Attended FU meeting on 19/1, 2h.
Federico Izzo	<ul> <li>Attended THS workshop on accounting</li> <li>Attended THSxDr meeting</li> <li>Attended Time-compensation workgroup meeting, substituting Sofia</li> <li>Prepared with Gloria a short document with routine for time reporting at school level:</li> <li>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1emcxPstdKwRVkRNEMiM6DHJQNwKudSLED rKQaP1U0DQ/edit</li> <li>Working on a new template for time prognosis at school level (with good ideas from Sofia):</li> <li>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1paEKlewNAwlHw5mDvxgI-2o6jPACvLrCcrCn pSLwOAU/edit#heading=h.7723gql0l1gi</li> <li>Before the board meeting I will:</li> <li>attend the ITM PhD School Council meeting together with Gloria and Saiman</li> <li>attend the SCI PhD School Council meeting (as PAD)</li> </ul>
Gloria Samosir	- 15/01 Checking meeting with Federico

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#### PhD Chapter at KTH

<ul> <li>- 18/01 Meeting with Deniz</li> <li>- 19/01 Strategic Council meeting</li> <li>- 19/01 Tuned into SFS-DK webinar on World Class Doctoral Education</li> <li>- 20/01 Meeting with a PhD student to advise regarding a workplace conflict issue</li> <li>- 21/01 Avstämning med rektor together with THS president Charley</li> <li>- 22/01 Meeting with THS Management, together with Federico</li> <li>- 22/01 Checking meeting with Federico</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Various errands and correspondences, including:</li> <li>Preparing the time prognosis draft for central representation for Spring 2021</li> <li>Informed KTH central committees about new appointments</li> <li>Applied for accounts for PhD Chapter auditors</li> <li>Emailed the PhD student advisor, Ingrid, to set up a meeting for next week</li> <li>In correspondence regarding the Supervisor of the Year Award</li> <li>In correspondence with the Nominating Committee regarding the Spring Chapter Meeting</li> <li>In correspondence with Saiman and Federico regarding school council time compensation document and other council-related issues</li> </ul>