

Chapter Meeting no. 3 – March 8th 2021

Minutes



PhD Chapter at KTH

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

Time: Monday, March 8th 2021, 17:17

1. Opening formalities [17.25]

a. Meeting opening

Gloria Samosir (Chapter Chairperson) declared the meeting opened at 17:21.

b. Attendees

List of attendees attached. List of board composition and Chapter signatories (firmatecknare) attached.

c. Choice of meeting chairperson

Gloria nominated Emma Riese as meeting chairperson. Emma accepted the nomination. Emma was elected meeting chairperson. The votes were:

22 yes

0 no

0 abstained

d. Choice of meeting secretary

Federico Izzo nominated himself. Federico was elected. The votes were:

21 yes

0 no

0 abstained

e. Choice of meeting vote counters

Sofia Broomé and Saiman Ding were nominated. Sofia and Saiman were elected.

The votes were:

21 yes

0 no

0 abstained

f. Choice of meeting minutes checker

Gloria nominated herself. Gloria was elected. The votes were:

18 yes

0 no

0 abstained

g. Approval of [the latest protocol](#)

The latest protocol is approved. The votes were:

24 yes

0 no



0 abstained

h. Approval of the meeting agenda

Given the wish of the motion writer to retract the motion at point 3b in the original agenda, the removal of point 3b was voted. The removal was accepted with the votes:

23 yes

0 no

0 abstained

Decision point 4a was proposed to decide on the removal of the motion and documents related to it from the records. The decision point was voted and its addition was approved with the votes:

23 yes

0 no

0 abstained

The agenda with these changes was voted and approved. The votes were:

21 yes

0 no

0 abstained.

i. Approval of rules of conduct, motion handling, voting procedure

Federico briefly explained the rules. Emma proposed to change the document to modify the "yes"/"no"/"go slower" buttons to be replaced with the "raise hand" button and the meeting chairperson calling for each vote separately.

The document with the proposed changes was voted and approved. The votes were:

24 yes

0 no

0 abstained

2. Introductions and Reports [17.50 - 18.34]

a. Activity Report from the Board

Gloria talked about the ongoing work of the board. The Chapter is going to get 1Mn kr per year as budget, so events can be organized. Moreover PhD students will be able to initiate the eISP revision starting from March. Guidelines about School Council compositions have been worked on and sent out, and a document with school-level guidelines for counting and reporting hours/percentage of representational work. Time compensation proposal will be presented on March 23 at FU.

The PhD survey report of 2018 is continuously being used to advocate for issues, e.g. at ITM for checking the quality of the programs, and the lowering at Applied Math the



course credits requirement.

The supervisor of the year award is almost over, letters of gratitude have been sent to all nominated supervisors, a winner has been chosen and will be announced later in March.

At the next Chapter meeting, an operational plan will be presented and approved for the following year.

A workgroup has been initiated to update the Statutes, Bylaws and Working Directives in order to simplify them and make them compliant with Skatteverket's guidelines.

Soon many positions will be open as the Spring term concludes, including the Treasurer as it's now held by the Vice Chairperson.

Gloria was asked if the budget will be for the School level too, and Gloria confirms that the plan is to distribute part of the money to all the Councils.

Sofia gave a brief update on the time compensation workgroup current draft: it is probably going to be percentage-based, and a cap on the amount of work needed for each school will be defined among THS and the Schools.

b. Activity Report from the School Councils

i. ABE

Siegfried Evens (chair) explained that they've been busy with 3 things: 1) handling of COVID among PhDs and in different programs, how different problems come up among different programs at different times. 2) Goal: everyone is informed about the problems so that knowledge is shared and helps everyone. 3) Prolongation of contracts for representatives: Sofia is keeping in touch with ABE to create a routine. 4) Work on internal organization to fill the positions, create routines, make the council a self-sustaining entity; now it is more mature and established, and the next problem is the continuation of the council.

ii. CBH

Jai White (chair) talked about the continuity problem: they have 9 full time members instead of the necessary 11. They've been talking to the FA so that supervisors would promote these representational roles; the discussion was long and now it has stopped, it will be picked up again soon.

They host a trivia night, with budget from the School, and book a field at KTH Hallen. Hopefully after summer the activities can resume normally. There are not many PhD-level courses, which is problematic, and they've been asking for Master-level courses to have a PhD-level addition.

Lea Hohmann (vicechair) explained that from some programs there are no representatives, while there are many from another. It is hard to recruit



- people without knowing anyone personally and not having the possibility of going to their offices.*
- iii. EECS
*Wiebke Köpp (chair) talked about the continuity issue: only 8/17 divisions are represented. Last year they had a stress management seminar together with HR; soon another seminar will be held for supervisors to learn to talk about it with their students. One of the suggestions that came out of the seminar is that FA and PAs should discuss and include recovery times in the eISP to recover from the stress after intense periods (e.g. deadlines/papers).
EECS comes from the union of three Schools: they're working to unify the general skill courses among the programs, and add sustainability and JML to the current courses. There is an ongoing program (Epigraph) to talk about gender imbalance at the school and how to counteract it.
A PhD career fair is being thought of as an event to organize, and Wiebke asks if someone knows more/are interested in that.*
- iv. ITM
*Mohammad Abuasbeh (chair) talked about: ITM had some rough years for representation, but this year elections were held. Representation is still an issue, as 3 PADs (3 programs) are missing, but this year 2 PADs were found from 2 of the programs, so only 1 PAD is missing for all the programs to be represented.
The problem of the low number of PhD-level courses is mostly due to funding, as teachers are not directly paid for PhD level courses: but the funding is there, it is simply not used to fund more PhD-level courses. A proposal to increase the number of PhD-level courses is to make having regularly-given courses as a requirement for the position of docent.
Time compensation was brought up at ITM administration and is already considered an important topic.
Apparently from the survey ethnic discrimination is more prominent than e.g. gender discrimination.
A version of the PhD-survey was tested at local level and well-received.
A course for beginning PhD students is proposed to be given about rights and obligations, and representation.
Mohammad is asked about the male/female ratio: he answers with 30-40% for the programs he's familiar with.*
- v. SCI
Kian Shaker (chair) believed the school councils struggles are very common among different councils. He would also like to organize public events, and there are 800K kr for course development and social activities, which is mostly



untouched. So money is less of a problem compared to ideas and organization of social activities.

Mohammad (ITM) proposed periodic meetings among Council chairs to share ideas, discuss and compare. Saiman (council coordinator) proposed to coordinate this initiative.

Emma proposed a break until 18:45.

3. Incoming Motions [18.45 - 19.00]

a. Motion: Disallow inclusion of intermediary, pre-dissertation examination system in Doctoral Programs/ Subject Study-Programs

The vote counters moderated the discussion and enforced the time limit rule.

The motion writer was not present. Mohammad talked about his understanding of the motion, which is related to another motion which has been presented to the trade union.

Federico mentioned that the current motion states facts which relate to a different problem and are consequently unrelated to the points raised, and asserted his disapproval of the motion.

Deniz Yildiz mentioned that the quotation mentioned regarding pre-dissertation examinations in the motion come from a very different PhD program setup, the American one, in reference to qualifying exams in the USA universities. This is irrelevant for the case of doctoral students at KTH. Also, she argued that the motion is an over-interpretation of the context of the conditions for salary ladder discussions hence pre-dissertation examination is a necessary source of interest for the PhD Chapter, and the Chapter cannot afford to be left out of the relevant discussion if the disallow motion passes.

Lea mentioned that half-time seminars are already implemented in several programs.

Emma moved to vote. The motion was found rejected with the votes:

0 yes

21 no

2 abstained

b. Motion expunged and removed from the agenda and minutes.

Point removed as per Decision point 4a.



4. Decision Points [19.00 - 19.05]

- a. Decision to expunge the motion 3b and the documents concerning the motion from the records (minutes and website).

Alessandro Enrico stated that removing the motion would be in line with what the motion writer themselves implied they wanted.

Emma moved to vote. The decision was approved with the votes:

22 yes

0 no

1 abstained

5. Elections [19.05-19.45]

- a. PhD Chapter Board positions

Gloria explained that the Nominating Committee does not currently meet the requirements to conduct business according to the statutes. Therefore the nominations will be processed directly through the Chapter Meeting.

- i. By-election of Communication Manager -- until December 2021

Mohammad Abuasbeh was nominated. He rejected the nomination as he's currently involved as ITM chair and does not currently feel he would fulfill the position in the way it requires.

Gloria moved to open the floor to free nominations. The floor was voted open. No nominations were brought forward.

- ii. By-election of Webmaster -- until June 2021

No one opened for free nominations.

- b. PhD Chapter Functionaries

- i. By-election of Nominating Committee (1 to 3 positions) -- until December 2021

Sina Sheikholeslami explained the role of the NC. They have access to the nomination form on the website, conduct interviews with candidates and compile a report to present the candidates at the Chapter meetings. Currently it has only 2 members, and 3 are needed in order to work, with a simple majority of current or former board members.

Sina moved to open for free nominations. The floor was voted open.

Mohammad Abuasbeh nominated himself. Sina nominated Alessandro Enrico who accepted the nomination.

Deniz nominated Inês Lourenço, and Inês nominated Deniz. Inês rejected the nomination. Deniz Yildiz accepted the nomination.

Emma proposed voting for the three candidates in bulk, to which all



candidates agreed. They were put in a waiting room and the candidacies were discussed.

Emma moved to vote: Deniz, Alessandro, and Mohammed were all found elected to the Nominating Committee until December 2021.

The votes were:

16 yes

0 no

0 abstained

- ii. By-election of Women's Doctoral Committee: Head of the Committee -- until December 2021

Deniz nominated herself. There was another nomination but the nominee was not present at the meeting. Deniz presented herself. Inês asked if there are special initiatives Deniz would like to pursue, and Deniz explained her ideas, which will involve working together with the board.

Deniz was moved to a waiting room. Deniz's candidacy was discussed.

Emma moved to vote. Deniz was elected as head of the WOP until December 2021.

The votes were:

16 yes

0 no

0 abstained

- iii. By-election of Masters of Ceremonies (2 positions) --

1. Until June 2021

2. Until December 2021

Inês moved to open the floor for nominations. The floor was opened.

Inês nominated herself for the position of Master of Ceremonies until December 2021. Inês was moved to the waiting room. Emma moved to vote. Inês was elected as Master of Ceremonies until December 2021.

The votes were:

15 yes

0 no

0 abstained

6. Additional issues and information [19.45-19.56]

Alessandro talked about the personal use of general email lists provided by the PhD Chapter.

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Gloria said that the members' mailing list is already moderated, but the one used to send emails to all PhD students was not; a request has been filed to IT to make it moderated. Deniz said that these kinds of incidents affect negatively the image of the Chapter. Jai concurred with Alessandro. Alessandro said that requests to broadcast opinions should go through the chapter board approval and only be allowed to be sent after approval.

Alessandro proposed renegotiating the use of the chapter hall with the Aerospace chapter, for use for the pubs when the COVID-19 restrictions no longer apply. Emma reminded all the members that PhD Chapter members are also welcome to attend the Aerospace chapter's pubs.

Emma informed the meeting that she's going to host a workshop on third cycle education at the free conference KTH SoTL the following Wednesday. ; Everyone is welcome to join and attend.

7. Meeting closing [19.56]

Emma declared the meeting closed.

Protocol,
Meeting chairperson: Emma Riese

Signature: _____

Secretary of the meeting: Federico Izzo

Signature: _____

Minutes checked by: Gloria Samosir

Signature: _____