

# Chapter Meeting no. 4 – May 17th 2021 Minutes



PhD Chapter at KTH

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

Time: Monday, May 17th 2021, 17:17-20:33

## 1. Opening formalities [17:25]

### a. Meeting opening

*Federico Izzo (Chapter Vice Chairperson) declared the meeting opened at 17:25.*

### b. Attendees

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

### c. Choice of meeting chairperson

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

*14 yes*

*1 no*

*0 abstained*

### d. Choice of vote counter(s)

*Sofia Broomé and Saiman Ding were nominated. Sofia and Saiman were elected. The votes were:*

*14 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

### e. Choice of meeting secretary

*Jasmin Höglund Hellgren was nominated. Jasmin was elected. The votes were:*

*14 yes*

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*0 no*

*0 abstained*

f. Choice of meeting minutes checker

*Mobit Daga and Inês de Miranda de Matos Lourenço were nominated. Mobit and Inês were elected. The votes for Mobit were:*

*9 yes*

*5 no*

*0 abstained*

*The votes for Inês were:*

*12 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

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

*Mobit requested to share a personal statement regarding the email list discussed in agenda item 6 in the last Chapter Meeting. The statement is the following:*

*“Sweden ranks 100/100 or 10/10 in every survey on democracy. For example a recent survey by the independent academic institute V-DEM from Sweden, or this year’s report by Freedom House, USA. Why? In countries like Sweden, it is expected that dissent is valued. Dissenting opinions are not looked at as personal attacks but valued as new ideas. Dissenting opinions are not kept aside as misrepresentation. When a democratic body, for that matter a student body, in Sweden, talks about moderating the email lists so that nobody could show dissent on policies, then sadly they are equating themselves to the iron curtain of the East. When some member of those forums, with support from the executive board, imply that incidents of dissent affect negatively the image of the PhD chapter, they are equating the PhD chapter to the autocratic regimes, or as the Swedish institute, V-DEM caustically called my home country as “electoral-autocracy”. I conclude by expressing my deepest concern over the remark in the Additional Issues and Information in*

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*agenda item 6, about the email lists, during the spring chapter meeting held on March 8th.”*

*The statement had not been previously discussed with, read, nor endorsed by the Chapter Board. Federico moved to vote. The latest protocol was approved. The votes were:*

*12 yes  
0 no  
0 abstained*

### h. Approval of the meeting agenda

*Sina Sheikholeslami motions to move decision point 5.b.v to 5.b.ii and point 5.b.vi to 5.b.iii. Sina remarks that this is because the nomination committee only has nominations for these positions. The suggestion was voted and approved with the votes:*

*12 yes  
0 no  
0 abstained*

*Mohit Daga proposes to move decision point 4.a to agenda point 6. Mohit remarks that this is because it is the first time in recent history when an operational plan for the next board is proposed in a chapter meeting. The PhD chapter statutes gives this power to the chairperson where it is stated that: the Chairperson is responsible for the future of the chapter and for having a strategy for how the activities during the coming year should affect the chapter.*

*Mohit remarks until 4.a, the chairperson for the next year shall not be elected, hence he moves the motion to take this agenda point in item number 6, so that the views of the new elected chairperson can be heard and noted.*

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*The suggestion was voted and rejected with the votes:*

*2 yes*

*9 no*

*0 abstained*

- i. Approval of [rules of conduct, motion handling, voting procedure](#)

*The document was voted and approved. The votes were:*

*14 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

## **2. Introduction and Reports [17:30-18:30]**

- a. [Activity Report from the Board](#)

*Federico presented the Activity Report from the Board (attached).*

- b. Activity Reports from the School Councils

- i. ABE

*Siegfried Evens (chair) explained that they've been continuing much of the work presented at the last Chapter meeting. Focus has been on handling Covid-19 related issues among PhDs and in different programs and on participation in the quality dialogues. The work on internal organization to fill positions also continues.*

*Mohit Daga asks Siegfried, if the council has recorded issues regarding the covid-19 prolongation in this year's Quality Dialogue, where doctoral student representatives were given an opportunity to be able to influence the programs. Siegfried says that it was not done in explicit regards to the*

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*Quality Dialogue but that the issue has been raised in several school forums over the year.*

ii. CBH

*No one from the CBH school council was present to give a report.*

iii. EECS

*Wiebke Köpp (chair) talked about the problem of continuity. The council has made a list of where they have reps. They have also reached out to industrial PhD students to establish more contact. There is a new head of school that has emphasized Swedish as the working language in school-level meetings, this could potentially be a worry for PhD representation. The council also works on Swedish classes for PhDs.*

iv. ITM

*Mohammad Abuasbeh (chair) talked about: There has been an increase of PADs from 3 to 6, but there is still one program that does not have a PAD. They have held school council elections this year for the first time. The PhD survey was helpful and the council followed up with its own surveys which focused on quality and equality of supervision. The PADs have become involved in the update and description of PhD programs. They continue to work towards having a PAD in each JML-group and a comprehensive school-wide introductory course.*

v. SCI

*Kian Shaker (chair) is not present but has sent in a report. Federico*

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*relates: They have worked on the quality dialogue. FA wants the programs to have regular 'programråd' and for PhD reps to be present. They have worked mainly on three social activities, 1) game nights online, 2) an alumni event seminar series with previous PhDs now outside academia (being organized), 3) organize a seminar on physical and mental well-being together with the SCI school management.*

### **3. Incoming Motions [18:30-18:31]**

*No incoming motions.*

### **4. Decision Points [18:31-19:05]**

- a. Approval of the [Operational Plan 2021/2022](#)  
*Federico presented the Operational Plan (attached).*

*Daniel Ddiba comments regarding the phrasing of 'tailoring' Swedish language courses for PhD students. The question of what 'tailored' means is raised and it is suggested this could be specified. For example, the issues of time and the financial situation in relation to PhD Swedish courses could be stated as priorities in this work. The comment is appreciated and Federico explains the Operational Plan is intentionally formulated in a broad sense as to leave room for the next board to decide on how to prioritize and work further with these issues.*

*Mohit Daga comments regarding the supervisor resources and annual*

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*development talk for PhDs. The question whether it is the position of the Chapter that all PhD students or all employees have the right to such development talk is brought up. Similarly, concerns over whether central level guidelines on departmental duties could create conflicts are raised by Mohit. The comments are noted and Jasmin (current Education Manager) echoes what has been stated already, that the operational plan is a guiding document for the executive work of the PhD Chapter board for the next academic year. As stated in the operational plan itself: "It is not meant to be exhaustive or restrictive, but rather serves as a starting point for the work of the board, and can be interpreted and revised to suit the needs of circumstances" (p. 5).*

*The Operational Plan is approved. The votes were:*

*15 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

b. Approval of resignation of Treasurer

*Federico is the current Treasurer and has asked to resign from today (2021-05-17).*

*Mohit Daga suggests that the resignation is moved to 30th June instead of today, for reasons of practicality.*

*Federico notes the comment, but would like to proceed with the resignation with date today.*

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*The resignation of treasurer with immediate effect is voted and approved. The votes were:*

*12 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

## 5. Elections [19:05-20:28]

- a. Presentation of the report from the Nominating Committee

*The Nominating Committee presents their Assessment:*

*[https://www.dr.kth.se/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/05/Dr2021-CF-03\\_M2V-0-Nominating-committee-report.pdf](https://www.dr.kth.se/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2021/05/Dr2021-CF-03_M2V-0-Nominating-committee-report.pdf)*

*The nominating committee suggests Jing Jing for the position of Workgroups Manager and Mohammad Abuasbeh for the position as Treasurer.*

- b. PhD Chapter Board positions

- i. Election of Workgroups Manager

*Jing Jing presented herself. Jing Jing was moved to a waiting room. Jing Jing's candidacy was discussed. Federico moved to vote. Jing Jing was elected as Workgroups Manager until June 2022. The votes were:*

*14 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

- ii. Election of Chairperson

*Federico moved to open for free nominations. Free nominations were*

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*opened. Mohit nominates himself. Mohit presents himself. Alessandro asked why Mohit did not continue after his mandate ended as vice-chair in December 2020 and about sustainable engagement. Mohit explained that it is his principled position that a person should not occupy a position for more than one term. Mohit adds that his term ended in December 2020, the PhD chapter statutes have a split mandate meaning, the chairperson ends the term in June and the vice-chair ends in December. Hence, he is candidating now, for the chairperson. Mohit explained how he plans to have a sustainable engagement. Deniz asked about how Mohit has worked with and plans to address JML issues KTH wide and within the composition of the board. Mohit explains his view on how he has and continues to work with JML issues. Mohammad asks about communication style and conflict handling. Mohit explains how he plans to communicate to different audiences and handle conflict in the case any arises. Inês asked about the need for a Chairperson to balance the many ideas and opinions that are present in the work of the Board and how Mohit reasons about that. Mohit explains he looks positively on that there are many ideas and opinions and that that is what makes for good work in the board, and that the role as chairperson is to step back and manage the many ideas and opinions. Alessandro Enrico asks about the communication style and the need for the remark in point 1.g. Mohit explains that at the PhD chapter, we have different roles, we have the PhD chapter as a whole, we have the PhD chapter Board, the executive, we also have the chapter members. The remark in 1.g Mohit explained was made, because in the last chapter meeting, nobody opposed the idea of moderating email lists. Mohit adds that as a chapter member he felt that*

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*this must be opposed on record in a forum of this kind. Mohit was moved to a waiting room. Mohit's candidacy was discussed. Federico moved to vote. Mohit's nomination was rejected. The votes were:*

*0 yes*

*14 no*

*0 abstained*

iii. By-election of Treasurer-- until December 2021

*Mohammad presented himself. Mohit asked Mohammad if he would be interested to be Chairperson as the Chairperson could also be Treasurer. This Mohit added would be important primarily since this meeting could not choose a Chairperson. Mohammad answered he was not interested in being Chairperson at this moment. Mohammad was moved to a waiting room. Mohammad's candidacy was discussed. Federico moved to vote. Mohammad was elected as Treasurer until December 2021. The votes were:*

*15 yes*

*0 no*

*0 abstained*

iv. Election of Events Manager

*No one opened for free nominations.*

v. Election of Education Manager

*Mohit asked Sofia if she was interested in being the Education Manager. Sofia answered she was not. No one opened for free nominations.*

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- vi. Election of Webmaster  
*No one opened for free nominations.*
- vii. By-election of Communication Manager -- until December 2021  
*No one opened for free nominations.*
- c. PhD Chapter Functionaries
  - i. Election of Master of Ceremonies (1 position) -- until June 2022  
*No one opened for free nominations.*
  - ii. Election of Auditor(s)  
*No one opened for free nominations.*

## **6. Additional issues and information [20:28-20:33]**

*There is a question about the handover process. The handover process is explained. There is a comment about the testimonies prepared by the people leaving the board. When Mohit ended his mandate as vice-chair he made a video testimony that is available on Youtube.<sup>1</sup> No other additional issues or information.*

## **7. Meeting closing [20:33]**

*Federico declared the meeting closed.*

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<sup>1</sup> The video can be found through this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08Cl57Rc6zY&list=PLTDQ0-RzLVPaSzXAkYaQHIIkh8U7HKqKO>

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Protocol,  
Meeting chairperson: Federico Izzo

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

Secretary of the meeting: Jasmin Höglund Hellgren

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

Minutes checked by: Mohit Daga

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

Minutes checked by: Inês de Miranda de Matos Lourenço

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

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## Attendance List



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### Attendance List

No.	First Name	Last Name	School	Chapter Member
1	Sofia	Broomé	EECS	Yes
2	Gloria	Samosir	ABE	Yes
3	Deniz	Yildiz	CBH	Yes
4	Saiman	Ding	CBH	Yes
5	Federico	Izzo	SCI	Yes
6	Mohammad	Abuasbeh	ITM	Yes
7	Ilaria	Carannante	EECS	Yes
8	Saumei	Jain	EECS	Yes
9	Alessandro	Enrico	EECS	Yes
10	Inês	Lourenço	EECS	Yes
11	Jasmin	Höglund Hellgren	ABE	Yes
12	Miguel	Aguiar	EECS	Yes
13	Siegfried	Evens	ABE	Yes
14	Sina	Sheikholeslami	EECS	Yes
15	Wiebke	Köpp	EECS	Yes
16	Tage	Mohammadat	EECS	Yes
17	Qi	Zhang	ABE	Yes
18	Simon	Gökstorp	EECS	Yes
19	Susanna	Pozzoli	EECS	Yes
20	Mohit	Daga	EECS	Yes

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21	Jing	Jing	ABE	Yes
22	Daniel	Ddiba	ABE	Yes
23	Agnes	Berg	SCI	No

Total attendees: 23.

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## Board composition and Chapter signatories



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### Board composition

Name	Position	Period
Mohammad Abuasbeh	Board member / Treasurer <sup>1</sup>	May 2021 - December 2021
Sofia Broomé	Board member / Workgroups Manager	July 2020 - June 2021
Saiman Ding	Board member / Council Manager	July 2020 - December 2021
Jasmin Höglund Hellgren	Board member / Education Manager	July 2020 - June 2021
Federico Izzo	Vice Chairperson	January 2021 - December 2021
Inês De Miranda De Matos Lourenço	Board member / Business Liaison	March 2020 - December 2021
Gloria Samosir	Chairperson	July 2020 - June 2021
Deniz Yildiz	Board member / Event Manager	July 2020 - June 2021

### Chapter signatories

As per the PhD Chapter Statutes §4.1 **Account signatories** “The PhD Chapter Chairperson and PhD Chapter Treasurer are each signatory for the PhD Chapter”. Hence, given the current composition, Gloria Samosir and Mohammad Abuasbeh are both signatories (firmatecknare) for the PhD Chapter (Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår); one signature from the signatories is enough to represent the PhD Chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Position valid starting May 17th 2021. Position previously held by Federico Izzo (January 2021- May 17th 2021).