

Chapter Meeting no. 3 – April 26th 2022

Minutes



PhD Chapter at KTH

Place: PhD Chapter Hall “T-Centralen”, Drottning Kristinas väg 29

Time: Tuesday, April 26th 2022, 17:17

1. Opening formalities [17.45-17:55]

- a. Meeting opening
 - i. 17:45
 - ii. The meeting was postponed until ten members had arrived. It was suggested by an attending member to change §2.3.1. in the statutes to allow for the chapter meeting to conduct business even when there are fewer than ten members attending. This motion needs to be submitted in writing to the board, or by the board, in order for it to be voted on in the next chapter meeting.
- b. Attendees
 - i. See appendix A.
- c. Choice of meeting chairperson
 - i. Mohammad Abuasbeh.
- d. Choice of meeting secretary
 - i. Daniel Berlin.
- e. Choice of meeting minutes checker
 - i. Saumey Jain and Mayank Sewlia.
- f. Approval of the latest protocol
 - i. Approved.
- g. Approval of rules of conduct, motion handling, voting procedure
 - i. Approved.
- h. Approval of the meeting agenda
 - i. Approved after adding “Report from THS” as point 2. b on the agenda.

2. Introductions and Reports [17.55 - 19.45]

- a. Introduction to the PhD Chapter and PhD School Councils
 - i. Mohammad Abuasbeh gives a brief introduction to the PhD Chapter, unions, the PhD Chapter Board, committees where the doctoral student chapter and the PhD School Councils.
- b. Report from THS
 - i. Amanda Andrén, Head of Educational Affairs at THS, gives a short report from THS. Among other things there will be a Q&A for the new rector, a new president for THS has been elected, a debate article on the aliens act was published in NyTeknik, Union Council elections will open soon (the PhD Student Chapter currently does not have any representative), and green week will be organized soon.
- c. Activity Report from the Board



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- i. Mohammad Abuasbeh gives a report about the activities the current board has engaged in since December 2021. The activities are categorized into educational, social and career development, operational, and work environment. Some examples: resources to Swedish courses, a climbing event, time compensation, and the migration law.
 - ii. Mohammad informs the chapter meeting about the details of the work to change the migration law, which is an ongoing work that started in July 2021 by the previous board. A “Researchers’ Manifestation Against the Aliens Act” is happening on May 15, 2022, 12:30-14:30 on Sergels Torg in Stockholm. Mohit Daga questions that the chairperson of the board is spending too much time on this particular issue. Daniel Berlin mentions that Mohammad Abuasbeh stated in the previous chapter meeting, when he was elected chairperson, that he would focus on the migration law as chairperson and thus was elected based on this premise.
- d. Activity Report from the School Councils
- i. ABE
 - 1. Mohammad Abuasbeh reports, since no council members are attending. Lena Stina Andersson provided the below information:
 - a. We have had two meetings 2022, one regular meeting for sharing experiences etc and a second discussing a new suggestion for new compensation routine for PhD representation work at ABE school.
 - b. Discussions were held with ABE administration and Johanna Stellan early in 2022 concerning a new, fixed percentage for compensation for PhD representative work. We sent over our comments earlier in 2022 but have not heard back. For now, we continue with the routine of reporting hours.
 - c. The ABE PhD council started 2022 with voting in several new PADs, many of the council members are new since 2022 or have started recently.
 - d. This site is updated with representatives and distributed tasks:
<https://www.kth.se/social/group/kth-abe-doctoral-rep/>
 - e. The ABE PhD council is currently without chair. Nicolas, who was interim chair, defended his thesis earlier this year and for now, Lena Stina is handling the chair email.
 - f. In general, social activities are starting up again at the different departments after the pandemic.



- g. Some of the departments are having discussions and issues with prolongations as the time offered is not corresponding to actual delays (due to pandemic).
 - h. One more meeting is planned for in the spring term.
 - ii. CBH
 - 1. Mohammad Abuasbeh reports, since no council members are attending, Tzu-En Chien provided the below information:
 - a. We have regular sport events on the main campus and Flemingsberg campus every week.
 - b. We will have a summer BBQ in June, PhD day in autumn(September or October).
 - c. Events like board games, movies and trivia may happen once in several months.
 - iii. EECS
 - 1. Sina Sheikholeslami and Saumey Jain report in their roles as vice chairpersons.
 - 2. The council is conducting a survey project following the ITM councils template and will send the survey out in a few weeks.
 - 3. Social events have been arranged, such as a board game night in Kista campus, and will be arranged, such as karaoke night on Thursday. The idea is to alternate between the two campuses. There are also plans for career development events.
 - 4. The council is now fully integrated in the introduction for new employees. Two doctoral student representatives attend the introduction day and give a 15-minute presentation to inform new doctoral students about rights and responsibilities.
 - 5. The library in Kista is closing down in order to cut costs. THS have been informed about the issue.
 - 6. There are issues with restricted access to counseling when doctoral students experience health issues and that information from counseling sessions is shared with the supervisor.
 - 7. The “One KTH” change seems to include less representation for doctoral students. However, the council has been able to withhold so far. This is an issue for the entire chapter to keep track of.
 - 8. There is one department head in the EECS school that refuses to include doctoral student representatives in the management group with the argument that “the meetings decide on issues that do not affect doctoral students”.
 - iv. ITM
 - 1. Mohammad Abuasbeh reports in his role as chairperson for the ITM council.



2. School level guidelines for time compensation were officially decided on including routines for payments.
 3. The council conducted a survey for the ITM school during autumn 2021. Courses and supervision were confirmed to be issues across the school that need particular attention. The plan is to conduct the survey annually.
 4. There will be an introductory course for all doctoral students at ITM.
 5. ITM doctoral student conference on May 23-24. The council will be represented and recruit people during this event.
- v. SCI
1. Elina Charatsidou reports for the council.
 - a. 1. Council meetings are regular and well-attended. Communication (mostly Slack) is good. Every program is actively represented.
 - b. 2. Cooperation between all PADs and respective PAs (where applicable – not at Physics) for the formulation of meaningful program evaluations. As a consequence, there was meaningful input towards the school-level report by the FA and discussion at the quality dialogue. The below points have been identified as issues and will be tackled by management and student council in a joint effort:
 - i. a. Insufficient preparation in JML and sustainable development.
 - ii. b. Superficial implementation of JML and sustainable development within programs.
 - iii. c. Course evaluation and development.
 - iv. d. Missing documentation in English (ASP and program evaluations themselves).
 - v. e. JML should not be restricted to becoming a module for students but should be a topic of discussion and a subject of study for all employees.
 - vi. f. Binary vision of KTH when it comes to gender. Little plans for protecting minorities.
 - vii. g. PhD students initiating contact for discussion (e.g., for PA-PAD cooperation). The other way around would seem more appropriate.
 - c. 3. Organised events
 - i. a. JML workshop at mathematics.
 - ii. b. Time-management seminar at applied physics.



- iii. c. Seminar on the SCI gender equality report at applied physics.
 - d. 4. Events to come
 - i. a. More seminars like point c. above to come, throughout the school.
 - ii. b. Joint physics-applied physics after-work.
 - iii. c. Workshop on scientific writing and presentations (school level).
 - e. 5. Plan (now implemented) for having students outside the council attend council meetings.
 - f. 6. Work groups established; initiating discussions for understanding important aspects and issues that are not targeted enough at a school level; facilitating formulation of discussion and action points for meetings with SCI management.
 - i. a. JML
 - ii. b. Course quality.
2. In the following discussion the [KTH Language Policy](#) is discussed.

3. PhD Chapter Budget [19.45-20.25]

- a. Saumei Jain informs that the PhD Chapter receives 1 011 000 SEK from KTH this year, half of which is paid each semester.
- b. Saumei Jain informs about the following board decision:
 - i. The Chapter Board earmarks 40k SEK for each school to start with to promote events both at school and local levels under categories mentioned below.
 - 1. Organizing events in categories like:
 - 2. JML (Equality, Diversity, and Equal Treatment)
 - 3. Reception for new students
 - 4. Student influence
 - 5. Educational quality
 - 6. Health and wellbeing
 - 7. Career or professional development
 - 8. Social event/activity
 - 9. Sustainability
 - ii. The school councils need to appoint a council member, preferably from the presidium who communicates with the treasurer and the board.
 - iii. If an event fulfills two or more of the above categories and the total budget of the event is less than 2.5k SEK, it is the responsibility of the appointed school council member to approve such event.



- iv. The expenses will be reimbursed by chapter upon receipt of invoices, filled outlay form and a brief summary of the event along with the list of participants.
 - v. If the total budget of the event is above 2.5k SEK, the request needs to be forwarded to the board, who will then vote on it.
 - vi. In case the school council runs out of the earmarked amount, the board will make a decision for allocating and earmarking further amount for the school.
 - c. Mohit Daga questions the 2 500 SEK limit. The chapter meeting discusses the limit and seems to accept it for a pilot. Mohit requests a clear policy. Saumey agrees that this would be good to develop during the trial period. Sina Sheikholeslami suggests that a motion on a clear policy should be submitted to and discussed in the next chapter meeting.
- 4. Additional issues and information [20.25-20.30]**
- a. Sina Sheikholeslami suggests everyone raise issues that they hear about to PADs, councils, and the board. Serious issues should of course also be raised with HR.
- 5. Meeting closing [20.30]**

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Minutes



PhD Chapter at KTH

Appendix A - Attendance list

Chapter Meeting no 3
26 April 2022
Attendance List



PhD Chapter at KTH

Place: T-Centralen, Drottning Kristinas Väg 29 (KTH Main Campus)
Time: Tuesday, 2022-04-26 17:17-19:00

Attendance List

First Name	Last Name	Dept./Division	Chapter Member
Daniel Berlin	Berlin	INDEX	Yes!
Mayank	Sewtra	EECS / DCS	YES!
Mohammad	Abuashbel	ITM/EGI	YES
Sameer	Jain	EECS/MST	Yes!
Sina	Sheikholekhi	EECS/SCS	YES!
Danil	A. Al Muhimbi	EECS/CST	YES!
Elna	Charatsi-dan	SCIENCE	Yes!!
Jeannie	He	EECS/ISE	No.
MOLIT	Ding	EECS/TCS	yes!
Amanda	Andren	TITS	NO
Zhang	Li	EME	Yes!
Nadiah	Naim	EME	Yes!

Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår
Organisation number: 802412-5026, Drottning Kristinas väg 15 – 10044 Stockholm
www.dr.kth.se

Chapter Meeting no. 3 - April 26th 2022

Board composition and Chapter signatories



PhD Chapter at KTH

Place: PhD Chapter Hall "T-Centralen", Drottning Kristinas väg 29

Time: Tuesday, 2022-04-26, 17:17- 20:30

Board composition

Name	Position	Period
Mohammad Abuasbeh	Chairperson ¹	July 2021 - June 2022
Saumey Jain	Board member / Treasurer	Jan 2022 -December 2022
Daniel Berlin	Board member / Education Manager ²	Jan 2022 - June 2022
Jing Jing	Board member / Workgroups Manager	July 2021 - June 2022
Sahba Zojaji	Board member / Event Manager	Jan 2022 - December 2022
Fabio De Ferrari	Board member / Communication Manager	Jan 2022 - December 2022
Mayank Sewlia	Board member / Council Manager	Jan 2022 - December 2022

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, Mohammad Abuasbeh (Chairperson) and Saumey Jain (Treasurer) 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.

¹ Position valid starting Dec 14th 2021. Position previously Vacant (July 2021- Dec 14th 2021).

² Position valid starting Dec 14th 2021. Position previously Vacant (July 2021- Dec 14th 2021).