Modifying Elections/Voting Procedures

Submitted for consideration to the PhD Chapter Meeting

The Phd chapter at KTH / Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår

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Background

Consider the following:

1. KTH has around 1600 doctoral students with at least 1% of activity on Ladok.
2. The PhD Chapter Election Meeting in 2022-12-13 had roughly 9 people present, and 11 virtually. The election meeting lasted over 4 hours. In 2022-06-13, the election meeting lasted 3 hours and a half, with 19 people present (i.e., not all of them were votes). In 2021-12-14, the election meeting had 20 people present as well.
3. Even though hybrid meetings are a means to increase participation of members in Chapter's decision, they do not scale well in the case of a very large number of participants.
4. KTH gives the PhD Chapter over 1M SEK in direct money per year to promote integration, student influence and increase education quality.

The aforementioned statistics shows that only 1.25% of the total KTH PhD Students engages actively in the PhD Chapter. While many factors might play a role in explaining why the percentage is so low, very long meetings in odd hours and/or lack of understanding of the PhD Chapter processes are certainly among them.

Digital elections are a means to democratize the PhD Chapter and allow members to know their representatives and to exert their voting rights on it.

In a nutshell, this motion proposes:

1. An election plan for the elections in December 2023, that should take place digitally and extend for a suitable duration.
2. To bring this subject back to discussion at the next Chapter Meeting for a new discussion based on the elections that happened.

Suggestions

To₁ Adopt the following election plan for a single time and regarding only the elections of December 2023:

1. The voting system to be used is VoteIT.
2. The Nominating Committee will perform the nominating process as they see fit, including opening for nominations and interviews.
3. The PhD Chapter will provide a list of active members and their email addresses.
4. The Nominating Committee, with the support of the PhD Chapter's Auditor, will input the data with all nominees and members into the system and open the system for voting.
5. Voting should last between three to seven working days, decided on the discretion of the Nominating Committee and counting from the day when chapter members are informed about the election through email.
6. Repeated Schultze method should be used for the elections. In case of a candidate applying for more than one position, they can be elected to no more than one position, where positions are filled according to their placement within the Statutes and the candidature removed from positions subsequent to the first position to which they are elected.

7. The results are announced at the following Chapter Meeting, by the Nominating Committee, being also ratified by the Chapter.
8. The next Chapter Meeting should also discuss a possible motion for permanently having digital elections.

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Stockholm, 2023-09-24

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Page 3 of 3