

Nominating committee report for Board Positions

Election errand for the Chapter meeting n.2 2023/2024

Background

Chapter meeting no. 2 of the operational year 2023/24 was summoned to conduct business on December 4th, 2023 with election errands on seven (7) board member positions and four (4) chapter functionaries. The vacancies profiles were established, communicated through the [summon](#), and published on the website with reference document [here](#).

According to PhD Statutes [Dr2019-CM-01/0002](#), clause §5.11.3, the nominating committee shall:

- a) Interview candidates for the PhD Chapter board and if required, consult third parties for relevant information;
 - b) Propose nominations to the PhD Chapter board. Nominations are established through a single majority of the committee.
- Furthermore, according to §11.2 and §11.3 of the Working Directives [Dr2019-PB-01/0004](#), the nominating committee shall:

- Be responsible for preparing election errands and other vacancies appointed by the Chapter meeting with the following scope of work:
 - To promote the elections that are administered during the current year of operation;
 - To collect nominations and candidacies;
 - To interview candidates and verify the candidates' references;
 - To declare statements and reports about the candidates before the Chapter meeting.
- Unless otherwise specified in a separate policy document, shall be considered as grounds for recommendations: suitability of a candidate to the vacancy, representativeness, and diversity with regards to gender, study programs, and other backgrounds deemed applicable, such as study mode.

Nineteen (19) people were nominated for the Chapter board positions and Chapter functionaries before the deadline, coming from the schools of EECS (8), CBH (1), ITM (3), SCI (5), and ABE (2). Thirteen (13) nominations were accepted: seven (7) for the Chapter board positions and eight (8) for the Chapter functionary. One of the nominees who accepted the nominations did not attend an interview.

The five (5) nominees whose nominations were assessed and reported in this document are:

- **Andressa Mazur** for the **Communication Manager** position,
- **Hemanth Venkatesan** for the **Treasurer** position,
- **Mattias Åstrand** for the **Event Manager** position,
- **Zoé Barjot** for the **Workgroups Manager** position and,
- **Sina Sheikholeslami** for the **Council Coordinator** position.

Nominations for the **Vice Chair** position are assessed and reported in a separate document Dr2024-CF-02/M2V1.

During the interviews, the candidates were also asked if they would consider other vacant board positions and to provide the contact details for reference persons.

The nominating committee members hereby inform the Chapter meeting that:

- Doga Gürgünoglu is currently a member of the nominating committee, and he was nominated for consideration in the role of Vice Chairperson. The nomination came from a person outside the nominating committee (Daniel Araújo de Medeiros) in compliance with section §5.11.4. of the PhD Chapter Statutes. Upon receiving the

nomination, the other members of the nominating committee took appropriate measures to prevent any conflict of interest. Hence, his suitability as a candidate is assessed separately by the remaining members of the committee and is included as an additional document.

- Saumey Jain would like to inform the Chapter that one of the assessed nominees, Sina Sheikholeslami, has personal and working relations with him.
- Sina Sheikholeslami has informed the nominating committee that he intends to finish his Ph.D. at the end of 2024 and thus can only fully commit to the role of Council Coordinator through June, when the next election cycle will be held. However, he stated that he would like to be in the role for the whole term, he will be open to reconsidering his decision closer to the date and will keep the board informed.

With that in mind, the nominating committee would like to recommend the chapter to consider the following candidates for the election as board members:

- **Andressa Mazur** for the **Communication Manager** position, based on the qualities she displayed at the interview. Andressa has been working for the Ph.D. Chapter board as the Communication Manager for the past 6 months, and she has been actively working on the improvement of gender equality, diversity, and equal opportunity conditions (referred to as JML in Swedish) for Ph.D. students. In her interview, she stated her intention to improve the awareness of Ph.D. students regarding different student representation bodies within KTH through the active use of a Ph.D. Chapter newsletter, as well as the Ph.D. Chapter social media accounts. She also intends to improve the onboarding of new Ph.D. students by organising welcome events in cooperation with THS.
- **Hemanth Venkatesan** for the **Treasurer** position, based on the qualities he displayed at the interview. Hemanth just started his PhD studies and has expressed his interest in joining the board and being an active and contributing part of the Chapter. He has had experience previously working for THS International Reception and also now as a Team Lead of one of the teams at Students' Nobel NightCap. Even though Hemanth did not have any experience of working and handling finances, he has had some exposure while handling and reporting budgets for THS International Reception and SNNC. He additionally expressed interest in learning these skills and coordinated with the previous treasurer to hit the ground running.
- **Mattias Åstrand** for the **Event Manager** position, based on the qualities he displayed at the interview. Mattias has been actively involved in the organisation of social events within the Ph.D. Chapter, and he holds both STAD and FEST certifications. In his interview, he stated that he intends to increase the frequency of Ph.D. Chapter pubs and wants to organise sports events based on the Ph.D. students' opinions. His previous experience working and leading the SCI Council further provides him with an excellent understanding of the PhD Chapter and makes him a superb resource.
- **Zoé Barjot** for the **Workgroups Manager** position, based on the qualities she displayed at the interview. Zoé has been working at the Ph.D. Chapter board as the Vice President for the past 6 months, and she wants to continue contributing to the board in a more specific position. She intends to continue her work on the improvement of onboarding for new Ph.D. students in the form of a workgroup, and she also intends to facilitate the formation of other working groups within the chapter board.

- **Sina Sheikholeslami** for the **Council Coordinator** position, based on the qualities he displayed at the interview. Sina has been active in student representation at the EECS council for several years, therefore the nominating committee considers his council-level experience to be valuable for the position of council coordinator. In his interview, Sina stated his intention to attend all of the council meetings in order to maintain communication not only between school councils and the Ph.D. Chapter, but also between individual councils. Although Sina may not end up holding the council coordinator position for the full length of the mandate, depending on the date of his defence, the nomination committee believes he could still contribute positively to the chapter in this role.

Additionally, the nominating committee received a number of nominations for Chapter functionary positions, out of which the following nominations were accepted by the nominees:

- Susanna Pozzoli for the position of Master of Ceremonies (DrInK)
- Monika Rolinska for the position of Standard Bearer
- Martin Lindström for the position of Standard Bearer
- Daniel Araújo de Medeiros for the position of Member of the Nominating Committee
- Andressa Mazur for the position of Member of the Nominating Committee
- Vladilena Gaisina for the position of Member of the Nominating Committee
- Andressa Mazur for the position of Head of Women's Doctoral Committee (WOP)
- Ruo-Chun Tzeng for the position of Head of Women's Doctoral Committee (WOP)

None of these positions require any type of interview or screening of the candidates in advance by the nominating committee, hence it is up to the chapter to decide if they are appropriate for their respective position.

Suggestions

The nominating committee recommends the chapter meeting:

To₁ consider for election, **Andressa Mazur** for the position board member of directors: **Communication Manager**

To₂ consider for election, **Hemanth Venkatesan** for the position board member of directors: **Treasurer**

To₃ consider for election, **Mattias Åstrand** for the position board member of directors: **Event Manager**

To₄ consider for election, **Zoé Barjot** for the position board member of directors: **Workgroups Manager**

To₅ consider for election, **Sina Sheikholeslami** for the position board member of directors: **Council Coordinator**

To₆ consider for election the following for the functionary positions as follows:

- Master of Ceremonies:
 - **Susanna Pozzoli**
- Standard Bearers:
 - **Monika Rolinska**
 - **Martin Lindström**
- Nominating Committee Members:
 - **Daniel Araújo de Medeiros**
 - **Vladilena Gaisina**
 - **Andressa Mazur**
- WoP committee members:
 - **Andressa Mazur**



- **Ruo-Chun Tzeng**

On behalf of the nominating committee,

Vladilena Gaisina
Stockholm, 27-11-2023

Doga Gürgünoglu
Stockholm, 27-11-2023

Saumey Jain
Montreal, 26-11-2023