



**PhD Chapter at THS | Doktorandsektionen vid THS
Board 2023/2024**

Minutes for Board Meeting #04

Place: Hannes Alfvéns väg 12, 5th Floor, Room 5228 (Albanova)

Date: October 31st, 2023, 15:00 - 17:00

Attendees: Andressa, Daniel, Fabio, Jana, Kiran, Ugne, Zoé

Formalities: [15:00]

1. Election of Meeting Chairperson, Secretary and Minutes Checker.
Zoé Barjot, Daniel Medeiros and Ugne Miniotaite were elected as Chairperson, Secretary and Minutes Checker respectively.
2. Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes.
The agenda was approved with modifications. All the previous minutes from July onwards are approved.
3. Eventual matters related to formalities.
No eventual matters related to formalities.

Decisions: [15:05]

4. Increase allocated budget for the previous retreat
Daniel explained how the budget for the workshop drastically increased due to miss communication with the hotel regarding booking of separate rooms. In the booking it was written 30x single rooms, which in reality translated to 15 double rooms fitting 30 people. This was only made clear last minute, and it was therefore necessary to book an additional 15 rooms, in order to provide everyone adequate privacy. Therefore the budget of the workshop was asked to be increased to 290 000 kr. Approved.
5. Increase the time compensation for Daniel (30%), Ugne (30%) and Andressa (20%).
Daniel, Ugne and Andressa explained their reasons for requesting additional time compensation. Ugne explained that it was due to a lot of time needed to be spent on the PhD survey, as well as salary negotiations and other smaller commitments. Andressa explained how her involvement in JML has been taking additional time. Daniel explained how the retreat, gasque and many other things have been increasing his time spent on the Chapter. Approved.
6. Permission to look for an accounting company to support the role of treasurer.
Discussions regarding the role of treasurer and the hurdles of it. Fabio explained how it would be beneficial to at least have someone to consult regarding questions with Skatteverket, especially since the treasurer is likely to not be Swedish speaking. Daniel expressed concerns for the workload of the treasurer and compared to other Chapters at KTH having more help. Approved, and Daniel will attempt to bring a proposal at the next board meeting.



Board Reports: [15:20]

7. Salary Negotiations

Ugne explained how the salary negotiations are handled for PhDs. She had a previous meeting with the Trade Unions and gave some pertinent information related to PhDs. There is no current information regarding the status of the negotiations aside that the first one happened on October 20th.

8. Survey

Ugne explained that she presented the survey to the Management Group at KTH (*Ledningsgrupp*) and gave the summary with the results. She brought up the critical points related to education (i.e., courses, mandatory courses not being available), supervision (i.e., not having enough supervision time), management topics (working hours), among others. She also presented the results at FU and UN. KTH wants to do the survey every two years and interact more with the PhD Chapter.

KTH Committees [16:10]:

9. THS Committees

Daniel said that he joined the Chair Council at THS and the other chapters have different emphasis than the PhD Chapter. Andressa has been on the JML committees and had good feedback overall and expressed that the PhD perspective is really sought after in these committees.

10. University Board (*Universitetsstyrelsen*)

Daniel explained that the next meeting for the University Board will happen on November 22nd.

11. Faculty Council (*Fakultetsrådet*)

Zoé informed the Board that there will be a meeting next week and she will inform them about the survey. The main topics going on are supervision and campus restructuring. She expects to present the survey at the next meeting or next month.

12. Employment Board (*Anställningsnämnden*)

Fabio explained that AN is closing at the end of the year and explained how the errands from AN works.

Educational Board (*Utbildningsnämnden*)

Ugne said that last week she went to Aalto (Finland) for a study trip as the university has experience in the reshaping of portfolios. There were discussions about Future Education/Life-long Learning with focus on improvement of digitalization.

13. Third-Cycle Education Committee (*Forskarutbildningsutskottet*)

Ugne presented the PhD survey for the FAs/vice-FAs and people from *ledningskansliet*. Out of the two hour meeting, the presentation took slight over 1 hour and many topics came up. Some of the thoughts are the need for a quality system for education and to open a *doktorandsbyrå* which would be a central administration system for third-cycle education at KTH- something which has so far been missing.

14. Scholarship Committee (*Stipendierrådet*)



Kiran explained that the committee does not meet frequently but approves the new scholarships, and that he has been defending discussions on opening the scholarship for non-Swedish citizens.

15. Equality Council at KTH

Andressa explained that she had several lunch meetings, and a workshop day with several talks regarding how decisions will change at KTH in the high-level. The VPs for Sustainability / Equality do not exist anymore and such questions might not be prioritized at KTH anymore. And when this was asked to the President of KTH during the workshop, he replied that it is a matter of trust.

16. Ethics Committee (*Etikutskottet*)

Kiran explained that the meeting for the Ethics Committee are monthly and in Swedish, with some translations in English. One issue with PhD students related to ethics is how long an approval for some experiments takes.

17. ISP Focus Group

Daniel said that he would get updates from Sahba.

18. Future Faculty

Jana says that everything is going on smoothly and that most positions are being filled.

19. Language Committee (Språkkommittén)

Daniel said that he will get updates from Mattias and Charlie.

20. ASP Reading Group

Daniel explained how the ASP Reading Group works and that he often gives some feedbacks there (although not so much as the ASPs are also evaluated by the Councils).

Discussions [16:50]:

21. Discussion regarding handover documentation to increase continuity in PhD Chapter
Ugne mentioned the need of having a larger document to help the handover and continuity between the boards at the PhD Chapter. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea.

22. Updating THS views document suggestions

Ugne said that she had a meeting with a THS Representative regarding the document for THS Views and what we (the Chapter) should think. She will leave the document open for feedback for a while.

23. Academic freedom report from UKÄ

Ugne said that there is a current question regarding academic freedom, and that a PhD perspective was necessary. She brought the survey results, and also included topics such as permanent residence.

24. JML Structure for the Chapter

Andressa explained that each school council should have a JML representative at each school. ITM and SCI don't have representatives in this matter. One of the things discussed was why the PhD Chapter doesn't have an exclusive position for JML. Andress will investigate more this issue.



25. Sport Events

Zoé is starting an initiative of holding training sessions in multiple sports, and we should have tennis, football and climbing if there are people interested. She will send the form for sign-ups shortly.

Per-capsulam decisions:

2023-10-10: Mattias Åstrand (SCI Chair) requests 14 500 kr for an outreach event to recruit new students for the council. 50 students are expected. The money is split 13 000 kr for catering and 1500 kr for sodas.

2023-10-10: Elina Charatsidou (SCI) requests 16 500 kr for having a pole dance class.

2023-10-10: Saumey Jain (Master of Ceremonies) requests 2500 kr for the next PhD Pub where the money will be used to buy food for the people who works there.

2023-10-12: Zoé Barjot (Dr Vice Chair) requests 5025 kr to host a Climate Fresk workshop at T-Centralen. The money will be used for food and to pay the workshop facilitators. 40 students in total.

2023-10-12: Jordi Altayó (EECS) requests 4500 kr for an event with pizza and soda in Kista, 25 students.

2023-10-20: Javier Kipen (EECS) is organizing a movie night and requests 3050 kr for 15 students, the money is used for food, drinks and rental of the movie.

2023-10-31: Hampus Mårtensson (ABE Chair) requests 800 kr for fika at the next council meeting, 20 students.

2023-10-31: Saumey Jain (EECS Chair) requests 800 kr for fika at the next council meeting. 23 students.

2023-10-31: Karthik Rajasekar (CBH) requests 14 000 kr to host an interschool phd volleyball tournament. 60 players and 10 teams are expected. The money is used for renting the court (8000 kr) plus refreshments for the day (2000 kr) and a small prize for the winning teams (4000 kr).

Meeting was adjourned at 17:10.

Signed by:

Zoé Barjot - Meeting Chairperson

Daniel Medeiros - Secretary



Ugne *Ugnė*

10-11-2023

Ugne Miniotaite - Minutes Checker