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Chapter Meeting 2025 #1 Try 2

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Ugne Miniotaite
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Steffen Hammer
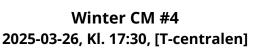Signed with BankID 2025-04-04 10:25 Ref: 0195ffe7-9eec-71bf-94db-40347d7f09ec

ELLYMAY GOOSSENS
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PhD Chapter - *Doktorandsektionen*

Drottning Kristinas väg 29
114 28 Stockholm
www.dr.kth.se

Winter CM #4
2025-03-26, Kl. 17:30, [T-centralen]

1. Formalities

1.1. The opening of the meeting - Mötets öppnande
Intro
Meeting opened 17.48.

Hilma Karlsson goes over an introduction of the PhD Chapter, its structure and what a Chapter meeting is.

1.2. Timely announcement of the meeting - Mötets behöriga utlysande
The summons were published on the PhD Chapter Webpage the 11th of March.

The meeting is considered to be timely announced.

1.3. Election of meeting president - Val av mötesordförande

Hilma Karlsson is nominated and elected as meeting chairperson.

1.4. Election of meeting secretary - Val av mötessekreterare

Ugne Miniotaite is nominated and elected as meeting secretary.

1.5. Appointment of Minutes checker and vote counters - Val av justerare tillika rösträknare

Ellymay Goossens and Steffen Hammer are nominated and elected as minutes checkers and vote counters.

1.6. Co-optations - Adjungeringar
Teo Elmfeldt, Daniel Madeiros and Kamila Oppelova were co-opted with speaking rights.

1.7. Previous meeting - Föregående protokoll
Minutes of previous Chapter Meeting December 11th
No comments or corrections.

1.8. Establishing the agenda - Fastställande av föredragslista
The agenda was established

2. Decisions - Beslut
To give freedom of responsibility to the members of the PhD Chapter board 2023/2024.
Attachments: [Audit report Dr2025-CF-02](#) and [Board Report Dr2024-PB-01](#)

Teo Elmfelt (auditor 2023/2024) presented the auditing report and answered questions.
The decision was amended to add freedom of responsibility to the Chapter board members.

The members of the PhD Chapter board 2023/2024 were awarded freedom of responsibility.

3. Reports - Rapporter

3.1. THS
There is a decision being made confirming a new Chapter hall in B-building will be given to the IT (students currently in Kista) and TBas (preparatory year students) chapters.

The bookstore in Nymble (the union building) is moving down to the bottom floor which allows us to make better use of our building.

There is a union term membership for the Autumn semester or Spring semester, now costing 220 SEK, but the yearly membership fee is still 365 sek. This could be useful for visiting PhD students.

There is a new course rating system at KTH which is integrated in Canvas for undergrad students. Since few third cycle courses use Canvas, THS are wondering if/how the new system has become available to the doctoral student courses.

No one in the meeting had heard about this new Canvas integrated course rating system.

3.2. The Board - Styrelsen
3.2.1. [Treasurer](#)

3.2.2. [Chairperson](#)
Regarding KTH doctoral Survey: A suggestion brought up was to post about the doctoral survey in the KTH school newsletters and in general advertise more about the PhD Chapter through the newsletter. The board will take this into consideration.

The question of the PhD Chapter's role in the creation and analysis of the KTH doctoral survey was brought up. Ellymay (Education Manager) was involved in designing the survey, with input from the PhD councils throughout the process. The analysis will be conducted by the Education Manager and Alice Eklund. Ellymay will raise the question of access to anonymized data for school councils and other relevant parties.

3.3. School Councils - Skolråd

3.3.1. [ABE](#)

3.3.2. CBH

CBH has a newly elected school council which might need some extra support from the other councils in how to get started.

3.3.3. [EECS](#)

The EECS School Council has recently become aware of funds available at the school level for council activities and is currently reviewing how to access them. The SCI School Council is facing challenges, as the school is attempting to cut their funds for time compensation.

EECS School is in the process of merging all its doctoral programs into a single program. A concern was raised about the increased reliance on a single FA (Director of Third Cycle Education), as opposed to the current structure where multiple PAs (Program Directors) can voice concerns. An example was brought up where a previous FA had initially set a 75 ECTS limit for a doctoral program, making it difficult to reduce it to 60 ECTS until support was gained from multiple PAs.

SCI School is also reducing the number of doctoral programs, which is being used as a means to reduce time compensation. A discussion point was added to the agenda regarding the overall need for doctoral programs, given the trend of merging programs.

Dinner break

3.3.4. [ITM](#)
Since the last Chapter meeting, the ITM council has had elections and now has a nearly full council board (10 members and only the webmaster position open).

3.3.5. [SCI](#)

3.4. WOP - Women of PhD

3.5. Good Fellows Award

The nomination form was sent out together with the agenda two weeks prior to the Chapter meeting. All students could submit nominations and 13 nominations were received. After reviewing the nominations carefully, the PhD Chapter board decided to nominate Ture Zingmark and Susanna Pozzoli for the THS Kamratstipendiet 2025 with the following nominations:

Ture Zingmark:
Ture has demonstrated exceptional kindness, approachability, and dedication to supporting his fellow PhD students. From the very beginning, he has played a vital role in welcoming new students, ensuring that they feel comfortable and included. He is known for taking the time to assist others, whether it be academic matters, administrative processes, or simply offering a helping hand. His ability to foster a sense of community and belonging within his division makes him an outstanding colleague. Ture's selflessness and unwavering support truly embody what it means to be a Good Fellow, enriching the PhD experience for those around him.

Susanna Pozzoli:
Susanna has made a lasting impact on the PhD community through her leadership, advocacy, and tireless contributions to student life. She has played a crucial role in various councils, particularly at the EECS PhD council. She has been actively working to improve students mental health and worked hard in reviving important student resources such as the Swedish for Employees course. But what most of you have seen is her willingness to take on demanding but often unrecognized tasks—like managing pubs and social events. I think most of you have met Susanna if you have come to a PhD Chapter pub and see how she over and over again shows up for all her fellow phd students. We in the PhD Chapter board would therefore like to nominate Susanna for the Good Fellow award.

4. Motions - Motioner

4.1. Digital Summer Elections
Approve: 23
Abstain: 0
Reject: 0

Motion was accepted.

5. Other questions - Övriga frågor

5.1. PhD Chapter Funding Applications

Ugne Miniotaite (Chairperson 2024/2025) explained the current funding application system in the PhD Chapter board.

Steffen Hammer (ITM) raised concerns that funding applications for ITM students have sometimes been delayed, with long response times and long response times until rejections.

After discussion, the Chapter meeting instructed the PhD Chapter board to review the funding application process and present their findings at the next Chapter meeting.

Hemanth (treasurer 2024/2025) explains how he has considered a budget for PhD Chapter, as also suggested by the Auditor Teo (2023/2024) in his Audit report. This would involve each council getting a budget and handling the expenses of their council. However objections were brought up as the councils in many cases do not have a treasurer and already are struggling with their capacity.

For the next Chapter meeting, the board should give a stronger framework and background as to how a budget system would work.

5.2. Crediting courses- shortening the study time

Boel Berg Wincent (ABE) raised concerns about doctoral students at ABE having their study time shortened if they credit courses from their Master's degree. Additionally, students are required to decide on course accreditation at the start of their studies, with no possibility to revise this decision later. This forces them to make commitments about their study time without fully understanding the implications.

A discussion followed on whether this practice exists in other schools. It appears that ABE is the only school that reduces study time based on accredited courses, though in some cases, students are only allowed to credit courses taken beyond the required 120 ECTS of their Master's degree.

ABE will look into the revision of this handläggningsordning and we also requested them to make the following clear for PhD students and PAs.
- You can transfer credits at any time(up to 5 weeks before lic/dr seminar), not just when you start.
- You can either not transfer credits, transfer credits but replace the time with another course or transfer credits and get a time reduction
- You are supposed to get a written confirmation when transferring of credits that states how much time that is removed from your study plan
- If you regret the transfer of credit, you can change your decision in your ISP.

5.3 Is a PhD Program necessary

Hilma Karlsson (Vice Chair PhD Chapter 2024/2025) brought up a question from the FU (Research Education Council) regarding the merging

of doctoral programs at EECS and SCI, and whether doctoral programs would still be necessary if the schools moved to having only one program per school.

It was noted that the subject component would remain intact, and many existing programs already have only one or two mandatory courses, which are general, such as research ethics.

Discussion Points:

- Some felt removing the programs could encourage interdisciplinary research and provide more flexibility.

- Others had concerns about losing out on field specifically tailored programs, suggesting that the problem lies in the schools not tailoring the programs enough.

- Concerns were raised about how student transitions are handled when programs are merged, with past examples where students were reassigned without input.

- The frequent renaming of programs has been confusing, particularly when department names closely match the program names.

- Cultural and academic identity tied to specific programs was also discussed, with some arguing that mergers risk losing this sense of belonging, but others also expressing that they do not feel a strong sense of belonging with their program.

6. Conclusion of the meeting - Mötets avslutande
Meeting closed 20.46