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Nominating Committee Report Summer 2025

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Joel Kronborg

Signed with BankID 2025-05-27 17:12 Ref: 0197124d-848d-744d-9623-d44402b0acdc

ZOÉ LOUISE BARJOT

Signed with BankID 2025-05-27 16:35 Ref: 0197122b-0b35-7dbe-a43b-f621d3e36656

IBRAHIM BATAYNEH

Signed with BankID 2025-05-27 16:24 Ref: 01971220-e8e1-78d1-b331-8c022ba47e57

Ugne Miniotaite

Signed with BankID 2025-05-27 15:32 Ref: 019711f1-9301-7439-a696-69898c692502

Nominating Committee Report for Chapter Elections

Election errands for Chapter meeting no. 4, 2025/06/05.

Background

Chapter meeting no. 4 of the operational year 2024/25 was summoned to conduct business on June 5th, 2025 with election errands on eight (8) board member positions and three (3) Chapter functionaries. The vacancy profiles were established, communicated through the summon, and published on the website.

According to PhD Statutes [Dr2024-CM-02/0001](#), 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.

Twenty (20) people were nominated for the Chapter board positions and Chapter functionaries before the deadline, coming from the schools of EECS (4), CBH (1), ITM (9), SCI (3), and ABE (3). Twelve (12) nominations were accepted: ten (10) for the Chapter board positions and four (4) for the Chapter functionary positions.

The ten (10) nominees whose nominations were assessed and reported in this document are:

- **Hilma Karlsson** for the **Chairperson** position,
- **Gourav Ghosh** for the **Vice Chair** position,
- **Uli Max Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position,
- **Ellymay Goossens** for the **Education Manager** position,
- **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position,
- **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position,
- **Kamila Oppelová** for the **Business Liaison** position,
- **Luka Smajila** for the **Business Liaison** position,
- **Ivo Brujil** for the **Workgroup Manager** position,
- **Kaung Myat** for the **Webmaster** position.



The nominating committee members hereby inform the PhD Chapter that:

- Ugne Miniotaite and Zoé Barjot, members of the Nominating Committee, stated a conflict of interest regarding Hilma Karlsson, Peiling Wu and Ellymay Goossens, and were not present at the interview with them, nor at the discussion on the position of the Nominating Committee regarding their nomination.

With that in mind, the Nominating Committee would like to state to the Chapter meeting that the following candidates are suitable for the election as board members:

- **Hilma Karlsson** for the **Chairperson** position. Hilma is currently the Vice Chair of the PhD Chapter, and feels ready to step up and take on more responsibility as the Chairperson. During the interview, she mentioned wanting to continue working on the salary ladder, the PhD career fair PhireD, events, and improving clarity and communication with the students and the councils. She describes the councils as having a more direct connection with the students in their respective schools, but a bit disconnected from each other and the Chapter, and showed curiosity and willingness to discuss how that can be improved.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Hilma has great insight into the chair role, the Chapter, KTH and much of what the councils do as well. She is level-headed and listening, and has a clear sense of direction for the Chapter, combined with a willingness to enable each board member to improve their respective areas of responsibility. Her experience, commitment and inclusivity makes her an excellent candidate for the Chairperson position.

- **Gourav Ghosh** for the **Vice Chair** position. Gourav has held positions of responsibility at his previous workplace and has some experience of student representation from his Bachelor's, and wants to get involved more in the student life at KTH. He does not have a clear idea of what the Vice Chair role entails or what he would like to improve in the role, but he mentioned the importance of salary ladder issues and sustainability.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Gourav appears calm and friendly, but his lack of insight into the Chapter and the Vice Chair role makes it difficult to judge his suitability for the position. He showed a willingness to learn more about it by talking to previous board members.

- **Uli Max Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position. Uli has no previous experience from student representation, but is early in his PhD and wants to contribute to improving the PhD education. During the interview, he talked about issues related to immigration laws and finding jobs, as well as issues regarding course credits. He speaks Swedish fluently.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Uli shows a clear interest in large and important questions related to PhD studies in Sweden. Although his initial nomination was for the Education Manager position, his enthusiasm for these issues makes him well-suited to run for Vice Chair position and contribute to the Chapter on a wider scale. He has no previous experience, but has an evident will to learn and get involved.

Nominating Committee | Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår

Organization number: 802412-5026 | Website: www.dr.kth.se, E-mail: nominations@dr.kth.se

Postal address: Drottning Kristinas väg 15 – 10044 Stockholm



- **Luka Smajila** for the **Business Liaison** position. Luka has held the positions of Event Manager and Treasurer in the ITM PhD Council. In the interview, he shared thoughts and ideas on how to further improve the PhD career fair PhireD, foster collaboration with KTH Innovation, and develop activities for students who want to continue in academia. He enjoys meeting people and believes in good time management and having a good work-life balance.
Comments from the Nominating Committee: Luka has numerous ideas, shows a real passion for the role and has experience from PhD council work. With him in the Business Liaison position, the Nominating Committee believes connections with the industry will continue to improve for the Chapter and all its students.
- **Kamila Oppelová** for the **Business Liaison** position. Kamila has followed the work that Matt (current BL) has been doing to organise company visits and the PhD career fair PhireD, and feels motivated to continue the work. She has prepared extensively by talking to Matt and by attending the last Chapter meeting to understand more about the board. If elected, she wishes to widen the company contacts to include more different fields.
Comments from the Nominating Committee: Kamila shows a strong interest in the role and has worked hard to understand and prepare for it. Although she has no previous experience, it is clear that she is ready to put in the work necessary to do a good job.
- **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position. Dita has observed issues related to the work environment and poor supervision, and seen that reflected in the PhD survey as well. She is motivated to get involved in the Chapter and address these issues. She has no previous experience from the PhD Chapter or Council, but enjoyed student involvement and event organisation during her Bachelor's and Master's.
Comments from the Nominating Committee: Dita is engaged and energetic with a positive attitude. She has no previous experience from her PhD School Council or the PhD Chapter board, and will initially have to put extra effort into getting up to speed with the Council Coordinator work. Her motivation and observations of issues affecting PhD students in her own division and willingness to address those issues is positive.
- **Ivo Brujil** for the **Workgroup Manager** position. Ivo is new to the PhD Chapter, but has consulted previous board members to get a clear view of the responsibilities of the role. He likes the flexibility of the role and wants to be able to contribute to various activities within the Chapter. He has followed the work of the Chapter and talked in the interview about its diversity and difficulties in connecting PhD students from different parts of KTH. He brings previous experience from his involvement during his Bachelor's and Master's, and is studying Swedish.
Comments from the Nominating Committee: Although Ivo has not been involved in the PhD Chapter or in his School Council, he has made a significant effort to understand what the work is about and the expectations on the Workgroup Manager role through reading and talking to current board members. He gives an organised and diligent impression and is ready to take on the responsibility of the Workgroup Manager position.



- **Ellymay Goossens** for the **Education Manager** position. Ellymay has already served one year in the position and wishes to continue the work, which is now largely focused on outcomes from the recent PhD survey. Her familiarity with the KTH organisation gives her confidence, and she appreciates the welcoming environment in the Chapter board. In spring 2026, she will be away for a research visit, but thinks her tasks can still be handled by attending meetings online and delegating when needed.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: With many new people coming into the board, Ellymay's experience from the board work will be very valuable. Familiarity with the organisation will enable her both to be more efficient in her role and also to help others get up to speed faster. The Nominating Committee is confident that Ellymay will continue to do great work on the board if elected.

- **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position. Peiling has served for one year as the Workgroup Manager on the Chapter board and is now running for Communications Manager. In her view, this role is important for bridging the gap between the students and the PhD Chapter board. Projects she has been working on so far include managing the Chapter's Instagram page and starting the Chapter's podcast, and she plans to continue to develop these in the position of Communication Manager.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Peiling has valuable experience from having been on the board already for a year. During this year, she has shown drive in starting successful projects and organising events. Her will to continue this in the coming year indicates commitment. The role as Communication Manager will be highly suitable for her to continue contributing to the Chapter.

- **Kaung Myat** for the **Webmaster** position. Kaung was originally interviewed for the Chairperson role but, following recommendations from the Nominating Committee, accepted to run for the Webmaster position. He has actively engaged in student leadership, previously serving as president of his university's global union, and is passionate about fostering inclusive spaces for PhD students. Though relatively new to the PhD Chapter board, Kaung has made an effort to familiarize himself with its operations, reviewing past meeting notes and considering ways to improve communication within the chapter. He is also currently a PAD in the ITM Council. He values structured leadership, admires effective organization, and has a clear vision for enhancing digital communication and accessibility within the Chapter.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Kaung has demonstrated a strong commitment to student engagement and leadership. While he has not previously attended a Chapter Meeting, he has taken initiative to understand the PhD Chapter structure and responsibilities. His experience in managing groups, handling administrative tasks, and promoting inclusivity will be valuable in the Webmaster role.



Additionally, the Nominating Committee received a number of nominations for Chapter functionary positions, out of which four (4) nominations were accepted by the nominees:

- **Saumey Jain** for the **Auditor** position,
- **Daniel Araújo de Medeiros** for the **Auditor** position,
- **Athanasia Christou** for the **Master of ceremonies** (DrInK) position,
- **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Master of ceremonies** (DrInK) position.

Suggestions

Based on the interviews, the Nominating Committee finds it suitable for the Chapter meeting:

- To₁ consider for election, **Hilma Karlsson** for the **Chairperson** position.
To₂ consider for election, **Uli Max Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position.
To₃ consider for election, **Gourav Ghosh** for the **Vice Chair** position.
To₄ consider for election, **Luka Smajila** for the **Business Liaison** position.
To₅ consider for election, **Kamila Oppelová** for the **Business Liaison** position.
To₆ consider for election, **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position.
To₇ consider for election, **Ivo Brujil** for the **Workgroup Manager** position.
To₈ consider for election, **Ellymay Goossens** for the **Education Manager** position.
To₉ consider for election, **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position.
To₁₀ consider for election, **Kaung Myat** for the **Webmaster** position.
To₁₁ consider for election, **Saumey Jain** for the **Auditor** position.
To₁₂ consider for election, **Daniel Araújo de Medeiros** for the **Auditor** position.
To₁₃ consider for election, **Athanasia Christou** for the **Master of Ceremonies** position.
To₁₄ consider for election, **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Master of Ceremonies** position.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee,

(Digitally signed)

Joel Kronborg
2025-05-27

(Digitally signed)

Ibrahim Batayneh
2025-05-27

(Digitally signed)

Andressa Mazur
2025-05-27

(Digitally signed)

(Digitally signed)



PhD Chapter at KTH

Doctoral Students' network

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Nominating Committee Report
Nominating Committee, Dr/THS

Zoé Barjot
2025-05-27

Ugne Miniotaite
2025-05-27