



PhD Chapter - Doktorandsektionen

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

Summer CM #3

2025-06-05, Kl. 17:30, [T-centralen]

Minutes of the meeting



1. Formalities

1.1. The opening of the meeting - Mötets öppnande

Intro -

The meeting was opened at 17:39.

Ugne gave a brief introduction to the new students who attended the chapter meeting for the first time, about the chapter, the organisational structure and the role of the chapter.

1.2. Timely announcement of the meeting - Mötets behöriga utlysande

Posted on the 28th of April, more than one month in advance.

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting was announced in a timely manner.

1.3. Election of meeting president - Val av mötesordförande

Ugne Miniotaite - unanimously elected.

1.4. Election of meeting secretary - Val av mötessekreterare

Hemanth Venkatesan - unanimously elected.

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

Sai Kausik Abburu and Joel Kronberg were nominated by Ugne for the position.

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Sai accepted his nomination, whereas Joel had to leave early and hence refused his nomination.

Matt Davoudi volunteered.

Sai and Matt were unanimously elected as minute checkers and vote counters.

1.6. Co-optations - Adjungeringar

No co-optations for this meeting as of 17:45.

1.7. Previous meeting - Föregående protokoll

Meeting minutes were published on the website shortly after the last meeting, no comments from the members regarding the protocol.

1.8. Establishing the agenda - Fastställande av föredragslista

The agenda was accepted as it is, with unanimous approval.

2. Reports - Rapporter

2.1. THS

2.2. The Board - Styrelsen

2.2.1. Treasurer

As mentioned while explaining the finances of the chapter, this sentence has been added as an addendum while adjusting the minutes.

The difference in the KTH Bidrag received by the chapter between the years 2024 (1,068,337 SEK) and 2025 (1,104,981 SEK) is 36644 SEK.

2.2.2. Chairperson

Mohammad - Question regarding the salary ladder and the time-based system.

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Q. If there is no criterion in the ISP, how would the new time-based system be different?

- Some form of criterion must be mentioned in the ISP.
- As it stands now, the supervisor needs to sign the document that would approve the salary increase for the students.
- Practicalities are being discussed in the KTH management office, and a working group has been formed to discuss this issue. Time-based system to be implemented universally and to take that power out of the hands of the supervisor.

Career fair -

- Matt talked about the career fair and gave a brief overview of the event. He talked about how the event came to be and his wishes for PhireD to be a yearly event.
- Ugne explains that the chapter hopes to create a committee to organise this event in the future, headed by the business liaison.

Ugne explains about the Board Gasque and encourages members to join the board or councils to enjoy these perks.

2.3. School Councils - Skolråd

2.3.1. ABE

2.3.2. CBH

2.3.3. EECS

2.3.4. ITM

Question pertaining to the ITM representative's report

Ugne - Is the WhatsApp group active?

Manuel (ITM) -

- It is a channel to know what future activities the ITM students would like the council to do.

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- It is not so silent in the group. Opinions are being shared in the group.
- Trying to get together more often by means of this group.

Susanna - Maybe some people are using Telegram, might want to consider having different channels of communication.

Mohammad - Easy mode of communication (WhatsApp). Might explore different channels if needed.

2.3.5. SCI

Question pertaining to the SCI representative's report -

Hemanth - Can you elaborate on the negotiations with the school regarding time compensation?

Sai -

- There is an allotted percentage of 91% for the school council, which is divided among the different representatives at the school level.
- The school is planning to cut it down to 80%.
- Problems with the restructuring of the school, there are only 4 PADs for the entire school.
 - The school is proposing 10% for PADs instead of 7% while cutting down the number of PADs and the % of the board members.
 - With the slashing of the overall budget for the council, the plan is to give priority to the PADs and maintain their time compensation levels as when the budget was 91%.

Susanna - Regarding the gender representation, have you been asked specifically to send females to the meetings, since it is not always possible to guarantee that?

Susanna feels that it is not in the purview of the council to weigh in on this issue.

Sai agrees, but they want to do something about the issue of overexertion among the current members of the council (specifically the current event

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manager), who are being overworked, taking part in all the meetings due to a lack of adequate representation.

Mohammad suggests having a maximum cap when it comes to time compensation and making a conscious effort to spend less.

Sai agrees with this proposal and explains that the council is working on the projected estimate for the year.

- The council is in favour of having a cap of 91% as a safety net, but to making an effort to work with a reduced budget of 80%.

Ugne explains the time compensation guidelines at the central level (for the chapter board).

2.4. WOP - Women of PhD

Refer to the attached reports for details regarding the work currently being done at the chapter, councils and the various functions (WOP).

Dinner break

3. Decisions - Beslut

Budget of the 2025 PhD Jubilee Ball

Abhilash - Project manager for the Jubileum ball takes the stage.

- Presented the Jubileum ball event in front of the chapter.
- 45th founding year of the chapter (established in 1980).
- Date of the event - 10th of October.
- A venue found in Södermalm, which was later revealed to be Munchenbryggeriet.
 - Reasons behind the cost -

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- The event is being planned at an outside venue.
 - It is a formal event with high expected participation; the event is being planned for 500 students.
 - Need for security guards, sound and light technicians, etc.
- Presented a simplified cost breakdown as part of the presentation.
- Explained the itinerary of the event.
 - A ball (dance) is part of the event along with a jazz band.
 - Ballroom - One hall booked separately for the ball.
 - Performances from students who might be willing to participate.
 - Gasque - Traditional dinner event.
 - Dress code for the event was also explained - festive wear from the chapter members' home countries is acceptable, a white tie event.
 - Standard bearers from THS would be invited to perform at the ceremony.
 - Hemanth explained the standard bearer ceremony as part of the event and the budgeting process.
 - Budget - The detailed budget (preliminary) was shown, and the ticket costs for the different attendees of the event were shown and debated.
 - Quotes from the different venues were compared to settle on a venue.
 - A long list of different quotes was compiled to come up with a preliminary budget for the event.
 - Major costs apart from the venue booking were explained by Abhilash.
 - Questions pertaining to the finances of the chapter and the feasibility of such an expensive event were discussed; the chapter is currently in a good financial position to go ahead with this event.
- Motivation behind organising the event -
 - He wishes to engage more PhD students; he feels that the same people get the chance to attend the events, and new students do not get a chance to attend.
- There would be a possibility to bring +1s to this event.

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- Abhilash explained that some costs, such as for the jazz band, can be variable.
 - The venue rent should probably remain the same.
- Saumey had a question about recourse if the expected tickets are not sold and the income is not received to offset the costs.
 - Hemanth explained that this shall be answered while discussing the chapter's budget for the upcoming year.
- Can we afford this event?
 - Hemanth gave a brief about the state of the finances again (explained the amount available in the coffers as of that meeting) and assured that it is possible to finance this event and other functions of the chapter simultaneously.
 - Mohammad also added to this point, saying that this event shall not happen every year, and the chapter can save money in the intervening years before the next event.
- Saumey proposed that we wait for the point "budget of the chapter" which was the last point on the agenda, before we vote on approving/declining the Jubileum.
 - This chapter was asked if it would be okay to alter the agenda to take the budget point before the election results on the agenda - unanimously approved.

4. Other questions - Övriga frågor

PhD Chapter budget

- Hemanth takes the point on the budget.

Motivation behind creating such a document -

- At the previous Chapter Meeting, the auditor for the PhD Chapter board 2023/2024 suggested a budget for the PhD Chapter.
- The budget would be a public-facing document which details how the money coming into the Chapter would be spent.

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- The hope is also to have shared responsibility with the PhD Councils by giving them more independence to decide how the money gets spent on events.
- It shall also promote transparency between the board and the chapter members.
- Hemanth felt that certain decisions for funding were legacy decisions and must be updated.
 - Mohammad explains how the fast-track decision works.
 - Saumey explains why this was established because it was the first time that KTH had given 1 million SEK to the PhD Chapter.
 - Hemanth explains how the council has more information on what events should be funded and when they might be misused. Boards fund "blindly"; the transparency might be better if the decision is made at the council level.
- It is also a good way to see how the PhD Chapter is growing.
- Hemanth walks through a draft of the proposed budget. Refer to the attached document above for details.
- The Chapter meeting is in favour of the creation of this document.

Voting for the Jubileum -

- Method: a show of hands.
- Saumey had a question - Why didn't the board propose an amount of 900000 SEK (the amount excluding the income from the tickets)?
 - Hemanth explained that that was the initial budget for the event, but the board wanted to show a realistic picture of the amount needed for the event and thought that it might be easier for the chapter to vote on.
- The proposition to vote for 900000 SEK for the event was declined.
- To vote - To approve a budget of 600000 SEK for the Jubileum.
 - 2 people were missing from the count after the first count.
 - The number of people in the room at that time was counted.
 - There was an error in counting the votes.
 - People hadn't signed out while leaving.

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- Recount
 - For - 20
 - Against - 1
 - Abstain - 6

The sum matched the number of people present.

A budget of 600000 SEK was approved for the Jubileum.

5. Val - Elections

5.1. Ratifying election procedures

- Joel took to the stage to speak on behalf of the nominating committee.
- Election Procedure - Opened the portal for nominations on the 30th of April, and sent out the email.
 - 20 nominations in total. 8 board positions, 3 functionary positions.
 - The 16th of May nominations were closed.
- 3 or more members from the nominating committee, on average, were present for the interviews.
 - The interviews were recorded for those who were absent.
- Interviews were held between May 14th and May 22nd.
- May 28th - elections were opened,
 - It was open until June 5th, 17:15.
- Conflicts of interest - Ugne and Zoe were part of NC, interest regarding Hilma, Peiling and Ellymay, and did not partake in those interviews.
- Call to ratify the election procedure -
 - Unanimously approved.
 - Susanna expressed that we should have a show of hands.
 - For - 26
 - Against - 0
 - Abstain - 0
 - Election ratified by the chapter.

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5.2. Announcements of results

- The highest number of voters who signed onto the system- 128.
- Chairperson – Nominee Hilma Karlsson
 - Yes - 84; No - 0; Abstain - 3
 - Hilma Karlsson is elected as the next chairperson.
- Ugne explained that when there were two candidates for a position, the following system was used.
 - It was possible to vote yes/no/abstain for both candidates.
 - The candidate with the most yeses would be elected for the position.
 - The NC felt that this was the fairest system to employ for this election.
 - Susanna felt that the system was unclear and vague.
 - Ugne agreed with her statement and said that a better solution was not available.
 - She encouraged people to join the NC to work on a solution.
- Vice chairperson Nominees:
 - Uli Rahmlow
 - Yes - 76; No - 9; Abstain - 8
 - Gaurav Ghosh
 - Yes - 32; No - 37; Abstain - 24
 - Uli Rahmlow is elected as the next vice-chair.
- Council coordinator – Nominee: Dita Anggraini
 - Yes - 84; No - 2; Abstain - 3
 - Dita Anggraini is elected as the next council coordinator.
- Communication manager – Nominee: Peiling Wu
 - Yes - 80; No - 2; Abstain - 1
 - Peiling Wu is elected as the next communication manager.
- Education manager – Nominee: Ellymay Goossens
 - Yes - 78; No - 0; Abstain - 3
 - Ellymay Goossens is elected as the next Education Manager.
- Workgroups manager – Ivo Buijl

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- Yes - 80; No - 1; Abstain - 4
- Ivo Buijl is elected as the next Workgroups manager.
- Business Liaison
 - Kamila Oppelova
 - Yes - 52; No - 8; Abstain - 22
 - Luka Smajila
 - Yes - 48; No - 22; Abstain - 12
 - Kamila Oppelova is elected as the new business liaison
- Webmaster – Nominee Kuang Myat
 - Yes - 75; No - 3; Abstain - 3
 - Kaung Myat is elected as the new webmaster
- Master of ceremonies -
 - Aakriti Mohanty
 - Yes - 47; No - 14; Abstain - 21
 - Athanasia Christou
 - Yes - 55; No - 10; Abstain - 17
 - Athanasia Christou is elected as the new Master of Ceremonies.
- Auditors
 - Saumey Jain
 - Yes - 50; No - 15; Abstain - 15
 - Daniel Maderos
 - Yes - 62; No - 3; Abstain - 15
 - Both are elected as the auditors for the year 2025/2026.

5.3. Vote to open or not nominations for the unfilled positions

No unfilled positions.

- Saumey asked a question about KF representatives from the chapter to THS.
 - Shouldn't the chapter nominate someone to be a KF representative?
 - Ugne explained that KF representatives are appointed by the board as per a previous chapter meeting decision.

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- Hemanth explained what KF meant.
 - Our chapter has 4 slots to fill at the THS senate (KF, the union council).
 - Currently, there are two representatives from the chapter - Hemanth and Ugne.
 - More people are always welcome.

6. Conclusion of the meeting - Mötets avslutande

The meeting was closed at 20:46.

Refer to CM #2 2025 Attendance to see the people who were present for the chapter meeting.

Meeting Chairperson

Ugne Miniotaite 18.06.25

Underskrift

Ugne Miniotaite

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Namnförtydligande

Secretary

Hemanth Venkatesan 18/06/2025

Underskrift

Hemanth Venkatesan

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Namnförtydligande

Minutes Checker

Matt Davoudi 18,06,25

Underskrift

Matt Davoudi

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Namnförtydligande

Minutes Checker

Sai Kausik Abburu 18/06/25

Underskrift

Sai Kausik Abburu

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Namnförtydligande