



**PhD Chapter at THS | Doktorandsektionen vid THS
Board 2025/2026**

Minutes for Board Meeting #04

Place: [Zoom](#)

Date: 2025-09-25

Time: 15.30

Invitees: Board Members, Auditor, Oskar Löf

Formalities: [5 min – 10 min]

1. Election of Meeting Chairperson, Secretary and Minute Checker.

Chair: Hilma

Secretary: Ivo

Minute Checker: Kaung

Others present: Dita, Kamila, Ellymay, Kaung, Peiling, Ivo, Hilma (digital), Uli (joined later), Oskar (left early)

2. Approval of Agenda.

KF membership moved before board reports

3. Eventual matters related to formalities.

Discussions: [60 min – 90 min]

4. KF member

Kaung explained the main tasks of being a KF(Kårfullmäktige) member to Oskar at an earlier moment. Hilma elaborates more about it: each chapter has representatives who can vote, PhD chapter has 4 'main' members with voting rights and 2 'reserve' members to replace if main members cannot join. PhD Chapter has more seats than other chapters because of its size. KF meetings look over what the Kår and its board are doing and they elect the board of the kår. Important to note is that you not only represent the (opinion of the) PhD Chapter, but it is also useful to voice your personal opinion where relevant. 5 meetings per year, of which one is a 2-day or weekend retreat.

Uli joins the meeting

Meetings can be long, but it has quite a big social part for integrating with other students. The bar is open after the meeting, and often there is a sauna party. Meetings are held in Swedish, but translators will be provided if needed. Agenda and documents are sent out in advance, so one can/should prepare the meeting.

Hilma asks if Oskar has any questions left. He has not.

Vote: elect Oskar Löff as KF member. Approved by unanimity of board members present at the meeting.

Hilma will communicate that Oskar will be the fourth main KF member of the PhD chapter to the relevant people

Oskar leaves the meeting

Uli updates that there apparently is a THS-policy about student-supervision by KTH employees. This also does concern PhD supervision, and therefore is of big importance to us as PhD-students. Relevant to know this exists.

Board Reports / Informs: [20 min – 30 min]

5. Board Reports

See board reports for detailed updates

Peiling mentions that an idea has been shared with her about a PhireD/career like event that is more specifically targeted to specific subjects. Luka Smajila and Juan are involved in this, and Kaung knows more about it as well. Kaung explains that the idea is to have a smaller scale, tailored, more repetitive event, that is more engaging on an individual PhD-student level. The idea is that it is more attractive for both PhD students and companies (also small to mid-size companies) to engage with each other in a tailored environment. Initial plan is to start off with 10-20 sociable people. A follow up meeting/pitch will be organised. Kaung and Peiling will join from the PhD chapter board with Kamila having a meeting with Luka on this work.

Discussions: [60 min – 90 min]

6. PhD Survey [Ellymay]

The survey results are still being analysed. But besides that, feedback is wanted on the survey itself, as the previous survey is considered too long. To get a higher response rate next time, the survey should be shorter. Therefore: which questions should be removed? Ellymay will share the questions of the previous survey with the board members so they can provide feedback to the questions.

7. Operational plan [Hilma]

Hemanth will still add some details to the treasury part.

Hilma presents the current status of the operational plan.

Regarding *Employment*, Kaung asks to what extent raising issues to Akademiska Hus (sewage, rats, late or no solving of issues) is something to include here. Especially as the infrastructure, as provided by Akademiska Hus, influences the work environment and thus the quality of PhD research. Could be relevant to investigate how many PhD students are influenced by this, so we can make a statement about this. Probably something to work on together with the trade unions. We will include it as an issue to raise awareness for this issue at the right level.

Kaung raises the idea to give the PhD Ombudsman his own page within the plan. Relevant to note, however, is that the operational plan is the plan for the PhD Chapter board, not an

overall brochure. We should mention that we cooperate with him, not necessarily give him an entire page about *his* operations.

It is relevant to include KF here as well, as we do have our influence there and work together with the Kår through that.

Since there are some changes, we will not vote on it today. Will be done later via Slack.

8. PhD Programs session[Hilma]

A question that has been posed: what value do the PhD Programs bring? Programs depend on the school. Some schools have one per department, others have many per department but are more spread out over the school. They were set up to make it more clear that PhD students are, for a considerable part, also students, not just lab assistants. EECS wants to remove all PhD Programs and go back to one program for the entire EECS school. And then the fundamental question was raised: if we only have one program for a school, why are there programs in the first place?

Hilma asked for input on discussions on this Hemanth suggested multiple fika sessions with PhD students to get input. Three sessions at different (physical and school-related) locations spread out around campus. Inge (person organising on the KTH side) will be giving an introduction on why this is being looked into. One of us PhD Chapter board members can join and take notes. Sessions will take place on 13, 14 and 22 Oct. Also relevant to bring up as discussion topic during the Chapter meeting on 15 Oct.

Peiling, Dita can help all dates. Ivo can help on 14 Oct. Hilma will follow up with a poll on Slack on participants for each day. Every board member should help with one of the days.

9. Visit from Portuguese PhD student Association [Hilma]

PhD-chapter(/committee) from Portugal (University of Aveiro) want to visit Stockholm before the end of the year. Would be interesting to share perspectives and meet them. Could also be interesting to invite them to the retreat if that lines up, but might have some organisational implications as well. Peiling is interested to be in touch and discuss more with them, so Hilma will forward it to her.

10. Korean kids tour? [Hilma]

A Korean expat in Stockholm was curious if we want to host a tour of KTH campus for a group of Korean high school students in January 2026. We doubt whether we are the organisation to organise something like that. Maybe Margareta Svedlund (international student recruitment officer of KTH) would be better for that. She should know more about job perspectives and such things that the group is interested in. Dita has been in touch with Margareta about such things before, so Hilma will forward this to Dita.

11. Website [Uli]

Uli has been in touch with Kaung about putting our website within the KTH website system. They expect that it could work, but 20ish steps are needed to do that. Therefore, Kaung and Uli will work this out further. Kaung expects that it is possible, but simply is a large process and will work on it after the calendar is done.

12. Any other business by Peiling: funding for PhD podcast lunch/dinner

Based on the discussion we had on Slack, Peiling was wondering what counts as “a meal that can also be seen as salary”. Hilma mentions that regularity is the biggest issue with such a thing. Fika is more suitable, as it inherently is more “socially” oriented than “compensation” oriented. Hemanth should know more details.

13. Any other business by Uli: KF

Uli joined the entire meeting on Wednesday 24 September. He noticed that not all the PhD Chapter representatives stayed to the end. It was a long meeting (Uli was home around midnight), but this was something that had been made clear. It might be possible that people have scheduling issues, and that is perfectly okay, but it would be good if there was communication about that. Hilma will follow up about it on Slack.

Decisions: [10 min]

14. To approve: Operational Plan 2025/2026

Postponed due to discussed alterations. Will be made per capsulam after completion.

Approved per capsulam decisions:

11th of September

Zoe Barjot (ABE) requests 3000 SEK for lunch during their election meeting

" ABE council need to call for elections for a new PhD program. It will also be an opportunity for the council to share on happenings around the ABE school and answer questions.

We approximate 20 PhD students."

Division of funds - $20 * 150 \text{ SEK/person} = 3000 \text{ SEK}$

18th of September:

Hanna Werner (EECS) requests 8500 SEK for a Pizza party along with Mario Kart at their division.

" The aim of this event is to welcome the new PhD students to RPL and provide a fun activity for old and new people to get to know each other. It is an opportunity for new students to get a good overview of what people are working on in an informal and more relaxed setting. We want to ensure that new students feel supported and included right from the start.

We are planning a dinner followed by a Mario Kart tournament. The idea is simply to enjoy some good food, play fun games together, and welcome new students to the department. "

Division of funds -

Pizza - $40 * 160 \text{ SEK/person} = 6400 \text{ SEK}$

Delivery - 100 SEK

Snacks and drinks - $40 * 50 \text{ SEK/person} = 2000 \text{ SEK}$

Total - $40 * 212.5 \text{ SEK/person} = 8500 \text{ SEK}$

Zanil Narsing (ITM) requests 5600 SEK for a Laser tag event at his school.

" Hosting a laser tag evening for a social event. Good time at the beginning of the semester for new PhDs to feel welcomed."

Division of funds - $20 * 280 \text{ SEK/person} = 5600 \text{ SEK}$

Zanil Narsing (ITM) requests 6000 SEK for an afterwork event at his school

"Hosting an afterwork for the ITM PhDs. Social event with food and non-alcoholic drinks. Will likely happen at a local restaurant. "

Division of funds - $30 * 200 \text{ SEK/person} = 6000 \text{ SEK}$

Elina Merdymshaeva (ABE) requests 2900 SEK for a board games dinner at their school "To create opportunities for an informal mingle in the beginning of the new academic year, we have decided to organise this event with the target audience of PhD students sitting at Teknikringen 10B. Previously we participated in some of their events, thus this is a great opportunity to strengthen connections and meet new people, especially for the newly-arrived PhD students.

We will also use this as a platform to tell more about PAD work and promote upcoming election in November. "

Division of funds - $15 * 193 \text{ SEK/person} = 2900$

Elina Merdymshaeva (ABE) also requests 1500 SEK for an information session with lunch at their school.

" This is a reoccurring event for the PhD students at SEED to socialize and inform students about what's going on at the department and the ABE-school. This time we will discuss questions regarding the upcoming departmental duties, upcoming ABE PhD Council election, events for autumn and changes to the SEED admin system."

Division of funds - $15 * 100 \text{ SEK/person} = 1500 \text{ SEK}$

Gauthier Leclercq (SCI) requests 2759 SEK for an introductory meeting at his division.

" An Introductory meeting for new PhD students. Senior PhD students are then welcome to share a pizza meal to socialize and welcome new students."

Division of funds -

Pizza - $15 * 160 \text{ SEK/person} = 2400 \text{ SEK}$

Delivery - 349 SEK

Total - $15 * 183.93 \text{ SEK/person} = 2759 \text{ SEK}$

24th of September

Dita Anggraini (Board) applies for funding for the PhD sport event for W40 - W51 at KTH Hallen. 6500 SEK to rent the place at KTH hallen. The event will be every Tuesday, 16.00 - 17.00 starting next week, badminton and futsal will occur every other week

Zoe Barjot (ABE) requests 6500 SEK for a WOP event

"The idea of the event is to keep building WOP community, gather around a craft activity to share experiences, and have a nice and relaxing time in an inclusive vibe. We want also to use this event to promote WOPxLibrary coming mini conference. "

Division of funds -

Food - $30 * 200 \text{ SEK/person} = 6000 \text{ SEK}$

Pencils - 500 SEK

Total - $30 * 216.67 \text{ SEK/person} = 6500 \text{ SEK}$

Fabio Marco Monetti (ITM) requests 600 SEK for an PhD meeting with Fika at his division.

"IPU PhD students recurring meeting to update about status of education at third level, publications, networking, and keeping up-to-date. Plus promotion for change of PAD. "

Division of funds -

Fika - $8 * 50 \text{ SEK/person} = 400 \text{ SEK}$

Coffee - $8 * 25 \text{ SEK/person} = 200 \text{ SEK}$

We generally approve 50 SEK/person for Fika, which should include coffee in my opinion. If everyone else is of the same opinion, I can let him know that only 400 SEK is approved.

Juan Camilo Avendano (ABE) requests 8400 SEK for an escape room event.

"Gathering with PhD students from ABE school for an escape room event. I would like to apply for this funding. The ticket cost 350 Sek for a for each attendees. You can find the ticket prices and more about the event on the link below. The event is going to be limited to 24 people.

I am planning to book 4 different rooms. For each session 6 people can join. Please see the figure below. "

Division of funds -

$24 * 350 \text{ SEK/person} = 8400 \text{ SEK}$

Juan Camilo Avendano (ABE) also requests 4000 SEK for a visit to Fotografiska museum

"Gathering with PhD students from ABE school for a visit to the fotografiska museum. The ticket cost 200 Sek for a for each attendees. You can find the ticket prices and more about the event on the link below. The event is going to be limited to 20 people.

<https://tickets-stockholm.fotografiska.com/productDetail/89479?lang=sv>"

Division of funds - $20 * 200 \text{ SEK/person} = 4000 \text{ SEK}$

Signed by:



- Meeting Chairperson



- Meeting Secretary



- Minutes Checker