

Nominating Committee Report for Chapter Elections

Election errands for Chapter meeting no. 2, 2025/12/11.

Background

Chapter meeting no. 2 of the operational year 2025/26 was summoned to conduct business on December 11th, 2025, with election errands on seven (7) board member positions and eight (8) Chapter functionaries. The [vacancy profiles](#) were established, communicated through the summons, 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 concerning gender, study programs, and other backgrounds deemed applicable, such as study mode.

Nineteen (19) people were nominated for the Chapter board positions and Chapter functionaries before the deadline, coming from the schools of ABE (6), CBH (1), EECS (5), ITM (5) and SCI (2). Fifteen (15) nominations were accepted: nine (9) for the Chapter board positions and six (6) for the Chapter functionary positions.

The nine (9) nominees whose nominations were assessed and reported in this document are:

- **Uli Max Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position,
- **Ivo Bruijl** for the **Treasurer** position,
- **Luka Smajila** for the **Treasurer** position,
- **Ashkan Raki** for the **Treasurer** position,
- **Lena Reimund** for the **Education Manager** position,
- **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position,
- **Abhilash Kulkarni** for the **Event Manager** position,
- **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Workgroup Manager** position,
- **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position.



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:

- **Uli Max Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position. Uli has served as Vice Chairperson of the PhD Chapter for the past six months and has developed strongly in the role. He has a good understanding of the central committees at KTH and how to use the position to promote doctoral student rights, for example, in discussions on PhD programme changes and the issues regarding departmental duties. He is involved in long-term projects such as the UKÄ self-assessment, works well with the Chairperson and contributes positively to the board's atmosphere.

Nominating Committee Comments: Uli combines experience in the Vice Chair role with a clear motivation to continue improving conditions for PhD students at KTH. His insight into ongoing issues, ability to manage the workload and active engagement in central questions make him very suitable to serve another year as Vice Chairperson of the PhD Chapter.

- **Ivo Bruijl** for the **Treasurer** position. Ivo has, during his first term on the PhD Chapter Board, served as Workgroups Manager, gained a good understanding of the Chapter's internal structures and current challenges. He has been actively involved in organising and structuring events and internal committees, and previously served as treasurer of a student organisation in the Netherlands, where he managed a budget of €6500. He appears very organised, administratively strong and interested in clear financial routines, budgeting and compliance with rules.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Ivo combines insight into how the PhD Chapter works in practice with prior treasurer experience and a logical, action-oriented approach. His familiarity with the Chapter's needs and his motivation to work with its finances and improving internal structures make him suitable for the role of Treasurer.

- **Luka Smajila** for the **Treasurer** position. Luka has experience as treasurer from the ITM School Council and from the SSSB Forum tenant board, where he manages budgets, grant applications and reimbursement routines. He has familiarised himself with the Treasurer role in the PhD Chapter by speaking with the current Treasurer. He expresses particular interest in bookkeeping, clarifying financial routines and developing budget overviews for different Chapter activities. Luka has carefully considered his workload for the coming year and wishes to focus his involvement on the Treasurer role mainly, rather than engaging broadly in additional PhD Chapter projects.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Luka brings relevant treasurer experience and a structured approach to financial work. His decision to concentrate his efforts on the Treasurer role means that his contribution to the board's wider projects may be more limited, but it also suggests that he will be able to dedicate himself to managing the Chapter's finances. Overall, the Nominating Committee considers him suitable for the position of Treasurer.

- **Ashkan Raki** for the **Treasurer** position. Ashkan has attended some PhD Chapter meetings and events and is motivated to contribute to the Chapter by improving how funds are distributed between the schools and how events are organised. He has read the Treasurer's role description and some of the Treasurer's financial reports. Ashkan has no previous experience as treasurer or similar student activity, but is aware of how central the Treasurer role is.



Comments from the Nominating Committee: Ashkan appears motivated and willing to learn, but his limited experience with financial work and the PhD Chapter, together with his still general understanding of the Treasurer role, make it difficult to judge that he is ready to take on such a central and demanding position at this time. We would like to see him remain involved in Chapter activities and develop his insight and experience, which could open up possibilities for this or other roles in the future.

- **Abhilash Kulkarni** for the **Event Manager** position. Abhilash has been Event Manager for the past year and wants to continue in the role. He enjoys the work and finds it very rewarding, even if sometimes stressful. Over this year, he has learned a lot about managing larger events and feels very confident in the role. He would like to add more outdoor activities to the calendar, alongside the ski trip, ice skating, and themed pubs that have worked well. Abhilash has carefully considered his commitment and will be staying for 6 months in the role of Event Manager as he will be going into his last year of studies after the summer.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Abhilash brings solid experience and clear motivation to continue as Event Manager. He has shown that he can handle big commitments like the Jubilee gasque while keeping regular events active and going. The Nominating Committee considers him very suitable for the role of Event Manager.

- **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position. Dita has served as Council Coordinator of the PhD Chapter for the past 6 months. During this time, she has gained a good insight into the doctoral students' issues and the intricate internal organization structure at KTH. Dita has taken the role of Council Coordinator very seriously and is attentive to differences and inconsistencies between schools, the need for clearer processes for appointing representatives, and how participation in Chapter and council activities can be improved and better coordinated. She enjoys the work and feels that she will be able to give the role more effort now after passing the 50% seminar of her PhD.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Dita appears motivated, reflective and well aware of both the possibilities and the challenges of the Council Coordinator role. She has shown that she can manage the workload alongside her PhD and is motivated to strengthen communication and collaboration between the Chapter board, the school councils and other roles. The Nominating Committee considers her very suitable to continue as Council Coordinator.

- **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Workgroup Manager** position. Aakriti is a first-year PhD student and is motivated to contribute to the Chapter. She sees the role as a good way to help connect doctoral students and improve communication about ongoing activities. She has experience from student councils and clubs during her earlier studies, where she organized events and coordinated student activities. Aakriti values clear planning, enjoys teamwork, and is eager to learn more about how the Chapter operates.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Aakriti shows enthusiasm for the Workgroup Manager role and brings relevant experience from her previous student activities. She appears structured and values openness to collaboration.. Although she is still in her first year of PhD studies, the Nominating Committee finds that she



demonstrates the readiness and commitment needed for the role, and considers her suitable for the position of Workgroup Manager.

- **Lena Reimund** for the **Education Manager** position. Lena was initially nominated for the Workgroups Manager position, but her interests and reflections align more closely with the Education Manager role. She has discussed the Chapter's work with current and previous board members and is motivated to take a more active role, in particular regarding doctoral education issues. Lena wants to tackle the lack of clarity and transparency around available PhD courses and is interested in working on this, as well as continuing the work of previous education managers and finding new ways to improve doctoral education.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Lena appears thoughtful, motivated and eager to tackle education-related questions. Although she has limited previous involvement in the Chapter, she shows willingness to learn, to listen to different perspectives and to take on new responsibilities. The Nominating Committee finds her suitable for the role as Education Manager.

- **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position. Peiling has served as Communications Manager for the past six months and previously as Workgroups Manager for a year. For her many of the communication tasks, such as preparing newsletters and posters, have become routine and manageable, while she has also contributed to larger events like the jubilee gasque and the PhireD career fair. She enjoys working with emails, posters, and podcasts, and sees the role as a good way to support the Chapter's visibility. Peiling has discussed with the board how communication could be improved, including better use of invitations and the website, and she remains motivated to continue in the role.

Comments from the Nominating Committee: Peiling combines experience from both the Communications Manager and Workgroups Manager roles with clear motivation to continue. She has shown reliability in handling communication tasks and initiative in supporting major events.. The committee considers her suitable for the position of Communications Manager.

Additionally, the Nominating Committee received a number of nominations for Chapter functionary positions, out of which six (6) nominations were accepted by the nominees:

- **Zoé Barjot** for the **Head of Women's Doctoral Committee** position,
- **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Master of Ceremonies (DrInK)** position,
- **Abhilash Kulkarni** for the **Nominating Committee** position.
- **Hemanth Venkatesan** for the **Nominating Committee** position.
- **Elina Merdymshaeva** for the **Nominating Committee** position.
- **Mohit Daga** for the **Nominating Committee** position.



Suggestions

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

To₁ consider for election, **Uli Rahmlow** for the **Vice Chair** position.

To₂ consider for election (1 person), **Ivo Bruijl, Luka Smajila and Askhan Raki** for the **Treasurer** position.

To₃ consider for election, **Dita Anggraini** for the **Council Coordinator** position.

To₄ consider for election, **Peiling Wu** for the **Communications Manager** position.

To₅ consider for election, **Abhilash Kulkarni** for the **Event Manager** position.

To₇ consider for election, **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Workgroup Manager** position.

To₈ consider for election, **Lena Reimund** for the **Education Manager** position.

To₉ consider for election, **Zoé Barjot** for the **Head of Women's Doctoral Committee** position.

To₁₀ consider for election, **Aakriti Mohanty** for the **Master of Ceremonies** position.

To₁₁ consider for election, **Abhilash Kulkarni** for the **Nominating Committee** position.

To₁₂ consider for election, **Hemanth Venkatesan** for the **Nominating Committee** position.

To₁₃ consider for election, **Elina Merdymshaeva** for the **Nominating Committee** position.

To₁₄ consider for election, **Mohit Daga** for the **Nominating Committee** position.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee,

(Digitally signed)

(Digitally signed)

Ibrahim Batayneh

2025-12-1

Andressa Mazur

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Zoé Barjot

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