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Treasurer Term



Submitted for consideration to the PhD Chapter Meeting

The PhD chapter at KTH / Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår

Doktorandsektionen vid Tekniska Högskolans Studentkår

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Background

There is a discrepancy concerning the description of the term of the Treasurer and the Fiscal Year of the PhD Chapter in the statutes of the PhD Chapter. §1.7. Operational and fiscal year mentions:

The PhD Chapter operational and fiscal years correspond with THS, i.e. the operational year from July 1st to June 30th is used.

This is indeed in line in what is mentioned in §1.7. Year of operation of the statutes of THS:

The THS year of operation shall be from 1 July to 30 June.

The statutes of the PhD Chapter mentions the following in §3.1. when it comes to the term of the Treasurer:

[...]

The mandates of the positions are as follows:

Academic year (July to June)

Chairperson

Webmaster

Education manager

Workgroup manager

Business liaison

Fiscal year (January to December)

Vice Chairperson

Treasurer

Communication manager

Council coordinator

Event Manager

§1.7. of the statutes of the PhD Chapter implies that the fiscal year is from 1 July to 30 June. §3.1. of the statutes of the PhD Chapter implies that the fiscal year is from 1 July to 30 June. §3.1. moreover implies that the term of the Treasurer is linked to the fiscal year.

From a bookkeeping standpoint it makes sense that the term of the Treasurer is linked to the fiscal year. Every individual Treasurer has subtle bookkeeping preferences and ways to log the finances. Moreover, details related to the fiscal year need to be communicated to both Skatteverket and the Chapter Meeting, and it is beneficial for efficiency of this communication if

there is a single Treasurer that can be held responsible concerning the communication of a fiscal year. It therefore makes sense to stick to the idea that the term of the Treasurer is linked to the fiscal year.

Fiscal Year

Based on the observations above, the exact timing of the fiscal year is an important topic of discussion. The various chapters of THS have different timings of their fiscal year. Some adhere to the operational year of THS, others use the calendar year, others use fiscal years that they deem relevant to the operations of their chapter.

The operations of the PhD Chapter are mainly structured with respect to the academic year of KTH: activities/operations mainly take place in autumn, winter and spring, with a clear dip of activities/operations during summer. Examples include the organisation of P-hireD, which takes place in winter/spring with organisational activities already starting in autumn, the Chapter Retreat, which generally takes place in autumn/winter, and the Ski Trip, that takes place in winter/spring. There are generally no recurring operations carried over from spring to autumn throughout summer. This operational pattern oriented around the academic year also is the reason why THS has organised its year of operation from 1 July to 30 June.

An operational aspect of the PhD Chapter that is structured with respect to the calendar year concerns the operations of School Councils: elections of the School Councils take place in November or December, and people are elected into their position for the next calendar year. The (financial) operations on the School Council level can therefore also be seen as more oriented towards the calendar year rather than the academic year.

The most financially impactful events of the PhD Chapter, namely the Chapter Retreat and P-hireD, are planned/organised from the perspective of the academic year. Events on the School Council level, that can be seen as planned more from the perspective of the calendar year, are of inherently smaller financial scale. The Board of the PhD Chapter therefore believes that it would be beneficial to link the fiscal year to the academic year. This will simplify financial operations with respect to the larger events, as a budget for the larger events will clearly be linked to the fiscal year it is organised in.

As an example: the budgeting for P-hireD. P-hireD is planned to take place in winter/spring 2027.

Assuming a fiscal year July - June: The budget of the 2027 edition of P-hireD is linked to the annual budget of fiscal year July 2026 - June 2027. This budget can be discussed by the Chapter Meeting during the June 2026 Chapter Meeting. Operations of the P-hireD committee start in autumn 2026, while they know what budget is available for the event.

Assuming a fiscal year January - December: The budget of the 2027 edition of P-hireD is linked to the annual budget of fiscal year January - December 2027. This budget is likely to be discussed by the Chapter Meeting during the December 2026 Chapter Meeting. Operations of the P-hireD committee are to start in autumn 2026, but at that point, they do not know their (exact) budget. Of course, they can use last year's edition as a general guideline, but only at the December 2026 Chapter Meeting, they know how much money they have available for the event. This leads to uncertainty for the organising committee, and potential under- or overspending for the event.

Another option would be to include the budget of the 2027 edition of P-hireD in the annual budget of fiscal year January - December 2026. That way, the organising committee knows how much they have available when the committee is set up.

However, this leads to two important downsides. First, a budget is set more than a year in advance of the event, potentially leading to misbudgeting as a result of unexpected price changes or changed interests from companies. Second, this will require active bookkeeping through large provisions (money that is “stored” for a to-be-expected expense in the future), which leads to mixed liability on the Treasurer side: is the Treasurer of 2026 responsible for the P-hireD finances as it was part of the budget of fiscal year 2026, or is the Treasurer of 2027 responsible for the P-hireD finances as the event occurred during fiscal year 2027?

Treasurer Term

As mentioned, the Board believes that it would be beneficial to link the fiscal year to the academic year. Therefore, the Board wants to propose to stick to the fiscal year of 1 July to 30 June, but adjust the term of the Treasurer to match the fiscal year. As a result, the election of the Treasurer should move from the winter elections to the summer elections.

Terms of other positions

Moving the term of the Treasurer to match the fiscal year can have some influence on the terms of other positions.

First of all the term of the Chairperson. Currently, the terms of the Chairperson and Treasurer are asymmetric, i.e. the term of the Chairperson is July-June and the current term of the Treasurer is January-December. The main reason behind this, is to have continuity regarding the signatoryship. If the term of the Treasurer were to be changed to July-June, similar to the Chairperson, it might be that there are two new people taking on the respective positions, meaning that this continuity is severed.

The continuity is mainly relevant for a number of formalities, such as formal contact with the bank and other contract-related issues. It might be a bit more administrative work to have such formalities sorted when the Chairperson and Treasurer have the same term, as the handover of both positions happens at the same moment. This handover will be during the summer, which is when general operations of the PhD Chapter are at a low, giving the newly elected board members the time to sort out such administrative aspects.

Also, THS has the terms of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (who also has the Treasurer-role within THS) aligned, while also having summer and winter elections. This indicates that it is not of vital essence to have the continuity of signatories. It could even indicate that it is beneficial that both the Chairperson and the Treasurer have terms aligned with the operational & fiscal year.

As the continuity of signatoryship is not of the vital essence for the operations of the Chapter, it is deemed more effective to have the Treasurer (and Chairperson) term aligned with the fiscal (and operational) year.

Secondly, the term of the Vice Chairperson. According to §3.1. of the Statutes, the Vice Chairperson is the formal substitute of the Treasurer:

The PhD Chapter Board of Directors (Board) is composed of:



[...]

Treasurer

[...]

Substitute: Vice chairperson

[...]

Currently, the terms of the Vice Chairperson and Treasurer are aligned: both have a term January-December. While it might be nice to have the positions of Vice Chairperson and Treasurer aligned because the Vice Chairperson is the formal substitute of the Treasurer, this is not a necessity. First of all, there is no necessity of this mentioned in the Statutes. Secondly, the substitution will only occur in case of absence of a Treasurer, which will already be non-normal operations. Thirdly, the Statutes show multiple options for filling in the Treasurer position in case of absence of a Treasurer:

§3.4. of the Statutes, concerning Vacancies:

Vacancy for the Treasurer, in case this is not elected by the PhD Chapter Meeting or the elected Treasurer resigns, allows the Board to appoint a Treasurer within the remaining members of the Board.

§3.5. of the Statutes, concerning Compatibility of roles:

A member of the Board can be Chairperson and Treasurer, or Vice Chairperson and Treasurer at the same time.

As these state multiple options to fill in the Treasurer-position in absence of a Treasurer, it is deemed more effective to have the Treasurer term align with the fiscal year, then have the term align with the term of the Vice Chairperson.

Thirdly, moving the term of the Treasurer leads to a situation where there are elections for 6 Board positions in summer and 4 Board positions in winter. This might have issues when it comes to the interest of members in taking on a Board position. It has shortly been looked into whether it would be relevant to move another election for a Board position from the summer elections to the winter elections to compensate for moving the Treasurer election from winter to summer. However, no suggestion is made for this at this moment, as it is not vital for the operations of the Chapter to have an exact split of elected Board positions over the year, and the focus of this proposition concerns the financial operations of the Chapter.

Link with THS's operational year

A final aspect is that §3.1. of the statutes mentions that the operational and fiscal years of the Chapter inherently correspond with THS. Whereas the Board believes that it is beneficial to have the fiscal year of 1 July to 30 June, similar as THS, it is not of the essence that this is inherently linked to the operational year of THS. After all, other chapters have other fiscal years. If THS decides to change their operational year, this should not have direct inherent implications for the operations and finances of the PhD Chapter. The Board therefore believes it would be beneficial to remove this explicit linkage between the operational and fiscal year of the PhD Chapter and the operational year of THS.



Proposition

To, Amend the PhD Chapter Statutes as the following (in ~~strike through~~ and **bold**, the proposed modifications):

At §1.7. Operational and fiscal year:

The PhD Chapter operational and fiscal years correspond with THS, i.e. the operational year from July 1st to June 30th is used.

Modify to:

The PhD Chapter operational and fiscal years ~~correspond with THS, i.e. the operational year from July 1st to June 30th is used.~~ **are from 1 July to 30 June.**

At §3.1. Composition:

[...]
The mandates of the positions are as follows:

Academic year (July to June)

Chairperson

Webmaster

Education manager

Workgroup manager

Business liaison

Fiscal year (January to December)

Vice Chairperson

Treasurer

Communication manager

Council coordinator

Event Manager

Modify to:

[...]
The mandates of the positions are as follows:

~~Academic~~ **Operational & fiscal** year (July to June)

Chairperson

Treasurer

Webmaster

Education manager

Workgroup manager



Business liaison

Fiscal **Calendar** year (January to December)

Vice Chairperson

Treasurer

Communication manager

Council coordinator

Event Manager

Effects to the current Treasurer term

In case of approval of this proposition, which will be the earliest in autumn 2026, the current Treasurer term is still set to run until December 2026. Therefore, a process to transition from the current January-December term to the newly suggested July-June term should be implemented.

To make sure the positive effects of a Treasurership linked to the fiscal year are implemented right away, it is proposed to extend the term of the current Treasurer to June 2027. This way, the July 2026-June 2027 fiscal year immediately sees the effects of having a single Treasurer managing the bookkeeping for that year.

The current Treasurer has been part of the Board since July 2025, and has taken on the Treasurer position in January 2026. With the extension of the current Treasurer term, the current Treasurer will have served for two years by the end of the proposed changed term in June 2027. This will be in line with §3.2. of the Statutes, concerning Eligibility:

A doctoral student is eligible to be an elected member of the PhD Chapter Board when both conditions below are satisfied:

1. The doctoral student is a PhD Chapter member;
2. The doctoral student has not been elected to serve for two or more full terms, or a cumulative time of two years or more, at the PhD Chapter Board, consecutive or not, at the time the position mandate is supposed to begin.

Hilma Karlsson and Ivo Bruijl, on behalf of
The Board VT 2026,
Stockholm, 25-05-2026