

PhD Branch Board meeting

Date/time: 2019-01-24; 16:13

Location: NA 335 (Naturvetarhuset)

Attended: *Sharmin Ahmed, Shoaib Azizi, Laxmi Misra, Erik Steinvall, Abel Souza, Mahmoud Eljammaly and Michele Persiani*

Agenda:

1. Opening / Appoint Chair

Sharmin the chairwoman of the board opened the meeting at 16:13.

2. Appoint secretary

Abel was appointed as secretary.

3. Appoint adjutor

Michele was appointed as adjutor.

4. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved by attendees.

5. Approval of last meeting minutes

Minutes was approved by attendees.

6. General planning for the semester

Board members suggested to postpone it for when most students return to activities.

7. Organize social event

- Board members suggested to schedule a social event on either February 15th or 22nd. A game night was suggested by some members in Ålidhem.
- A FeelGood presentation was also suggested, as well as Career fair, though costs were also mentioned as impediments for such suggestions.

8. Discussions

a. About Dokråd



Erik is a member of the Dokråd and started discussions about changes in its Umeå
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constitution. He asked for suggestions (brainstorming) from NTK attendees. The following were suggested to be taken to the Dokråd board for discussions:

- i. Housing situation for PhD students, specially the ones in the beginning.
- ii. Physiological help improvements for PhD students
- iii. Mechanisms for improving situation of PhD students who feel like having a bad supervision. For example, it was suggested that abroad courses, conferences, and internships could be used for allowing students to refresh their studies.
- iv. It was also suggested to create a PhD branch specifically for discussion Career Support for life after PhD studies.

b. Art Campus

A structural reorganization is to be approved by the University, where it will be decided if the Art Department will be relocated from the Science Faculty to the Humanities Faculty.

c. Article from a Professor in Lund

- d. An article from a Lund University Professor has been advocating for reducing costs with PhD students. According to the author of the article, substantial costs are spent with PhD students but no effective results are achieved. Members discussed if SULF should be involved in writing a response to the author claims.

9. Next meeting

It is decided that the next board meeting will be on 2019-02-22 at 16:00.

10. Other questions

11. End of meeting

Meeting was closed at 17:30.