



## **PhD Branch Board Meeting**

Date/time: 2020-06-24; 11:00-12:00

Location: <https://umu.zoom.us/j/64032561358>

**Invited:** *Michele Persiani, Maitreyee Tewari, Lucas Hedstrom, Nazanin Fouladgar, Zahoor Islam, Anjan Rao Puttige, Erik Steinvall, Sharmin Sodestrom, Helena Eklof*

**Present:** *Michele Persiani, Maitreyee Tewari, Lucas Hedstrom, Nazanin Fouladgar, Anjan Rao Puttige, Erik Steinvall, Victor Johansson*

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening
2. Appoint Chair
  - Michele Presiani was selected as chair
3. Appoint Secretary
  - Lucas Hedstrom was selected as secretary
4. Appoint Adjustor
  - Nazanin Fouladgar was chosen as adjustor
5. Approval of the agenda
  - The agenda was approved
6. Revisit of last grand meeting minutes
  - Signatures are done and a copy of the minutes will be sent to all PhD branch members. No further comments
7. Planning for summer and autumn semester activities, 2020
  - a. Seminar (September-October along with Grand meeting)
    - After discussions it was voted on whether to have the seminar with Anders Bek in conjunction or separate from the Grand Meeting in autumn. It was decided to have the seminar separate from the Grand Meeting.



- Michele will contact Anders Bek to inform that we are still interested in holding the seminar. Further details will be discussed next meeting in Autumn.
- b. Some social activity (ideas when?)
  - A rough date was set for 5-6<sup>th</sup> september when we will hold a barbeque at either Nydalasjon or by the campus pond. Michele Presiani, Maitreyee Tewari and Anjan Rao Puttige are responsible for planning.
  - It was discussed to sort out the mailing lists for each department so the board can more easily contact PhD students about social activities.
- 8. Covid-19 related disruptions in PhD studies etc
  - The board discussed new questions to add to a survey which will investigate how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the studies of the PhD students at Umea.
  - Some international PhDs are postponing their summer vacations to winter were they might have the possibility to travel to their countries. This means that they will be working during summer - which is problematic since they might not be able to keep the same efficiency for their work.
  - We propose to add a question with regards to how vacations have affected students.
- 9. Any other topics related to PhD students and NTK
  - All elections held at ground meeting was accepted by NTK.
  - Website will be updated this week with the new board and new information.
- 10. Questions and suggestions
- 11. Closing of the meeting
  - Meeting closed at 12:04