

Minutes of the meeting grand meeting of the PhD branch

Date & Time: June 11, 2020, 11:00-13.00

Place: Zoom room 681 1522 8814

Attendees: Erik Steinvall, Michele Presiani, Anjan Rao Puttige, Helena Eklöf, Nazanin Fouladgar, Amber (non-member), Christian Kammler, Lucas Hedström, Maitreyee Tewari, Julian Alfredo Mendez (non-member), Karin Sandström, Sharmin Söderström (through e-mail), Zahoor ul Islam (from 11.30, 9a), Monika Jingar (from 11:40, 9a), Shoaib Azizi (from 11:55, 9e)

1. Selection of the meeting chair:
Michele Presiani was selected as chair
2. Selection of the meeting secretary:
Anjan Rao Puttige was selected as secretary
3. Approval of summon of meeting
The summon of the meeting was approved
4. Approval of the agenda
Point 8: Approval of the changes in the by-law was removed as there were no changes to approve
The agenda was approved
5. Election of attestors and date of adjustment (two people to verify the minutes and count votes)
Erik Steinvall and Helena Eklöf were elected as attestors and 18th June 2020 was chosen as the date of adjustment
6. Establishment of the voting list
The voting list was established
7. Approval of non-members to attend
The non-members Amber and Julian Alfredo Mendez were approved to attend
- ~~8. Approval of the changes in bylaw~~
9. Election of different positions
 - a. Chair of the branch (Ordförande)
Michele Presiani was elected as chair by a majority vote
 - b. Vice chair of the branch
Maitreyee Tewari was elected as vice chair by a majority vote
 - c. Treasurer of the branch
Anjan Rao Puttige was elected as the treasurer by a majority vote

- d. Ordinary members of the branch (2)
Nazanin Fouladgar and Lucas Hedström were elected as ordinary members by a majority vote
- e. Supplement members of the branch (2)
Erik Steinvall and Zahoor ul Islam were elected as supplementary members by a majority vote
- f. Auditor of the branch
Sharmin Söderström was elected as the Auditor by a majority vote
- g. PhD Administrator (1 or 2) (20%)
Erik Steinvall was elected as the PhD Administrator by the majority vote
- h. Research committee (Forskningskommittén)
Lucas Hedström was elected as the representative for the research committee by a majority vote
- i. Research Strategic Council (Forskingstrategiskråd)
Erik Steinvall was elected as the representative for the research strategic council by a majority vote
- j. Faculty Board (Fakultetsnämnden)
Helena Eklöf was elected as the representative for the faculty board by a majority vote
- k. PhD Education committee (Forskarutbildningskommittén)
Erik Steinvall was elected as the representative for the PhD Education committee by a majority vote
- l. Employment Committee (Anställningskommittén)
There were no candidates for this position
- m. Representative for FUM
There were no candidates for this position
- n. Other positions
 - i. Webmaster: Lucas Hedström was elected as the webmaster by a majority vote

10. Information

a) PhD section activities

Michele Presiani informed that the activities of the PhD section involved

- Monthly meetings
- Social gatherings
- Seminars
- Dialog between PhD students and the rest of the faculty

b) Information from faculty committees

Helena Eklöf informed about the discussions of the faculty committee. The discussions were focused on the effects of covid-19 on PhD studies. The faculty committee suggested the PhD students to talk to their supervisors and their head of department about how covid-19 has affected their PhD activities and discuss the

possibility of a prolongation due to the effects.

c) Information from PhD administrator, PhD Education committee & Research Strategic Council

Erik Stienvall informed about the discussions in PhD Education committee & Research Strategic Council. The discussions were also focused on effects of covid-19. The issues discussed were

- Problems with supervision
 - Difficulty contacting the supervisor remotely
- Prolongation due to covid-19
 - Report the effects of covid-19 in ISP to justify prolongation
- Effect on work environment due to work from home
 - Use of office equipment to improve work environment at home

Additionally Erik informed about studentkårskrivelsen. 5 points concerning PhD students has been suggested for studentkårskrivelsen. The main concern of the 5 points are

- More representation
- Better work environment
- PhD courses
- Prolongation of PhD
- Supervision

Some upcoming events to facilitate PhD students are

- PhD seminar day
- Mandatory introduction course

d) Information from Research committee (Forskningskommittén)

Lucas Hedström informed that there was no important information from the research committee

11. Other questions

Nazanin Fouladgar raised a question about the role of NTK in choosing the PhD representatives at the department level.

We were informed that by tradition the departments selects their PhD representatives independently and informs NTK about their choice.

The need for NTK to be more engaged with the department representatives was highlighted

12. End of meeting: The meeting was called to a close at 12:36