



Minutes of PhD Branch Board Meeting

Date/time: 2020-12-18; 13:00-14:00

Location: <https://umu.zoom.us/j/68644833724>

Attendees: Michele Persiani, Maitreyee Tewari, Lucas Hedström, Erik Steinvall, Zahoor Islam, Daniel Nilsson

1. The meeting was **opened** at 13.15
2. Michele Persiani was approved and appointed as the Chair of the meeting by the present board members.
3. Maitreyee Tewari was approved and appointed as the Secretary of the meeting by the present board members.
4. Daniel Nilsson was approved and appointed as the Adjuster of the meeting by the present board members.
5. The agenda was approved by the members.
6. The first point of discussion was continuation of the economy situation of the PhD section- One of the board member briefed about the options that were discussed in a previous board meeting-- organizing events with paid food facility, or organizing events with the companies, and reaching out more PhD students to sign-up to the NTK board. Other suggestions emerged from the discussion such as, introduce NTK to new PhD students through HR representatives, sending emails to doctoral mailing lists. One member suggested to bring the NTK finance matters to FUM. Bring more awareness about NTK PhD section among the PhD students in the Departments. The auditor, finance chair, FUM and the Chair should meet and discuss finances concretely with Viktor and possibly others at NTK.
7. A report by one of the organizers among the PhD section members was summarized- PhD students were curious and unaware about NTK. PhD students were glad to know that they had a contact person for their problems associated with PhD studies.
8. A decision to prepare a document with information about how NTK helps in PhD life was made by the board members.
9. We also decided to organize Zoom meetings after Christmas and New Year's eve vacations.
10. We discussed to prepare a list of departments assigned to board members who should organize meetings with PhD students and motivate them to join NTK.
11. A short discussion on Shadow PhD students was done, and we decided for the time being to just have a look out for such cases and report it to the board.
12. Some information regarding the impact of Covid-19 on PhD students was provided. In summary the mental well-being, work-life balance, and motivation to continue the PhD was adversely impacted.
13. Meeting closed around 14.45

Michele Persiani

Chair

Maitreyee

Secretary

Daniel Nilsson

Adjuster