PhD student council meeting
Department of Psychology

Minutes, PhD student council meeting November 3, 2011

Present
Marianne Jakobsson    Joakim Norberg    Martin Arvidsson    Kristina Langhammer
Malin Mattson    Roberto Riva    Anna Lindqvist    Jesper Alvarsson
Lena Låstad    Malena Ivarsson    Constanze Eib

• The meeting opened at 11.00.

• Secretary: Roberto Riva, certifier: Kristina Langhammer

• The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

• The agenda was approved.

• Reports from the different groups and councils:

  Jämställdhetsgruppen – Marie reported by email that JÄMO will brief the Council in December about its activities for this year. As urged by the Council, JÄMO will from 2012 study statistics on new recruitments at the department from an equality perspective. JÄMO now deals with all forms of discrimination. As urged by the Council, JÄMO will use time at the general meetings with employees at the department to develop policy documents concerning this new profile. JÄMO will also discuss distribution of responsibilities in these issues with the head of the department. Finally, JÄMO needs to find ways to better integrate its activities with the department’s other activities.

  ITB – During the last meeting it has been established that books that are also course literature cannot be refunded from ITB.

  SamFak – Nothing to report. Next meeting is on Nov 8th.

  Institutionssstyrelsen – The last meeting was cancelled. It was decided that the Ph.D. student council will not raise the issue of lack of clarity in communication from the department at the next IS meeting. However, it was decided that this issue needs to be treated as a work environment issue.

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Professorsgruppen – It was decided that the Ph.D. student council will not raise the issue of lack of clarity in communication from the department at the next professorsgrupp meeting.

Arbetsmiljögruppen – Jannica was not present at the meeting.

• A report from the meeting with the consultant, which included Ph.D. students, Pehr Granqvist, Torun Lindholm, and Åke Wahlin, was presented. Different issues have been discussed: the role and responsibility of the Ph.D. students, the supervisors, the director of studies, and of the head of the department; the importance of clarity in the communication in the department to avoid misunderstandings; the importance of an open-climate at work to foster clarity in communication. Finally, it has been suggested that the head of the department and the director of studies might participate at some of the Ph.D. student council meetings.

• At 12.00 Pehr Granqvist came to discuss three main issues:
  a. The Ph.D. students / Supervisors dinner: the dinner will take place on the 1st of December 2011 at 17.00 in the staff room in building 8. The themes to be discussed at the dinner will concern the role of the supervisors in relationship with the Ph.D. students, and the relationship between the supervisors and the department.
  b. Also Pehr summarized the consultant meeting. Both Pehr and the students present at the meeting have taken notes of the points discussed. The council and Pehr have decided to compare and merge these notes into one unique document.
  c. The possibility of a half-time seminar for the Ph.D. students at the department of Psychology has also been discussed. The half-time seminar should take place once the candidate has reached half of the research points in the study plan. The studies presented at the half-time seminar will not necessarily be part of the final thesis. It has been suggested to open a new seminar series for the half-time seminar. The presence of two internal reviewers for the half-time seminar has been suggested. One reviewer will be a senior researcher and one a junior researcher (which might be a Ph.D. student at the end of his/her studies). One reviewer will be an expert in the research area, whereas the other might also be expert in another research area. Whether there is no internal reviewer with the requested knowledge in the field, it some external reviewer might be selected. The reviewers should be contacted at least one year in advance, and they will primarily be contacted by the supervisor. The first Ph.D. students that will eventually start this procedure will be the new Ph.D. students employed after the half-time seminar has been approved. It has been suggested that a “pilot half-time seminar” might be performed before approve the procedure for the future Ph.D. students. Some of the Ph.D. students present at the meeting offered as volunteers for that. The half-time seminar will not be open to the general public, but only to the whole department ("Alla" mailing list). The opportunity to also perform a “kappa seminar / grillning” before the defense has been discussed. However, it has not decided yet whether it should be open to the whole department or only to the different division in the department.
Secretary

Roberto Riva

Certifier

Kristina Langhammer