PhD Students’ Council meeting
Department of Psychology

Minutes, PhD Students’ Council meeting, December 8 2011

Present
Marianne Jakobsson  Joakim Norberg  Martin Arvidsson  Jannica Stålneck
Jesper Alvarsson  Roberto Riva  Marie Gustavsson
Lena Låstad  Anna Lindqvist  Aiko Lundequist

• The meeting opened at 11.00.

• Secretary: Joakim Norberg, certifier: Jesper Alvarsson

• The minutes from the previous meeting were approved with only minor changes.

• The agenda was approved.

• Reports from the different groups and councils:

  Jämställdhetsgruppen – Not present

  ITB – Not present. Malena let us know by email though that there will be a new board for ITB 2012.

  SamFak – There’s an upcoming election for various posts at the level of samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten. Lena will inform the PhD students about this by email. Further, Fakultetsnämnden has issued a newsletter aimed at students and that will appear a couple of times each semester. This will be posted by Lena at the Council’s Mondo site.

  Institutionsstyrelsen –

  a. Joakim reported from a meeting with the presidents of the PhD Students’ Councils. The issue of work environment is being discussed also at other departments. The issue will be lifted by Felicia Markus next year to the level of samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten. Further, the issue of compensation for teaching is currently being dealt with also at the level of samhällsvetenskapliga fakulteten.

  b. Joakim has made queries concerning why the Council was not asked to participate in the evaluation that Högskoleverket undertook at the department earlier this semester.
The reason was that Högskoleverket has not as yet started their evaluation of the PhD student programs.

c. At the next IS meeting a decision will be made concerning halvtidsseminarium. The Council wants Joakim to vote in favor of this.

d. It was decided that the director of studies will be invited to one of the Council’s meetings at the beginning of the next semester to discuss the issues of mandatory methods vs. topic related courses, and the issue of funding from ograduerade forskares fond.

Professorsgruppen – Not present
Arbetsmiljögruppen – Not present

* Work environment issues were discussed.
  a. Because time and resources are limited, it was agreed that the Council need to pick a few issues to focus on.
  b. Concerning the results from the doctoral student/supervisor dinner, the Council was positive to the idea of meetings for supervisors. However, the arguments were also raised that such meetings could potentially evoke conflicts between different groups, and also lead to gossiping about specific doctoral students. One idea of how to avoid this is to keep the minutes from these meetings public.
  c. The Council is also in favor of creating a document that contains information on the supervisor – doctoral student – department relationships. However, there has to be some control function to make sure that it is followed. The Council also thinks it would be a good idea to have a lecture on this topic at the beginning of each semester. Such a meeting could be mandatory for newly accepted doctoral students and their supervisors, but be open to everyone.
  d. A document containing important information for PhD students should be put together next semester. This should be supported by the department.
  e. Because the system with faddrar does not seem to be working, it was suggested that only one person is chosen as fadder each year. This person should ideally initiate meetings with the newly accepted doctoral students and be given prolongation for this. Joakim will investigate this further.
  f. Notes from the meeting with the consultant will be merged.

* There were late reports from Ämnesråd and one further issue under övrigt:
  a. JÄMO: There will be an increased focus by JÄMO on student issues in the future. For this reason, the representative of the Council in JÄMO is important.
  b. Work environment: If cleaning is not done properly this should be reported. Name signs in the corridors of house 14 will be improved to be more esthetically appealing.
  c. Professorsgruppen: Candidates to Professor in clinical psychology is currently being evaluated.
  d. Financing: The Council finds the current process of selecting new doctoral students unsatisfactory. In applications, only one publication should be included. If an applicant has several, he/she will have to choose the best one.
Further, students should be able to use papers in their dissertations that have been published prior to their doctoral studies in the same way that you can now do this with courses.

e. The Council does not find it satisfactorily that doctoral students have subsidies and no salary for the first two years of their studies. This issue should be a focus during the work next year.

* The meeting closed at 13.00.

Secretary                Certifier

Joakim Norberg           Jesper Alvarsson