PhD council meeting
Department of Psychology

Meeting for the PhD council the 1 Mars 2012

Present at the meeting
Jesper Alvarsson Malena Ivarsson Marianne Jacobsson Lena Låstad
Anna Lindqvist Niklas Hansen Martin Arvidsson
Jannica Stålnacke Artin Arshamian Cecilia Stenfors

1. Opening of meeting
   Anna Lindqvist opens the meeting

2. Election of secretary and certifier
   Jesper Alvarsson is elected as secretary and Lena Låstad as certifier

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
   The minutes is approved

4. Approval of agenda for the current meeting
   The agenda is approved

5. Information

6. Election of the representative/s in the Equal Rights Committee
   The suggestion of having Marianne Jacobsson as main representative and Cecilia Stenfors as alternate representative is approved.

7. The meeting in the informal network of PhD councils in SamFak to exchange experiences
   Jesper Alvarsson reports that a contact has been established with 13 of 14 Social science faculty departments with an active PhD council. All of those were positive towards the idea of having informal meetings to discuss joint problems and opportunities. An invitation to the meeting will be sent out shortly.

8. Reports (focus on decisions)
a. IS
   • At the Department board (IS, institutionsstyrelsen) meeting the current Head of department of the department Åke Wahlin, told the board that he will no longer candidate for another period as Head of department.
The new Head of department will be appointed by the Head of the Faculty of social sciences and the presidency will start in August 2012.

During the meeting the economic report of 2011 was presented by administration supervisor Ewa Sjökvist, and IS approved the new budget for 2012 which estimates that the department will make a loss of 3,5 million SEK which will be covered by saved assets.

One part of the problem is that the central funding of the department from the university is lowered from 97 % of the total “rambelopp” to 90 %, which surprisingly is common practice.

b. Professors’ group
A point of discussion from the professors group is that two of the applications for “docent” was seen as problematic by the professors group as they did not have any publications in first name since their defense. This is therefore something that might a reminder for current PhD students after they finish.

c. SamFak
The Ph.D student work group (Arbetsgruppen för utbildning på forskarnivå) thinks that PhD students should be able to read other courses, than those available at the Ph.D student’s “own” department and is working on a solution for this.

There was also a discussion how to abolish the “utbildningsbidrag”, as there is an ongoing discussion centrally in the same line.

d. Equal Rights Committee
Our representative got the wrong time for the meeting and therefore could not attend. The committee is currently thinking about how best to organize given that it now has two different focuses, both equality between gender, and now they also has a focus on disabled, ethnic groups and other minorities.

e. Work environment
No meeting

f. ITB
No meeting
9. Report from the work in the “President suggestion group”
   The group has now gotten 20 responses from PhD students. The group till then summarize
   the responses and present the result to the Head of the faculty and to the Department
   board.

10. Report from meeting with Pehr Granqvist
   - Concerning the funding of PhD students, the head of PhD studies (Pehr Granqvist)
     has a suggestion to have the first year funded by “utbildningsbidrag” and the three
     following years funded by either faculty money or project.
   - Concerning a system with a project sum given to each PhD student, Pehr thinks the
     current application system is better, due to two reasons, first that the current
     system gives the department some control how the money are used, secondly the
     money used for this are given to the department from the faculty each semester
     (65 000 SEK), which can make a sum system problematic if all PhD students uses up
     their money at the same time. Although, Pehr thinks that a system with a total
     funding of some applications, rather than part funding of all is ok. He also thinks a
     max amount can be part of the call for applications.
   - Concerning the method/theory division between courses, Pehr think there already is
     flexibility, but he also accepts a more formal description, such as at least 60/40. A
     suggestion will therefore be written and presented to the Department board.

11. Report from meeting with SULF representative
   - Jesper Alvarsson had a meeting with the local SULF representative Eva Jacobsson.
     She did not give any clear indications on the position regarding MBL negotiations,
     though she interested in following the process.
   - There was also some discussion regarding the “statliga trygghets avtalet” and
     whether three years of employment was needed for it to come into effect.

12. Report from meeting with the “Prolongation group” concerning compensation for
   teaching
   - The suggestion from the management is that the PhD students come up with a
     number of compensatory suggestions, with the demand that they cost nothing. The
     PhD council instead suggests that the compensations come in the form of different
     “omräkningstal” or a different salary level for teaching. The suggestion of a mentor
     and more stringent course explication at the beginning of teaching, are perceived as
     very good and the council thinks they should be implemented.
   - Concerning the idea to present a proposal at the Department board meeting in
     March, the council thinks that we are too far from a coherent proposal and that we
should therefore wait until next semester to allow the parties to get a more consistent view of the problem.

13. Other issues

- In the work environment project the status is that a document has been written and commented on by Pehr Granqvist. There are no points from the supervisor meeting. The current points in the document is, the need for role – person separation, giving the director of PhD studies more information from the ongoing PhD projects, an opportunity for the director of Phd studies to meet both the student and the supervisor, giving all PhD students feedback on their individual study plans, defining the supervisor role, working towards an open culture and direct communication and more communications between different groups. Pehr comments that he thinks a PhD student should make a detailed aid for the new PhD students, something that the council thinks must be entirely voluntary and of course paid.

- Another issue comes up that there is many senior staff that has discussed their concern with the new Head of department. The concern is that the group that the new Head of department comes from, will be privileged. This is something that the PhD students think is very strange, since there are no such divisions within the PhD group. The suggestion is to bring this issue forward at the next Department board meeting.

14. Closing of the meeting

Minutes are written the 28 March 2012 by.

Secretary            Certifier

Jesper Alvarsson       Lena Låstad