PhD council meeting
Department of Psychology

Minutes for the PhD council meeting the 3 May 2012

1. Opening of meeting
   Participants: Jesper Alvarsson, Lena Låstad, Malena Ivarsson, Anders Sand, Kristina Langhammer.

2. Election of secretary and certifier
   Chairperson: Malena Ivarsson
   Secretary: Jesper Alvarsson
   Certifier: Lena Låstad

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

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

5. Information
   a. Report from the informal network of PhD councils in SamFak
      The meeting was held at the department of Psychology the 10th April 2012. In the discussions it was clear that there are many departments where the PhD students feel that they are being treated differently from other employees in issues such as teaching, leave and bureaucracy. Only the Department of Business seems to have some progress concerning these issues.

      Kristina suggests that the results of the meeting can be raised with the Faculty council (Fakultetsrådet) or possibly informal meetings with the dean of the Social Science Faculty as both forums is good for making things happen in the end.

      Lena comments that the informal meetings are a good addition to the SamFak meetings. In the SamFak meetings there is a lack of time for discussions around PhD student issues, as there are many other issues to discuss.
b. **Information about the current situation in the compensation for PhD Students’ teaching issue**

A letter has been sent out to all head of courses at the department that explains the situation and that it can be a cause of some PhD students not teaching the next semester. Also, an email has been sent to all PhD students asking whether their teaching for the coming semester will be affected by the outcome of the decision in the Department board in May. Almost all active PhD students have replied, and the majority will either stop teaching altogether or at least teach significantly less.

A meeting will be held with Pehr and Elisabeth (if she is still at the department), with the goal of formulating a suggestion that we can all agree on.

6. **Reports – focus on discussions concerning decisions**

   a. **IS**
   
   It was decided that PhD students now have to read at least 30 points of both theory and method, and 60 points can be either theory or methods.

   b. **Professors’ group**

   Nothing additional to report

   c. **SamFak**

   Nothing additional to report

   d. **Equal Rights Committee**

   The committee asks for suggestions for action plan of 2012.

   Suggestion 1: Representatives from SU centrally came to the department a few months (personalmötet) ago and had some really good points, on demands and rights concerning disabilities, equality and other issues. The committee could contact these for some professional suggestions.

   Suggestion 2: Check the department policies and see in documentation the current situation in department equality, ex. salary issues. From these documents chose the most problematic differences and work towards equaling them.

   Suggestion 3: Could the gender course (ITB) be something worth continuing?

   e. **Work environment group**

   Anders will start going to the meetings right away instead of waiting until august.
f. ITB
The internal book funding is for this year 300 SEK / person.
The board was briefed on ongoing and future courses organized by ITB.
ITB will pay for the Mendeley reference system and a introduction on how to use it

7. PhD barbecue this spring? – we need a grill master
Kristina will organize this event for the 21st June, in collaboration with Martin Arvidsson as beer master.

8. Other issues
Kristina Langhammer reports from “Sveriges förenade studentkårer”: They have been sent a memorandum (promemoria) from the government, where they ask for opinions to some changes in some rules presiding over the “research students” (forskar-studerande) of Sweden. Discussions were held concerning the suggestion to abolish the “utbildningsbidrag”. Further there is a suggestion to change the permit for third country PhD students from a student visa to a work permit. The issue will be discussed further in the central PhD council (Centrala Doktorandådet, CDR)

9. Closing of the meeting

Secretary

Certifier

Jesper Alvarsson

Lena Låstad