Participants: Jesper Norell (Fysikum, PhD), Gestin Maxime (Neurochem), Malte Posselt (ACES), Abraham Kumsa Beyene (MND), Måns Karlsson (Math), Ann-Christine Troberg (SUS)

Protocol – Science Faculty Council
11th of September 2017 at 16.30 in Rosa rummet, Studenthuset

1. Opening of the meeting
Jesper Norell opened the meeting.

2. Round of presentation
Everyone introduced themselves briefly.

3. Election of chairperson
Jesper Norell was elected.

4. Election of secretary
Ann-Christine Troberg was elected.

5. Election of adjustor
Måns Karlsson was elected.

6. Approval of the agenda
The agenda was approved. (The vacancies of vice chair and regular member of Områdesnämnden were discussed and filled during point 8 though, instead of point 10.)

7. Approval of last meeting’s minutes
The minutes were approved.

8. Concerning NFR’s representation
a) Nominated since last meeting
No one.

b) Suggestions for positions
Jesper briefed the meeting about the vacant positions as vice chair and regular member of Områdesnämnden and explained that it would be advantageous if they both are filled by the same person, and that the position in Områdesnämnden requires a working level understanding of Swedish. Since Måns seemed to be the only Swedish-speaking participant present except for Jesper and Ann-Christine, Jesper asked whether he was interested in the positions.

c) Election
Måns Karlsson was elected to both positions.
9. Reports from advisory committees

Student Union
The union has overall been busy arranging welcoming activities for new students. The board has had a conference where they have been working on propositions for the upcoming union delegate meeting, but these are not official yet.

Central Student Council
No members present.

Central PhD-Council
The council is trying to get in contact with the person who conducts the survey about how students feel about the university, and trying to add questions specifically aimed towards PhD students. There is a new initiative about arranging a career day for PhD:s, which has gotten a lot of support at some departments. There are general complaints at the faculty about bad connections to the job market.

Faculty Board & Arbetsutskottet
The departments of Neurochemistry and NADA are both reorganizing. These are good to keep an eye on in order to see that everything is done right.

Neurochemistry
There has been an information meeting for the whole new department. Gestin says that negotiations are going well. Jesper has heard that the arranger has experienced problems with people not showing up to meetings and then complaining about not getting information, but Gestin has not experienced this as a big problem. There are plans to recruit a new professor.

NADA
Måns says that all the courses of NADA have been given at KTH. The department has four employees and has examined one bachelor level student during the last years. Now the department will be integrated with the department for mathematics. The ambition is then to employ new people and let the ex-NADA part of the department for mathematics grow. Many feel positive about the integration and it seems to be going well.
There has been a group of mathematicians opposing the movement of the department to Albano. Now that the decision has been made they are instead complaining about where at Albano they will be seated. There will be more meetings concerning this.
There is an initiative about applying funds for so called joined PhD students, as a cooperation between the math department and other departments at the faculty.

Grundutbildningsberedningen
Ann-Christine reported that grundutbildningsberedningen has been discussing a new masters program in climatology, which will be administrated by the section for geo sciences but also include courses from other departments. There has been debate about the name for a mathematics course for geology students and which department will host it. There has also been discussion about a way to expel students in ‘medicinal physics’ (sjukhusfysik) (studying at Fysikum) if they are deemed not to be suitable for working with patients.
Department & Section Committees
No reports.

Jämlikhetsnätverket
No reports.

Studiemiljönätverket
No reports.

11. Information from student- and PhD-councils.
No reports.

12. Prior to the Faculty Board meeting
Jesper Norell talked about the meeting he and Ann-Christine had with Katariina at the office of science prior to the meeting with Områdesnämnden on Wednesday.

- **Changed criterias for employing Associate professors (Lektorat)**
At the moment, the directions from the government state that equal care should be given when assessing research and pedagogical skills of the applicants. In practice, however, this is hard to do since it is deemed more difficult to assess someone’s pedagogical skills, and thus the practice is to put more weight on scientifical skills when deciding on a candidate. Therefore it is now suggested that the faculty changes the wording when announcing vacant positions to reflect how it is done in reality. The suggested wording is that equal care should be given when assessing research and pedagogical skills, but that more weight is put on scientific skills when deciding on a candidate. When needed, pedagogical skills could be emphasized instead.

A potential issue with the suggestion is that you risk separating associate professors in two groups, researchers and lecturers, and that higher status will in reality be given to those focused on research. Those expected to focus on teaching will risk being shut out from the career in research that comes with a higher number of publications and citations.

The meeting does not express any opinion regarding this matter.

- **Changed criterias for employing Assistant professors (Biträdande lektorat)**
It’s been decided by the government that the position of assistant professor can only be offered to applicants who’ve finished a PhD within the last five years (from the prior 7 years). The University displays a negative attitude towards this as they judge that about half of the applicants that are hired have between five and seven years since they finished their PhD.

There are ways to circumvent this: For instance you can have “double employment ads” where you offer two separate spots: one as an associate professor and one as an assistant professor and then only fill one of the vacancies depending on how long it’s been since the chosen candidate finished his/her PhD.
**Economy**

Some departments are accumulating too much money (which makes it harder for the principal to apply for more money for the university as a whole). The Dean of the faculty, Anders Karlhede, has proposed that 3% of each department’s savings will be taken back and redistributed for other purposes.

Måns proposes: since the department of mathematical statistics has trouble spending their money they could hire someone to arrange a huge conference where researchers from all over the world could come to network with one another.

**13. Other questions**

No other questions.

**14. Meeting**

Jesper closed the meeting at 17:31.

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Jesper Norell
Chair

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Ann-Christine Troberg
Secretary

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Måns Karlsson
Adjustor