Protocol – Science Faculty Council
Monday 27th of May 2019 at 16.30 in Kårsalen, Studenthuset

Present: Yuan Guo (PhD student at MBW and chair of NFR), Daniel Ahlsén (PhD student in Mathematics and vice chair of NFR), Pil Maria Saugmann (PhD student in Physics and chair of CDR), Evelien Dekker (PhD student in Meteorology), Natalie Wilson (PhD student in Physics), Riccardo Diamanti (PhD student at DBB), Brittany Tarbier (student in Physical Geography), Abraham Kumsa (PhD student at MND), Oskar Nyberg (PhD student at DEEP), Patrik Tengnér (student in Physics), Erik Lindsund (PhD student at MBW), Ami Golland (PhD student at SRC), Michael Oeschmann (PhD student in Organic Chemistry), Per Calissendorff (PhD student in Astronomy), Elis Wibacke (Student Union). Marcel Tarbier (PhD student at MBW) arrived at 18:14.

1. Opening of the meeting
   Yuan opened the meeting.

2. Round of presentation
   The participants introduced themselves.

3. Election of chairperson
   Yuan Guo was elected.

4. Election of secretary
   Elis Wibacke was elected.

5. Election of adjustor
   Pil Maria Saugmann was elected.

6. Approval of the agenda
   The agenda was approved.

7. Approval of last meeting’s minutes
   The minutes from the meeting on the 25th of March were approved.

8. Concerning NFR’s representation
   a) Nominated since last meeting:
- Brittany Tarbier, ‘lärarförslagsnämnden’ at the Section for geo and environmental studies
- John Hader, ‘lärarförslagsnämnden’ at the Section for geo and environmental studies

b) Suggestions for positions

There were no further suggestions. However, Yuan emphasized the importance of representation in Grundutbildningsberedningen (GB), where seats are now vacant. Elis will inform the student councils.

c) Election

- Brittany Tarbier was elected as ordinary member of ‘lärarförslagsnämnden’ at the Section for geo and environmental studies
- John Hader was elected as secondary member of ‘lärarförslagsnämnden’ at the Section for geo and environmental studies

9. Reports from advisory committees

Student Union

- The first session of the student union representative assembly since the student union election was held on the 23rd of May. Martina Cederlid was elected president and Sofia Holmdahl was elected vice president of SUS for the following academic year. Some of the issues SUS will focus on this year are sustainability, students’ mental health and students’ economic situation.
- SUS has organized a workshop for student representatives about the new digital platform Athena, which will replace Mondo next year. There has been problems with the implementation and two departments, DBB and Organic Chemistry, has not yet confirmed that they will switch to Athena.
- SUS organized a day with panel talks about students’ mental health on the 9th of May.
- This summer, SUS, Stockholm University and other universities will take part in Stockholm Pride. A Pre-Pride-event focusing on the situation for LGBT students took place on the 21st of May.
Central PhD-Council

- This autumn, CDR will have an election meeting on the last Tuesday in November for positions on central level.
- There are currently vacant positions in RALV and REBUS.
- CDR’s career seminars will continue in the autumn.
- A pilot test of digital ISPs will take place at certain departments in June.
- CDR will discuss mental health among PhD students. A working group at Stockholm University has been formed and the SUS newspaper #studietid will make a survey about PhD students’ mental health, which all PhD students should answer.

Faculty Board & Arbetsutskottet

- The rules about how PhD students defend their thesis have been revised. The department will still have to pay for (at least) 55 printed copies of the thesis but there were some questions regarding whether the PhD students would have to pay for other copies themselves.
- NFR will ask the faculty board to translate all important documents to English.
- Mentorship program

Grundutbildningsberedningen

- GB has proposed a new model for research internship, in which a student will be able to take two courses in research internship (7.5 hp each) on basic level and two (7.5 hp each) on advanced level. This will ensure progression.
- A new template for syllabuses will be introduced by GB.

Department & Section Committees

- The Stipend committee has allocated around 687 000 kronor in funds and scholarships. This year, there has been a sufficient number of applicants.

Working group for program evaluation at the Science faculty

Nothing to report.
10. Information from student- and PhD-councils
Young Faculty, an association for post-docs and young researchers, will organize workshops at DBB (e.g. about peer-reviewing papers) which could be relevant for the whole faculty.

11. Discussion about a PhD handbook
Some departments (like DEEP) have more or less informal PhD handbooks. CDR has initiated a discussion about a PhD handbook made by SUS that would be directed towards all PhD students at Stockholm University, after inspiration from a similar handbook at Uppsala University. This handbook would include general rights and obligations of PhD students. The faculty council is supportive of the idea. The handbook should be brief and concise, like a checklist.

Some things that could be included in the handbook are as follow:
- Some area-specific information but not too much, since the handbook will be read by all – maybe a section about the two areas and their differences
- Information about the university as a work place and what to do when one encounters harassment (e.g. sexual harassment)
- Information about language-related issues
- Information about immigration rights and visas, with links to legal aid (Centrum för rättvisa; unions)
- Practical information: personal numbers, bank accounts, Försäkringskassan
- Information about the student union and SSSB
- Information about ISPs
- Information about mentor programs outside of academia
- A section about what it means to work in a government agency (documents and emails are publically accessible, answers to emails are required within three days, etc.)
- Information about tax reimbursement from work

The handbook can be written in English but legal terms in Swedish and a link to an online glossary should be included. Perhaps the handbook could also serve as an inspiration to similar handbooks for Bachelor’s or Master’s students.
12. Other questions

Since the discussion about the PhD handbook went well, CDR will do things in a similar way in the autumn and ask questions to the faculty councils, regarding representation, prolongation rules or other topics.

The chairs of the faculty councils meet once every semester for information exchange. The chair of NFR will be convening for the next meeting.

13. Meeting closed

Yuan closed the meeting at 18:30. The meeting will be followed by a social activity at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

_________________________________________________________

Yuan Guo
Chair

_________________________________________________________

Pil Maria Saugmann
Adjutor

_________________________________________________________

Elis Wibacke
Secretary