



Minutes SLUSS Doktorandnämnd 2016-06-10

SLUSS DN (PhD student board) meeting

Time: 13.00-15

Location:

Alnarp: Alnarpsgården Mobil, Alnarpsgården 2nd floor.

Ulna: Arenander, Undervisningshuset 2nd floor, Almas allé 10, Uppsala.

Umeå: Holly-Wood, 4th floor, Skogis

Present members

Maria Karlsson	Chairperson SLUSS DN
Maja Brus	ASK (LTV faculty)
Brian Danley	SHS (S faculty)
Kristina Tattersdill	ULS (NJ faculty)
Maria Celina Abraham	VMF (VH faculty)

Others present

Monika Appel	Doctoral student ombudsman/counsellor (§ 1-8)
Jacob Forsberg	Chairperson SLUSS
Andrea Miller	NOVA (from § 9)
Lotta Hansson	SLU
Charlotte Hising	SLU Alumni coordinator (§ 1-7)

Absent

Ulrika Beier	Biostokastikum
Martin Palmqvist	FOMAR



1. Opening of the meeting

Maria opened the meeting.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Election of chairperson, secretary and person to approve the minutes

Maria Karlsson was elected as chairperson, *Monika Appel* as secretary and *Maria Celina Abraham* to approve the minutes.

4. Approval of notice to attend

It was approved that the notice to attend was sent well in advance.

5. Presentation

New and old members were welcomed to SLUSS DN.

6. Minutes from SLUSS DN meeting 2016-04-22

The protocol from last SLUSS DN meeting 2016-04-22 was approved.

7. SLU Alumni

Charlotte Hising, SLU Alumni coordinator presented herself and gave a presentation about her work as SLU Alumni coordinator. She emphasized the importance of all alumni, and pointed out that they are ambassadors for SLU.

A crucial work is the alumni database Alumninet where alumni can register. The database is open to students or former students at SLU, and the network can be used for several purposes such as finding collaboration partners, career paths, fund raising etc. One important task for Charlotte is to get data into the database. Today there are about 5 000 members registered, but several haven't registered important



information such as their e-mail address. Charlotte is working to improve the database and make it more accurate.

Many alumni are spread over Sweden and over the world, and the network makes it possible for the university to stay in touch with former students, and to keep track on where they are going after the studies, but also to spread information through the web and some also have their own electronic newsletter for example.

However, Charlotte stressed that her intention is to create a base based on how we want to use it. Some departments are not yet active, while others, such as the department of Equine Studies, actively work with alumni activities in different ways. The needs and goals can differ, and therefor it's essential with collaboration with us and others. Charlotte, as a coordinator, is here to help, and discuss based on our interests, and she encourage all PhD Students to get in touch with her about ideas!

8. Information from DO

On the 12th of May the third network meeting for PhD students' ombudsmen took place in Gothenburg. Topics for the meeting were:

- Research misconduct
- Licentiate thesis
- To be a PhD student with a disability

Kristina Ullgren, legal officer at University of Gothenburg held a presentation about research misconduct and how it's handled at the university. In general it's very seldom PhD students are involved in research misconduct at the Swedish universities according to the participants in the meeting.

The value and non-value with licentiate theses were also discussed. For some working in the Swedish industry, the exam can be valuable, whereas among international students going back to their home countries there is no particular value in it.

Recently *Monika Appel* (DO at SLU) raised a question among the other doctoral students' ombudsmen in Sweden if they had got in contact with PhD students with a disability. At SLU there have only been a few cases and the reason for that can have many explanations. Is the need less among PhD students compared to other students? Have the students already got the support that they are entitled to? Are



PhD students not aware of that they have the right to apply for special educational support? Do they feel embarrassed to seek that kind of support or do they not know who to turn to?

The issue with disabilities was further discussed during the SLUSS DN meeting, and interesting to note was that disabilities seem to be a non-discussed issue among PhD students. Monika will continue to monitor this issue.

On the 1st of June DO was invited by ASK PhD council to give a lunch seminar for PhD students in Alnarp. During the seminar DO talk about her role as PhD student ombudsman and gave a picture on a general level about doctoral students' issues as well as current issues, and presented some statistics.

9. Reports from PhD student councils

Alnarps studentkår (ASK)

Maja Brus reported that future activities will be a PhD lunch where they aim to invite a representative from the working labour union Saco, also stress handling is a topic.

The PhD student council of AKS has noted that the individual study plans (ISPs) are not updated on a regular basis. The ISPs are of great importance if issues occur in the project or there is a disagreement between the PhD student and the supervisors.

The research schools are still trying to work out the best way to be organised, what activities they should offer etc.

ASK PhD council will arrange a BBQ end of June.

Skogshögskolans studentkår (SHS)

Brian Danley reported there will be a PhD student day in September focusing on stress and time management.

The PhD student speaker's corner has had very few attendees lately and is therefore put on hold for the moment. Brian hopes that with better marketing they can inspire more people to come.

A couple of workshops on Photoshop, InDesign etc. have been arranged by the PhD council. More workshops are planned for the autumn.



There have been three surveys on bilingual university, universities rights and relationship between PhD students and supervisors. Results from the surveys are to be presented shortly.

Ultuna studentkår (ULS)

Kristina Tattersdill reported that ULS PhD student board is looking for new board members.

Veterinärmedicinska föreningen (VMF)

Maria Celina Abraham reported that they are also looking for new board members. The board is looking into how they should be organised, how often they should meet, how long time plans they should make (1 year or 1 semester) etc.

The VH faculty has merged three research schools into one.

PhD students close to graduation have held seminars to practice on the defence. About 25-30 people have attended the seminars. The PhD students have appreciated the opportunity to present their research in a less stressed situation, and it has given them confidence for the actual defence.

10. Information from NOVA

Andrea Miller, reported that NOVA had a two day meeting in Oslo. They looked back and evaluated the activities held during the last year. In total 12 courses were held, the goal was 25-30 courses. One idea from the NOVA board is to have courses organised annually or every second year. This would make it easier for PhD students to plan their time and hopefully attract more participants. Funding is an issue, it is not clear where the money should come from. The NOVA secretariat will move, not yet decided to where, but most likely it will move to Norway or Denmark. New chairperson for NOVA student board is Margot Slagboom of Aarhus University, Denmark.

11. Information from FOMAR

Martin Palmqvist could not attend the meeting but reported via email that SLU will launch a career development step for environmental monitors (2017-2018), which will be kind of equivalent to becoming a docent. Good news for people who do PhD within this field.



12. Information from Biostokastikum (soon to be statistics@SLU)

Ulrika Beier could not attend the meeting but reported via email that:

Ulrika has shared the concerns by SLUSS DN regarding future possibilities for PhD students for consultations to Jan-Eric Englund, manager of Biostokastikum. At present there are no changes in these possibilities compared to before, although the uncertainty or challenge for the future remains: replacing statisticians who are approaching retirement.

Ulrika has also informed Jan-Eric about the opinions of the "Internrevisionen" concerning common statistical courses etc., for which Jan-Eric was grateful and would take further in discussions etc.

The coming meetings with Biostokastikum will take place Monday 2016-06-13 and 2016-10-13 9.30-15.30, Ultuna.

Ulrika has been in contact with Kim Moritz, possibly interested in the position as a PhD students representative in the Biostokastikum steering group. Ulrika informed her that the soon-to-be vacant positions in both the Biostokastikum steering group and in SLUSS DN.

13. Information from SLUSS and follow up revision of SLUSS' statutes

Jacob Forsberg informed that SLUSS had a meeting in Alnarp 20-21 of May and decided on new statutes. The major changes in the statutes were harmonisation and deletion of unnecessary information. All changes and comments made by SLUSS DN were accepted. SLUSS DN keeps the right to vote. Guidelines for travels and representation were discussed. The SLUSS meeting elected Isabella Hallberg Sramek as new chairperson for SLUSS for 2016/2017.

14. Information from SLU and FUR

Lotta Hansson informed that a workshop was held 2016-05-24 where a quality assurance system for the PhD education at SLU was discussed. The results of the workshop will be summarized in English and discussed at the FUR meeting 2016-06-20. A working group will be elected to continue developing the *standards* and *indicators* for the quality assurance system. The system is demanded by UKÄ and the idea is to coordinate already ongoing activities. The system will be implemented during 2017.



Lotta is working on a new version of the ISP template.

15. Report from SLU board meeting 2016-04-17

Maria Karlsson briefly summarized the main point from last SLU board meeting.

16. SLU board meeting 2016-06-15 - 16 Uppsala

Maria Karlsson informed the meeting that the main point on the upcoming meeting will be the new SLU strategy, where PhD students are more visible compared to earlier versions. The meeting will also follow up on the report from the internal audit (Internrevisionen) and decide on an action plan.

17. Open positions in NOVA and Biostokastikum

Andrea and *Ulrika* have announced that they are leaving their PhD student positions in NOVA and Biostokastikum and need to be replaced by new PhD student representatives. The announcements from last year are still relevant, only to be updated with new dates and contact information. *Maria* will update the texts.

Around 10th of August *Maria* will announce the open positions to all PhD students at SLU via email. The positions will be open for one month, and during this time *Maria* will send out 1-2 reminders. Members of SLUSS DN are encouraged to head hunt suitable candidates.

At the next SLUSS DN meeting held in September we will elect new PhD student representatives for NOVA and Biostokastikum (Statistics@SLU).

18. Prolongation

Maria Karlsson informs that the guidelines for prolongation should from time to time be revised and if necessary updated. The NJ faculty board suggests new guidelines for prolongation. The recommendations are in accordance with SUHF (Association of Swedish Higher Education).

SLUSS DN encourages all FUNs and Faculty boards at SLU to also revise their guidelines for prolongation.

19. Follow up on Professional and personal development tool

It was decided to come back to this question at the next SLUSS DN meeting.



20. Other issues

- Follow up on staff survey 2016, a digital survey sent to everyone who has been employed for at least six months. The response rate was 74%. The survey questions were on objectives and the SLU vision, organisation, leadership, and work environment.

A summary of the results can be found here (In Swedish):

https://internt.slu.se/globalassets/ny_struktur/mw/stod-serv/hr-fragor/filer-hr/arbetsmiljo/medarbetarundersokning/totalrapport_slu_2016.pdf

- Take home message from PhD day in Lund 2016 with the topic 'Effective communication – a key to success in professional multicultural work groups'.

21. Next meeting

To approve the dates and times for the coming SLUSS DN meetings:

Wednesday 21st of September 9.00-11 (video)

Tuesday 1st of November 9.00-11 (video)

Friday 9th of December full day in Alnarp

22. End of meeting

Maria wished everyone a nice summer and ended the meeting.

Maria Karlsson
Chairperson

Monika Appel
Secretary

Maria Celina Abraham
Person to approve the minutes