

Minutes SLUSS DN meeting 2017-05-23

Time: 13.00-15.00

Location:

Ultuna: Grupprum 11, VHC

Alnarp: Spiltan, Articum (Videolink)

Members

Anna-Lovisa Nynäs	ASK (LTV faculty)
Mattias Engman	SHS (S faculty) & Vice chair
Kristina Tattersdill	ULS (NJ faculty)
Christina Rochus	VMF (VH faculty)

With right to attend SLUSS DN's meeting

Lotta Hansson	SLU
Isabella Hallberg Sramek	Chairperson SLUSS
Johannes Pohl	Biostokastikum

1. Opening of the meeting

Mattias opened the meeting

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved after two added points.

16. Committee for environmental analysts

17. Workshop regarding education quality (SLU 40 years)

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

Mattias Engman was elected as chairperson, *Kristina Tattersdill* as secretary and *Anna-Lovisa Nynäs* to approve the minutes.

4. Approval of notice to attend

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

5. Minutes from SLUSS DN meeting 2017-04-03

The protocol from SLUSS DN's meeting 2017-04-03 was approved.

6. Reports from PhD student councils

Alnarps studentkår (ASK)

Anna-Lovisa Nynäs reports that they had their previous meeting 2 weeks ago. They have received money from FUN for improving the social health of PhD students.

They also plan to have a PhD day, Science lab, in the autumn, where students will present their research in poster form. There will be a workshop in the afternoon to enhance collaboration between PhD students.

They additionally plan for a BBQ in the beginning of the summer.

Skogshögskolans studentkår (SHS)

Mattias Engman reports that they have compiled their new activity plan where they will continue hosting seminars and also work in preparing a PhD handbook.

Ultuna studentkår (ULS)

Kristina Tattersdill reports that they have had an election for a new board and that the new student representative for the NJ-faculty sitting in SLUSS-DN will be Abhijeet Singh. This will be the last meeting for Kristina Tattersdill.

Veterinärmedicinska föreningen (VMF)

Christina Rochus reports that they have continued with seminars and fika. In end May they will have a BBQ. The chair of VMF (from the student union), has been invited to the next meeting. This will be the last meeting for *Christina Rochus*.

7. Information from NOVA

Sophia Renes could not attend the meeting due to illness.

She reported via email that there has been no meeting since last SLUSS-DN. Next meeting will be in two weeks in Finland, with the occupied NOVA board.

8. Information from FOMAR

Sophia Renes could not attend the meeting due to illness.

She reported via email that FOMAR is looking into their budget because they need to adjust it with -10 mkr (after a cut from EU-“countryside program”). The monitoring programmes should survive, but there will be little money for development. They still hope they will get in more money, so they don’t have to kill any activities.

9. Information from Statistics@SLU

Johannes Pohl reports that their last meeting was March 3rd. They will have their next meeting after the SLUSS-DN meeting. There they will discuss how to move forward. At the moment people involved in Statistics@SLU are more spread out. They opt to streamline it and make it easier of them to working together. One idea is to create a new research school.

Comment:

The issue regarding research school has come up in FUR. They do not see a need for more courses, but that the ones that are given are available at all three campuses. FUR support the Statistics@SLU work and that it is essential that SLU have that competence.

10. Information from DO

Monika Appel could not attend the meeting. But in an email she reported the following:

On the 6th of April DO gave a seminar on employment conditions for PhD students at three departments at Ultuna.

In June DO will give a seminar for PhD students in Alnarp about rights and obligations in PhD education.

DO is also engaged in the situation of PhD students on scholarship. From a small "inquiry" DO made it seems that it differs if they got complementary financing (not interfering with the tax rules) or not. DO had a discussion with ASK's Joel Markgren yesterday about engagement of SLUSS DN in order to, as a first step, work for that all PhD students on scholarship should have at least 16.000 SEK a month.

11. Information from SLUSS

Isabella Hallberg Sramek reports:

- SLUSS congratulated Maria Karlsson (Chair of SLUSS-DN) with flowers and card.
- SLUSS has elected a new chairperson, Stina Andersson (veterinary student), starting in August. This is therefore the last meeting for *Isabella Hallberg Sramek*.
- The audit from August 2016 was approved
- Next year there will be a new KoN (Kvaitet och nytta, SLU's research quality and usefulness). The project group is going to conduct workshops, interviews and other investigations to value what research areas were SLU is strong and where there is a need for improvement. They are also going to look at how the research is of value for the society and if we lack research in areas that are important for development.
- They also looked into the student handbooks and how to make them more available.

Suggestions:

Add a link to the PhD handbooks in the welcoming email sent out by SLU to new PhD students.

Have a place on the opening page of SLU where it says something like "New students look here", add a link to the PhD handbooks there.

Add a direct link to the PhD handbooks on the PhD-portal (Doktorandportalen).

12. Information from SLU and FUR

Lotta Hansson report from last FUR meeting.

- A research school in statistics is important, as it is essential that we keep up a good statistical standard. It is part of “training and transferable skills”.
- Principal and distance education: Continue to work on a strategy on who decides how a course should be presented; who decides, distance course or not? Criteria? IRL at all three campuses will on the other hand increase costs. This will be discussed during the next meeting, June 28th.

13. PhD students on scholarships

Mattias Engman informs: *PhD students on scholarships have unsecure employments. ASK has taken initiative to take more action to change this within SLU.*

Attachment that were discussed: Letter_from_ask.pdf

Response_from_vice_chancellor.pdf

Anna-Lovisa informs us on the progress. They want to address the Vice chancellor's letter. He cites SLU's admission regulations for the thirds-cycle (doctoral) education (see letter), where they use the wording "impossible". ASK questions the wording. They have discussed the issue with the trade union. DO is looking in the problem as well.

Comment from SLUSS:

The letter was discussed in the managing group (rektors ledningsråd). It is not appropriate for the vice chancellor to rise the stipends. It is better to restrict the admission of PhD students on stipends and see to that they have good terms. This does not help the students that are already in the system though. It is up to every department to decide if they want to rise the stipends "salary".

Comment from FUR:

The Admission audit is to protect the students. There is a separate contract between the student and the funder, however some terms are not written.

Suggestion:

Chair of ASK will contact the chairs of the other PhD councils and inform them about the situation and send joint letters.

Send a letter to the Vice chancellor regarding rewriting the guidelines.

Send a letter to all the Head of departments regarding payment of students in stipends.

14. Routines for reporting study activity

Lotta Hansson informing with basis of the attachment: Rapportering och registrering av studieaktivitet och försörjningsform version 3. Docx (Swedish)

This is a test balloon, which will be brought up in FUR.

Summary of the idea: Suggest to the PhD students to register their own activity. Then use this form when meeting the supervisor at two occasions, when it is time to update LADOK. Main supervisor has the final word. Hopefully they have a common agreement. Report signed. If disagreement, supervisor has the final word. Supervisor notifies a person at the department that looks through the report and sees that everything is filled in correctly.

Usually you fill in 100% activity, unless:

- Students that are sick for one week or longer will get time back for that.
- Teaching etc., but this should be visible in the ISP.
- Council work (prolongation)

Comments:

What is the difference of have this in addition to ISP? Should there be one form?

Why quantify?

Should be a set time you get back when you teach, for all students at SLU.

Response from Lotta:

Report in the LADOK, is already compulsory.

Flexibility is good, but can be misused. Therefore some restrictions are needed.

It is also important to be careful about the time you have as study time.

This is a work in progress.

15. Seminar with Ajibola (Jib) Omokanye

Kristina Tattersdill reports that this will not be supported by money set aside for SLU 40 years. She will continue and apply for money elsewhere.

Side note: Ajibola is hard to get in contact with.

16. Committee for environmental analysts

Isabella Hallberg Sramek informs that the committee for environmental analysts that promote environmental analysts to senior environmental analysts, want to have a student representative in the committee.

Suggestion:

Suggest Sophia Renes as student representative in this committee.

If she accepts she will sit out this year (2017). In the fall it can be discussed if this is a position that students apply for.

Prolongations days should be given.

17. Workshop regarding education quality (SLU 40 years)

Isabella Hallberg Sramek together with *Lotta Hansson* informs:

PhD day on November 23rd. This is meant for PhD students and supervisors.

Basic idea: Presentation before lunch; seminars.

After lunch; “What is quality in the PhD education?”; engage research schools.

The planning committee needs a student that can add to the perspectives, experiences and way of thinking.

Suggestion:

Bring this back to the PhD councils, and hopefully find someone within the month of May.

18. Other issues

No other issues

19. Next meeting

Tuesday 5th of September 13-15 o'clock on video link.

With new council members for ULS, VMF and chair for SLUSS

20. End of meeting

Mattias ended the meeting.

Kristina Tattersdill
Secretary

Mattias Engman
Chairperson

Anna-Lovisa Nynäs
Adjuster