

## Minutes for the DSA board meeting

Date: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023

Time: 18:00 – 21:00

Location: **Biomedicum, B0313** and **Zoom**

Acronyms: DSA: The Doctoral Students' Association, MF: Medicinska Föreningen, DO: Doctoral ombudsperson, FuM: MF Council (Fullmäktige), KI: Karolinska Institutet, KF: Committee for Research, KFU: Committee for Doctoral Education, KPK: Course and Programme Committee, CSTP: Clinical Scientist Training Program, SFS: Sweden's United Student Unions, SFS-DK: SFS doctoral committee, SSCO: Stockholm Student Union's Central Organization, AGM: Annual General Meeting

Board: Manouk Verhoeven; Fredrika Hellgren; Niels Krämer, Sviatlana Sukhanava, Ioanna Tsea; Luca Love, Osheen Sharma, Linnea Påvénius, Jelena Mistic, Axel Winroth

Present board members: Fredrika Hellgren; Niels Krämer; Sviatlana Sukhanava (online), Ioanna Tsea; Luca Love, Osheen Sharma, Linnea Påvénius, Jelena Mistic, Axel Winroth

Absent board members: Manouk Verhoeven

Others in person: David Mentrup, Madeleine Lehander, Laura Covill, Daniel Söderberg

Others via Zoom: Petar Mitev, Vladimir Pabón-Martínez, Andrea Montano Montes, Maria Belikova

## Formalia

- F1 Opening of meeting: **18:05**
- F2 Proper proclamation of the meeting: **Yes**
- F3 Appointment of person to preside the meeting: **Fredrika Hellgren**
- F4 Appointment of person to write the minutes: **Niels Krämer**
- F5 Appointment of person to sign the minutes: **Ioanna Tsea**
- F6 Reported absences: **Manouk Verhoeven**
- F7 Previous protocols: **Minutes for DSA board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022, the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 and the 18<sup>th</sup> of January**
- F8 Approval of the current agenda: Denied. Additions, Ioanna, Election. Approved.
- F9 Verbalization of the decisions per capsulam: **None**

## Election points

- E1 **Election of the student representative to the steering group for KID funding**  
*Presenter: Fredrika Hellgren*

Petar Mitev was already nominated as student representative during the AGM, but will now be formally elected as our representative this year as this is the DSA's responsibility. Petar presents himself shortly and answers some questions. **The board elects Petar to the position of student representative to the steering group for KID funding (no against-vote registered)**, thus Petar is formally elected to the position.

## Reports from Student Representatives

### R1 Ombudsperson

Nothing to report.

### R2 DSA Chairperson (Fredrika Hellgren reporting for Manouk Verhoeven)

Fredrika reports on the things Manouk has been working on. They have discussed how best to use the board chat on Teams. The idea is that it will be used for open communication, where people can write questions and get answers. Decisions on spending money always need to go through a board meeting or a *per capsulum* decision, but always need to be accompanied by a

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budget proposal. Moreover, when new contacts with KI central might be initiated, it's important that people contact Manouk to get this greenlit.

Manouk has also been working on the work environment dialogue documentation. This is a tool that will be used in discussions about the work environment students should have with their direct manager, though this might not always be the PI. The document has now been approved. Ingeborg van der Ploeg (General director of doctoral education) will now contact the study directors and administration, and HR so that people on the KI side now know we have to work with this. At the same time the DSA will notify the PhD students through the local representatives. It is still a little unclear who the direct manager would be in some cases, and we were unsure whether all PIs will have this conversation. There will probably be no strong push to have this conversation, so it's important students know they should have this talk.

Manouk and Jelena have been planning a seminar about the Aliens Act with SULF on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. More on that later.

Manouk has attended a meeting with the minister of Education. They have discussed the issue of shadow PhD students, the workload of clinically active students, migration law and the problem with Swedish and English language at KI as an official government institution with many employees that don't speak Swedish. There were no concrete answers in any of these discussions, except that the government is working on it.

Manouk has been talking to central MF and URO about the representatives and the uncertainty about which people are elected and nominated by the DSA. A better structure is being put in place on how to communicate with MF central. Going through the last representative positions now, and then the new structure should be in place for the next election season.

### **R3 DSA Workgroups**

#### **a. Doctoral Education (Luca Love)**

The work group had its first meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. There has also been a workgroup manager meeting last Tuesday (14<sup>th</sup> of February). The PhD handbook is coming along well. The workgroup discussed clinical active students. The Academic workshops with Vladimir Parbón-Martínez (KI Career) are being finalized. The teaching platform has been discussed with the RIMS team. They're talking to teachers at KI to see what the system needs, and will meet again in February/March. The workgroup will also advertise some course with regards to professional skills in the PhD channels. Two new members joined the workgroup and it's going well.

#### **b. Student Representation (Osheen Sharma)**

Osheen has approached the student representatives and asked them to join the board meeting. She's given them the contact details of the 2022 representatives so they can ask for their input/help. She will soon send out an email on how to approach students at the departments. She's also been working on the workshop for the central representatives next week.

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**c. Social Events (Linnéa Påvénius)**

The workgroup has had its first meeting where they discussed what to do during the year. The idea is that there will be two parts, that the outdoor activities will be continued (about one hike each month), and that there is a mix of activities that are indoors such as a movie night, board game night and a museum visit. We will hopefully also collaborate with MF (Idru) and KIPA for some activities. Linnéa has also found out that it is ok to drink alcohol on KI premises if the group is relatively small.

**d. PR (Ioanna Tsea)**

Ioanna has attended the first workgroup manager meeting of the year and set out the goals for 2023. During this meeting some points on the collaboration with KI careers for the DSA blogging platform came up. Right now the focus is on getting new people in the workgroup.

**e. Welfare and Health (Jelena Masic)**

Manouk and Jelena have been busy organizing a seminar about the Alien's Act together with Robert Andersson (from SULF). KIPA will also be involved in this seminar. They're currently working on flyers. The budget for this event will be discussed later in the meeting. The seminar will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March in the Aula of MF.

**R4 PhD Conference**

Nothing to report.

**R5 The Senate (Konsistoriet) – taken later in the meeting after Maria Belikova has arrived**

Maria reports on this year's first meeting where was together with Lovisa Hagenfeldt (MF chair). The meeting mostly dealt with budget decisions for 2023. The yearly report for 2022 was discussed, specifically the time PhD students take for finishing their degrees. This is now down to 4.5/4.6 years. Some people at the meeting thought there shouldn't be such a focus on pushing people through as this might bring down the quality of the PhD degrees. The problem is also very much an attitude problem about what a good PhD means. As such, we need to discuss and then promote what a good PhD is. Another, related problem is that there are currently no tools at KI to help students that are held "hostage" by their supervisors at the end of the PhD. The study directors are going to be more active on this now, with check-in moments with students. Some departments now have a third-year review as well. It is very important that this is not on a student alone as they might need their supervisor at a later point during their career. However, as of now, there is no proposed structure on how to solve these issues.

**R6 Faculty Board (Fakultetsnämnden) – taken later in the meeting after Daniel Söderberg has arrived**

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There has been one meeting, and it was mostly budget related, slow moving and not relevant for PhD students. There was a long the KI career ladder. The positions are going to be rearranged in 2024 as there will be more money. During autumn, the faculty board will decide if this will result in more positions or higher salaries. KI's policy for strategic partnerships (interactions with other universities at a strategic level) was also discussed. This sprung up from experiences the partnership with the Chinese scholarships program and needs to be discussed in the future. This particular program has been cancelled (the decision can be found in the minutes of the last KFU meeting). Ultimately these decisions are up to the rector of KI though. During the meeting new people have been appointed to the workgroups that determine the docentships and assistant professorships.

### **R7 Committee for Doctoral Education (KFU)**

KFU's first meeting was two weeks ago. Major points were budget report for 2023-2028, which stated that costs had to be cut because of the 8M SEK debt. To sort this out, KID funding can be cut. There are currently 61 KID positions used (out of a maximum of 65) and cutting it down to a maximum of 55 or 50 would free up enough money. Nothing has been decided yet, but as KID funding accounts for 45 % of the total budget this might be the best option. Madeleine suggests that the DSA has a discussion about what to do with this, and whether different cuts could be made, so that KFU can make a proper decision. The budget will not be decided upon soon though. As such, we will discuss this at the next meeting. We would like to see the different options for cutting down on costs then. This topic will return in the DSA board's March meeting.

KFU also discussed the credits associated with international conferences. Currently online conferences can also be credited, but we want to go back to the old situation where the first conference needs to be in-person. KFU has agreed on this point but couldn't decide upon a working definition of an international conference. Administratively this became difficult, and KFU will settle on a good working definition during the next meeting. People that have attended online conferences upon till can receive credits for these.

The memorandum between KI and Stockholm region has been discussed too. Daniël Söderberg (faculty board) mentions that clinical students tend to overreport their time worked on their PhD. As such, they go too fast and this leads to low quality theses. It is unclear how to best tackle this, but there will be a taskforce investigating this, which includes Martin Jarl.

The funding for the graduate school in health science has been approved. The money will be divided over four departments.

### **R8 Committee for Research (KF)**

Nothing to report.

### **R9 Medicinska Föreningen (MF) and Fullmäktige (FuM)**

FuM is going on right now. So will be reported on the next DSA board meeting.

## R10 Other boards, and committees

BioNut's merge with MedH is not going to happen after all. For at least the next two years, BioNut will continue despite its crippling debt. They're still looking for a solution.

Two weeks ago, there has been a meeting of KI NMA where they discussed the next NMA symposium to be hosted in October this year. Concrete plans have not yet been made though.

Daniel Söderberg arrived 18:44

## Information and discussion points

### I1 Establishing the KI Careers x DSA Blogging Collaboration

*Presenter: Ioanna Tsea*

We are looking to establish a collaboration with KI careers where PhD students will write blogs that will be featured in the KI careers central blogpost page. PhD bloggers will be trained and supervised by KI Career editor Natalie von Derlehr. To attract a new batch of PhD students to join this cohort we want to plan a Bloggers Meet & Greet event on February 28th.

This will be separate from the other KI blogging groups. The topic of the blogs is open to the bloggers themselves and depends very much on getting people involved. As such, today we will decide whether we want to continue with this collaboration. After greenlighting, the invite will be sent out and people can come to the Meet the Bloggers event in two weeks time. **The board votes that the collaboration between KI Careers and the DSA for the DSA blogging can go ahead (no against-vote registered).** The role of the DSA in all of this will be to attract the bloggers, and then to continue promoting the blogs and getting more people involved. Natalie von Derlehr will help the bloggers. Her salary and the platform will be paid for by KI Careers. One of the important things is that the blogging efforts are sustainable, meaning people that are active and that the blogs are read. A budget proposal for the Meet the Bloggers event won't be necessary as Vladimir offers that KI Careers will pay for the fika.

18:53 Ioanna Tsea (board member) and David Mentrup leave. There is still a quorum so the board can make decisions.

### I2 DSA stand for clinically active PhD students

*Presenter: Luca Love*

We want to get more input from clinically active PhD students than we get via email and social media. The doctoral education workgroup proposes that we have a DSA stand at the two main areas where there are a lot of clinically active students (KI SÖS and Danderyds sjukhus). This would mean that there

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needs to be in-person presence of someone who knows DSA and KI well. However, it might be valuable in encouraging more clinically active PhD students to get involved in the DSA.

It's been done before and it didn't have the effect we wanted as it became a booth to complain. What will make it different? Fredrika makes a counter suggestion, to go to the introduction days for the research schools for clinically active PhD students instead. This is easier as they'll be at that meeting anyway. People appreciate this idea a lot. The research schools are also quite responsive so this would be a good option. It makes sense to start here, and the workgroup for doctoral education will take this up.

### I3 **PhD handbook update**

*Presenter: Luca Love*

An update for the PhD handbook was shown during the December DSA meeting. Work has continued since then and the updates will now be shown so that people can give input/suggestions. Specific questions to think about are whether 1) former PhD students could be asked to give input about the section on defending, 2) how section linking will be implemented in the digital version of the handbook and 3) how to best distribute the new PhD handbook.

Luca walks through the PhD handbook. Laura mentions her department did a survey asking students would have liked to know before starting their PhD. She will send the results of that survey to Luca. For the section about 'Finishing the PhD' the workgroup will reach out to people that have already finished their PhDs. A lot of sections are for people that are not from Sweden. Ultimately, we don't think this matters, as people can skip parts. Adding a table of contents with links will make going through the relevant sections of the documents easier. The idea is to order the different topics such as moving to Sweden, career, etc. separately. The headings will be changed, so that it is directly clear what information can be found where. The idea is that the document will be updated every year by the workgroup for doctoral education. The document will be made available to the board so they can discuss it during the next meeting. This topic will return in the DSA board's March meeting.

### I4 **Workgroup members**

*Presenter: Fredrika Hellgren*

Most workgroups currently have too few members. How can we get more members for the different workgroups? Word of mouth is probably the most effective way to do it, if using emails these should be personal. Massive social media campaigns haven't worked in the past. We could use the local reps to advertise the workgroups as they know the local student populations. One of the things that might be tricky is that workgroup members, don't get anything fixed out of participating. It's mostly for fun – and they could learn some soft skills. It might be good to check what things are needed for a workgroup. We could potentially update the text on the website for the different workgroups

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stating what kind of tasks there are. Either way, we will be working hard on getting more people actively involved in the DSA.

19:15 – 19:25 break, Andrea Montano Montes left the Zoom.

### **Decision points (max 30 min)**

D1 **Decision on a workshop for central student representatives**

*Presenter: Fredrika Hellgren*

- Allocate budget (1000 SEK) Hiccup
- Date 21<sup>st</sup> of February
- See **Budget proposal central reps workshop** for more information.

**This budget proposal is approved (with no against-votes).**

D2 **Decision on a seminar with SULF about the new Swedish migration law**

*Presenter: Fredrika Hellgren*

- Allocate budget (1000 SEK)
- Date 6<sup>th</sup> of March
- See **Budget proposal DSA-KIPA-SULF meeting about migration law** for more information.

**This budget proposal is approved (with no against-votes).**

### **Open discussion**

O1 **Outlook calendars**

Niels will investigate if it is possible to send out Outlook Invitations for the different board meetings.

19:39 Maria Belikova joins the meeting

19:47 Jelena Mistic leaves as Maria reports for the senate.

O2 **Biomedical students sections (BUS)**

BUS has reached out asking if we are willing to be part of a fun science event at SciLife Labs on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March at SciLife. The idea is that there are five speakers that give talks for 5-10 minutes. This will be followed by a quiz, pizza and drinks. Madeleine mentions that the presentations during previous editions of this activity were almost like standup comedy. It is unclear whether this is still the case, but needs to be clarified before we can advertise these slots to PhD students. Whether we contribute financially, needs to be seen, but we can definitely promote the activity.

O3 **Updates from Career service**

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The current program with industry internships for PhD students and postdocs might be copied by other universities. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March there will be an event with company presentations. Vladimir also notified the meeting of the different Career Events that will be held by KI. These can be found here: <https://education.ki.se/career-events>.

**End of meeting: 19:55.**

# Signature page

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