

## Agenda for the board meeting

Date: Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> of June 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: **Manouk** Verhoeven; **Fredrika** Hellgren; **Niels** Krämer, **Sviatlana** Sukhanava, **Ioanna** Tsea; **Luca** Love, Osheen Sharma, **Linnea** Påvénius, **Jelena** Mistic, **Axel** Winroth

Absent:

Others in person: David Mentrup, Vladimir Pabón-Martínez

Others via Zoom: Maria Belikova, Daniël Soderberg, Adena Pepich

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## Formalia

- F1 Opening of meeting: 18:03
- F2 Proper proclamation of the meeting: Yes
- F3 Appointment of person to preside the meeting: **Manouk Verhoeven**
- F4 Appointment of person to write the minutes: **Niels Krämer**
- F5 Appointment of person to sign the minutes: **Jelena Misic**
- F6 Reported absences:
- F7 Previous protocols: **Minutes for DSA board meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May**

The previous minutes mistakenly stated that Marlene Ek was at the meeting, whereas this should have been Maria Belikova. This needs to be adjusted and the adjusted minutes need to be reapproved.

- F8 Approval of the current agenda: **Approved.**
- F9 Verbalization of the decisions per capsulam: **None**

## Reports

### R1 Ombudsperson

The ombudspersons are working on their yearly report.

### R2 KI careers

Vladimir has been away in the US for some time. He has had meetings in New York City and Washington State with KI alumni. The idea behind these meetings is to search for more opportunities for KI PhD students and postdocs. Information about a Rockefeller University Fellowship will be in the newsletter. A researcher from a Cancer Research Center will be at KI in autumn to present about career paths in the clinic. Vladimir has also visited the consulate with KI alumni. All of these activities fall under the umbrella of Swedish-American corporation.

Vladimir has also organized a meeting between industry and academia. This was the first time this meeting was held in Europe. Sony was at this meeting as they are now interested in life sciences as well. Sony will have an award in the future.

Vladimir has also been working with Finish on Time. An in person workshop will be held in September. He has also worked on the mentoring program. In addition there has been a meeting with (some of the) student representatives. Vladimir

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was very appreciative of this meeting. The course Entrepreneurship is open. More information can be found in the KI Careers Newsletter

### **R3 DSA Chairperson**

Manouk has not had another meeting with Robert Harris since the last board meeting. She will do so next week. If there are urgent matters, Manouk will bring these up. In addition, Manouk has been working on the PhD Conference and the party. She will be picking up on other things soon.

### **R4 DSA Workgroups**

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

The workgroup for Doctoral Education has had two workgroup meetings. The PhD Information Booklet has been updated; images have been added and they corrected the information with regards to bridge days. Updates will be sent out to the board.

Luca has asked RIMS for an update. The rollout is still scheduled for September, though whether that really happens remains to be seen.

With regards to mentoring, there will be a seminar in September. The PhD handbook has a section on mentoring too now.

As mentioned by Vladimir before, an Academic Productivity Seminar is scheduled for September (in person) and in November (online). The poster is being designed.

Luca has also advertised the PhD course deadline for HT23.

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

Osheen reports she has had a meeting with Manouk, Fredrika and Sara Kashash (MF) to start working on the recruitment of student representatives for next year.

The meeting with the student representatives was successful. Osheen thanks Vladimir for helping with the organization and sponsoring the fika. Not all the representatives were there, but the people that were there gave updates.

Osheen got an email from Vilma Alanko stating that one of the students from her department was not aware about the role of student representatives, DSA activities, or the DSA in general. It might be worth to invest some time in advertising these things.

The CC'ing to Osheen seems to be going well.

#### **c. Social Events (Linnéa)**

Linnéa reports that the party was a success and that KIPA and DSA have probably run a surplus. The financial wrap-up is not finished yet though, so the exact amount remains to be seen. There will be a thank you event for the volunteers, how and what depends on the budget and surplus. Photos for the party are done

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now and can be distributed. This includes a group picture, which can be used to promote volunteering for the Christmas party.

DSA x KIPA climbing will be hosted this Thursday. 17 people have signed up already and spots are running out.

The workgroup will have a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June to discuss summer plans.

There was a hike last weekend, which was not that well attended sadly.

#### **d. PR (Ioanna)**

Ioanna has worked on the successful promotion for the Summer Party. The PR campaign was very effective and more than 500 tickets were sold.

Ioanna has had a meeting with the DSA Bloggers. There is now a DSA hashtag that all PhD bloggers use in their articles when publishing. Three blogs were published this month and the collaboration with KI careers is going smoothly.

Ioanna proposes to host a summer get together for the bloggers on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

Jelena reports that the mental health survey has finished and received 473 responses. She thanks Osheen and Ioanna for their help. Jelena is currently analyzing the data and will meet with Fredrika about the specifics of doing so.

Jelena has also received an email from The Coaching in Science Initiative (CSI) at SciLife to propagate their events and content they are building on their YouTube channel. It concerns well-being and mental health skills and DSA will share this.

#### **R5 PhD Conference**

Manouk reports that the PhD conference was very successful and highly appreciated by the 50 attendants. The location was perfect, the weather was nice. There are obviously things to improve, but overall Manouk is happy. The finances are being finalized and then it is a wrap. A handbook for next year will be written, and this will include contact information for important people/venues. There was also some interest from particular groups to participate next year.

#### **R6 The Senate (Konsistoriet)**

Maria Belikova reports that Konsistoriet has discussed what responsible internationalization means, in particular as people have been sentenced for being spies. Keeping this discussing going is important with the different backgrounds of students. KI should be careful with these matters and ensure that people are not hindered by this vetting, without losing sight of risks of espionage. The role and form of the thesis was briefly discussed as well, though without a clear pathway for change. The institution tour of the new rector with the directors was discussed as well. These will be held in English after Manouk sent an email.

Konsistoriet also discussed the budgeting of KI. Currently, KI does not use all the funding it receives and the budgets might be cut as the Swedish government

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needs to slash spending. The nationwide agreement between the regions and the university hospitals/medical institutes with regards to the money flow to pay students working/researching in the clinics was also discussed as it will be evaluated again. An important point during the Konsistoriet meeting was that the rent increase is based on inflation and that this might be problematic for KI. The rent increase will hopefully be brought down in discussions with Akademiska Hus, but another option that is being considered is removing space that is not used. As such, space needs to be used (even more) efficiently. Discussions are currently ongoing.

Konsistoriet also discussed that Huddinge Kommun has decided on a new plan for 2050 and they will try to become a major science hub. Discussions are ongoing about these changes. There is a vacant position at Konsistoriet, and the rules for when people leave mid-term will be changed. There should be students on the nomination committee. The process of filling that vacant position will be rather fast now, and there will be no vote. However, Maria can be there to give her opinion. Academic elections will be reevaluated in autumn and it seems that students will have more influence in the different nomination committees.

#### **R7 Faculty Board (Fakultetsnämnden)**

Daniel reports that there has been a two day strategic gathering of the faculty board. Many of the same topics were discussed that were also previously discussed by Konsistoriet. Other topics that were raised were the recruitment of personnel at KI. Especially how to do this strategically so it empowers the whole of KI and not just individual departments. During the meeting discussions about the Chinese Scholarship Council were held. The collaboration could be started up again now that the contracts have been improved. No decision has been made, but people are still skeptical about starting up the collaboration again.

In about a year, a new proposition about research will be published. This will particularly deal with the planning and funding of research. KI currently gives input, and its main focus is on internationalization. It might be good to raise some points about English usage, as this is the (*de facto*) institutional language at some universities.

Robert Harris also started the discussion about changing the prerequisites to defend. Many ideas were mentioned, and a heated discussion followed. In essence, Robert Harris proposed to make it easier to defend, as this would lead to more flexibility for high-impact work. This discussion will probably be discussed at KFU as there was no consensus. Manouk mentions that Robert Harris regularly brings this up, especially after the Swedish law started to mandate PhDs of at most four years. She will bring it up in her meetings with him again – and will report back during the next DSA meeting.

#### **R8 Committee for Doctoral Education (KFU)**

The committee for doctoral education talked about the quality report. Teachers do not have enough research experience and researchers teaching experience. Luca brought up the teaching platform, but nothing was decided upon. KFU decided that AI tools can be used as long as correct references are given. People already use them anyway, so it is just like any other tool. There should be some teaching, however, to prevent accidental plagiarism. CoAra was also discussed and this will be a discussion point during a next DSA board meeting, but in short, it is research

assessment agreement between a couple of universities. It comes down to not just using impact factors, when assessing people and the questions is whether KI should sign up. KFU thinks tentatively that it should, but the agreement is currently vaguely written. Daniel mentions this agreement was discussed by the faculty board as well and that the consensus was that it was perhaps a little too early to join. Many universities in Sweden will sign up and KFU wants to join too. The implications of joining need to be worked out, however. The author of the PhD newsletter has left KI and there is currently no replacement. This puts DSA in a difficult position, as we will not get the list of PhD students anymore.

### **R9 Committee for Research (KF)**

There is no currently no student representative at the committee for research.

### **R10 Medicinska Föreningen (MF) and Fullmäktige (FuM)**

Medicinska Föreningen is postponing the renovation of the aula. It is unclear when this will happen now.

### **R11 Other boards, and committees**

David Mentrup reports that he had been tasked about finding out about the results of the survey on MTC's book exam to test the knowledge of PhD students. The results were clearly split three-way. Some people were very happy with it. However, there was a significant group of people that invested too much time in the preparation for the test and worried too much about it as well. Modifications to the test were discussed and will be mentioned at a later point too. The guidelines for the test are rather short right now and the test might be changed so that students get credit for it. After this change expectations for the course might be clearer too.

## **Information and discussion points**

### **I1 Financial update**

*Presenter: Sviatlana Sukhanava*

Sviatlana will give an update on the finances of DSA and will go through the budget and results thus far.

Revenue for the party and conference is still missing, but so far it looks good. There is money left on most accounts, and the DSA can organize more activities in the second half of the year.

19:01 David Mentrup (student representative for MTC) left.

### **I2 Election and AGM**

*Presenter: Manouk Verhoeven*

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It might be possible that the elections and the AGM have to be postponed to November. Manouk will explain a little more about the situation.

Manouk will meet with MF tomorrow to discuss the elections. There is a clash with the calendar of KI and the MF/DSA calendar. KI has streamlined the election process from their side, meaning that they will meet in September/October to determine which positions are up for election. MF/DSA gets the list by late October. Then the positions need to be discussed with MF. As such, we need to move the AGM to late November – though this depends on FuM as well and the deadline for nominating people for FuM. KI could not change its timeline, because of governmental money and internal problems. Once it becomes clear what will be the best timeline, the board will hear this via the Teams Channel.

### I3 **DSA regulations**

*Presenter: Fredrika Hellgren*

Luca, Fredrika and Niels have proposed some changes to the DSA regulations. The most important changes pertain to 1) the way AGMs are run, 2) that individuals are elected directly to a position by the AGM and 3) that changes to the regulations of DSA need to be approved during a general meeting too.

Fredrika will go through the changes that she, Luca and Niels went through. The board members give input and these will be incorporated into the regulations. These include adding more information about the different workgroup manager positions, so people have a better understanding of what is expected of them. The current workgroup managers can help write these. The PhD Conference will be a separate workgroup too now. The board discussed whether the DSA chairperson needs to be mandated to sit in FuM. MF's position is that this should be the case as it gives them an opportunity to know what is going on in each section. The consensus of the board is to add the role to the regulations as it is not a lot of work, and does not affect the DSA chair that much as they can join online. With regards to the PhD conference, a potential problem with KI funding pops up as one needs to submit a program with a plan in November. The newly elected workgroup manager is not in position then and as such, picking a theme will not be their task. (They will pick the one for the next year.) All in all this might be better as the manager will be well used to their role once this needs to be done, but it is something the board needs to think about nonetheless. There is a consensus among the board that big decisions need to be made by a 2/3 majority.

19:24: Maria Belikova (student representative Konsistoriet) leaves.

The regulations will also define who can call a motion of no-confidence now. This will be written as anybody in the DSA. Moreover, when the DSA regulations will be changed, the majority needs to be 2/3.

**Break: 19:33 – 19:42**

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I4 **Summer**

*Presenter: Manouk Verhoeven*

Summer is around the corner, and as such the board should discuss what work needs to be done before the next board meeting in September.

Niels proposes to use a Teams Post where everyone can write the periods when they are unavailable for DSA work. This will be filled in by everyone by next week.

Manouk mentions that most activities for DSA wind down during the summer, but that some work on the elections, party finances and regulations need to be done. The Social Activities in the summer do not need a budget, but if something pops up these decisions can be made *per capsulum* before July.

I5 **DSA presentation to local research schools**

*Presenter: Luca Love*

Luca, Fredrika and Manouk have adapted the DSA presentation for the introduction course for new PhD students for clinically active PhD students. They will now show the presentation and welcome feedback.

The presentation is well liked, however the meeting recommends to focus a little more on rights than social events as most clinicians have a different life than preclinical PhD students. Specific issues DSA works on that are relevant to clinically active PhD students will be highlighted a little more. Once the changes have been made, Luca will draft an email for the research schools and send it to Manouk for an extra check. Ioanna will subsequently add the presentation to the DSA website.

I6 **Evaluation Summer Party**

*Presenter: Manouk Verhoeven*

On Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, the summer party was organized by DSA and KIPA. The board will now evaluate the summer party. Everything except the finances has been wrapped up and can be discussed.

There were complaints about the DJs again, but overall people really enjoyed the party. The bar with extra volunteers worked good, but it was still a little busy. This was stressful for the volunteers, but the visitors did not mind. There were issues with the pressure in the beer lines, issues with the house manager, issues with the cups and garbage pickup. In summary, there were lots of logistical issues. There was also a volunteering shortage which can be prevented next time by starting the recruitment a little earlier. The search for DJs should also start a little earlier, and it seems DSA and KIPA can spend more money on this given the likely surplus. The organization had underestimated the amount of food that was ordered at the beginning of the party and more had to be bought, which was

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stressful. Beer pong was a bit chaotic, but it worked in the end despite some problems between announcing the pairs and people not showing up. Some people wanted the music and dancing to start earlier, and as such a schedule with the different parts of the party might be used in the promotion to prevent disappointments.

Linnéa and Martina (KIPA coordinator for the party) both want the party on a Saturday the next time. Having it on a Friday takes away too much time from work.

The next parties should be easier to organize as routines have been established now. A guide will be written how to organize a party at MF, and Martina and Linnéa have already worked on this. Linnéa stresses that it is very important to thank the volunteers to make sure that they help out again during the Christmas Party. Vladimir compliments the DSA and KIPA on the party and their working together.

20:02: Osheen Sharma leaves.

I7 **DSA email addresses**

*Presenter: Luca Love*

The official DSA email addresses are external from KI and this leads to emails sometimes ending up in the spam folder. The board will discuss if there are ways to solve this issue.

Manouk will go to KI IT support to ask if the DSA email addresses can be added to the contact list of all users. Manouk will also look for a list with all the KI PhD student email addresses. This is downloaded straight from Ladok and as the writer of the PhD Newsletter has left, we will no longer receive these.

A link to the Teams Channel will be added to our news venues. A new promotional campaign might be in order too.

## **Decision points**

D1 **Midsommar gathering, see budget proposal midsommar madness**

*Presenter: Niels Krämer*

For the midsommar gathering, DSA will provide some soft drinks, light snacks and the necessary material to grill (though not the sausages, vegetables, etc. that people need to bring themselves). As such the budget for this would be 300 SEK.

**The budget is passed with no against votes.**

D2 **Bloggers Summer Get-Together, see budget proposal Bloggers Gathering**

*Presenter: Ioanna Tsea*

The DSA wants to organize a summer get together for the bloggers currently participating in KI x DSA Blogging. The budget for this would be 350 SEK.

This event could be combined with the Midsommar gathering. That way more people could meet and interact. As such the event will be moved to the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and the budgets will be merged.

**The budget for the combined activities is set at 650 SEK and passed with no against votes.**

**Open discussion (remaining time, probably little)**

O1 **Board AW**

The board should have an after work. Linnéa will sent out a Doodle. The board will then go for drinks, talks, etc..

**End of meeting: 20:17**

# Signature page

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