

## Agenda for the board meeting

Date: Monday, 12-Feb-2024

Time: 18:00 – 21:00

Location: **A0412, Biomedicum and Zoom**

Acronyms: DSA: The Doctoral Students' Association, MF: Medicinska Föreningen, DSO: Student and Doctoral Students 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: Leo Gkekos; Ioanna Tsea; Sviatlana Sukhanava; Tracer Yong; Osheen Sharma; Katalin Vincze; Martha Paskin; Maya Molinari; Sylvya Pasca; Angelo Giosuè Mezzoioioso; Daniel Doyon

Present: Leo Gkekos; Ioanna Tsea; Sviatlana Sukhanava (via zoom); Tracer Yong; Katalin Vincze (via zoom); Martha Paskin (19:30); Maya Molinari; Sylvya Pasca (via zoom); Angelo Giosuè Mezzoioioso (via zoom 18:08); Daniel Doyon (via zoom 18:08)

Absent board members: Osheen Sharma

Others in person: Ahmed Abdelmoez; Daniel Söderberg; Fredrika Hellgren; Luca Love; Niels Krämer; Maria Belikova

Others via Zoom: Benjamin Smart; Anton Hellberg; Hager Saleh, Valdimir Pabón-Martínez; Jesper Dalum; Andri Savva; Francesca Gatto; Vilma Alanko; Adina König; Jingjing Xu

### Formalia (5 minutes)

F1 Opening of meeting: 18:01

F2 Proper proclamation of the meeting: 18:01

F3 Appointment of person to preside the meeting: Leo Gkekos

F4 Appointment of person to write the minutes: Tracer Yong

F5 Appointment of person to sign the minutes: Maya Molinari

F6 Reported absences: The following 7 invitees reported their absences to this board meeting: Libe Vilela; Manon Termote; Sara Abu Ajamieh; Sakura Sakakibara; Ahmad Abbadi; Emelie Boberg; Mingzhi Liu.

F7 Previous protocols: December minutes 2023 signed; January minutes 2024 signed. Approved

F8 Approval of the current agenda: Change in Decision point 2: change the budget from 400 kr to 1000 kr

F9 Verbalization of the decisions per capsulam: The election of Sara Abu Ajamieh as PhD student representative for Cancer Research KI.

### **Reports from Student Representatives and others**

R1 Ombudsperson

Skipped

R2 KI careers

Vladimir: KI careers newsletter containing information about new board DSA was sent out last week. More courses, and networking events are planned.

R3 DSA Chairperson (Leo Gkekos)

- MF Council of Chairs (Meeting with all the associations, committees under MF)
  - Introductory meeting to MF
  - Went through different topics like how to book a room, the budget for 2024, contact people for Central MF.
  - MF wants to standardise the protocols in the different sections, but more details will follow
  - Important point: MF has been thinking around the security around the email addresses of the sections. So they want us to have a personal MF email e.g.

leo.gkekos@medicinska.foreningen.se that is attached to the DSA email. So all emails sent to the DSA email will be forwarded to the new email.

- We have instead requested separate email addresses for the workgroups. The same way we have DSAComms for example
- SFS-DK (Meeting with all doctoral student associations of Sweden)
  - The government initiated an investigation of the current research financing authorities and published it late last year in December.
  - The investigation explored alternative systems of funding research. Their suggestion has been to reduce the 11 public authorities that currently exist to 3.
  - SFS agrees since their argument is that the less authorities exist the less overlap of applications for external funding. -> so reducing bureaucracy can be beneficial
  - Göteborg is against that. If we do reduce then this will lead for less funding for not so hot/smaller subjects.
  - SFS sent a comment that if the number of authorities is to be reduced, then it should be reduced to 1. Then within that one system, they can find ways to split the money.
  - Another point that was made by SFS is that we should also incentivise utilising the European Funding, which is underutilised in Sweden.
- SFS-DK run a survey about ISP's and found that 66% of PhD's (in Sweden) initially make the ISP with the supervisor, whereas 90% were not adequately equipped with the necessary knowledge for the ISP.
- Utbildningsrådet Ordförande MF (Educational council of MF)
  - KI is interested in finding studerandeskyddsombud for all departments
  - Téa will be having a meeting with central KI people to go through what a studerandeskyddsombud needs to do. I will be invited to that meeting
  - Then they'll be forwarding that info to the already elected studerandeskyddsombud
- SULF event + March meeting
  - Around 20 students
  - SULF thought it was a success
  - Mikael will come to the March meeting

#### R4 DSA Workgroups

##### a. Doctoral Education (Sylvya Pasca)

- Had a meeting with the board and established the top 3 goals for the Doctoral education group for 2024
  - Teaching platform for PhD students (on RIMS) -got in contact with the team and we will continue from there
  - Mentoring platform
  - Uniformise learning outcomes across departments: get updated about each department rules for PhD students activities and determine if they complete the same learning outcomes by the end of the PhD
- Presented at the Research school in Psychiatry and Epidemiology in the end of January and the next presentation will be in March.
- The next meeting for the workgroup will be on 28<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> of February, sending the invitation asap.

b. Student Representation (Osheen Sharma)

Skipped

c. Social Events (Martha Paskin)

Skipped

d. PR (Katalin Vincze)

Current members: Ioanna, Niels and Katalin

- We have been advertising the different upcoming events on our channels – mainly Teams, Website, Whatsapp, Instagram and sending posters to the screens. Sent out a Newsletter as well.
- Ioanna made a Gmail account to make a calendar on the website – will be updating that as well.
- Vladimir from KI Careers put us in contact with Christina Jägare (Communication Manager of the Stockholm Science City Foundation) which is very useful for future collaborations.
- Latest event advertised: McKinsey event in collaboration with Synapse

- Workgroup recruitment ongoing, Katalin will send the results of those that have signed up.
- Welfare and Health (Maya Molinari)
- New member joining, making 3 people in the work group. Open for new member from DSA board. Angelo asked to join. DSA fika may need some financing. Yoga class in Biomedicum.

#### R5 PhD Conference

Daniel and Marian met with Anna, a representative from Miltenyi Biotech and discussed about how we can gain more sponsorship for PhD conference. It was suggested that we lower the bronze tier to 5000 kr instead of 10.000 kr. In addition it was suggested that all tiers have included a table for the company to showcase their products. The Board and PhD conference team both agree to follow these guidelines. We will target the top 50 supplier of KI as a start to contact. A comprehensive review on booth and position for sponsor is also underway.

#### R6 The Senate (Konsistoriet, Maria Belikova)

- CoARA - better engage now and give input. This implies reformation and assessment of scientific work. Important to keep assessing the quality of research.
- Vetenskapsrådet: 143 KI scientists got total almost 661 milj sek
- Re-negotiation of ALF-agreement is on its way
- Risk assesment for 2024 was decided
- New FoUU-direktör - there is an ad out, Annika Tibell leaving
- Reseach financing investigation - dicussed KI response
- Göran Stiernstedt (Konsistoriet chair) is quitting, he is going to be chairperson for Karolinska hospital, vice chair Sophia Hober takes over
- Ethics council and ethics ombudsperson told about his work. He helps with authorship issues, collaborations problems, conflicts etc.

#### R7 Faculty Board (Fakultetsnämnden, Daniel Söderberg)

- Organizational scheme at KI – two “flows” where issues related to collegial or organizational issues are separated. The Faculty Board is the deciding body for the collegial “flow”.
- KI has a lot of money accumulated that needs to be used. The issue is very complex as there are many reasons for the accumulation of this capital. The issue is also being discussed in the committees.
- There is a national inquiry about the organization of health care in Sweden, discussing if some of the health care should be organized nationally rather than on a regional level as today.
- There was discussion about KI’s new language policy toward a wider Swedish coverage. However, Interpretation of this policy is controversial.
- KI career ladder (discussed separately)

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

- Continuing discussions from last year with regards to clinically active PhD students. The problem remains that they often don’t get enough time to do research. During revisions of the program it is seen that some of the theses are below standard, and this might jeopardize the license of KI to award doctoral degrees. Several solutions were discussed, including differentiating salaries between clinical work and doctoral work (making it easier to fill time in the clinic), mandatory meetings between the PI, student and chef at the clinic, etc.. There are currently issues with the memorandum of understanding between the region Stockholm and KI as well.
- KI and Makerere university will probably not continue issuing double degrees, but will continue with their close partnership.
- There will be a course on sustainable development for PhD students now.
- Requirements for graduating will change from the 1st of March onwards. One of the parts of the thesis needs to be a 1) first (co-)authorship, 2) with new data (meaning a research article or systematic review), 3) in manuscript form (published or not). In addition, one needs 2 papers that are published (though authorship position doesn’t matter).

#### R9 Committee for Research (KF)

Skipped

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

MF meeting in January touched upon the compensation policy and non-swedish speaker representative in MF. Nomination procedure are under investigation. Compensation of Student Nobel Night Cap was discussed. There is a concern whether the source of these funding should be from MF or KI.

#### R11 Other boards, and committees

Niels mentioned attending safety meeting. There is a need for better communication between guard and event organisers.

### Decision Points

*D1* Election of Jesper Dalum and Emelie Boberg as doctoral student representatives for DentMed 2024  
Presenter: Leo Gkekos

Jesper Dalum, the doctoral student representative for DentMed 2023 wants to continue this year. Emelie Boberg would also like to be a doctoral student representative to fill in when Jesper Dalum is not available.

Jesper presented himself and on Emelie's behalf. An election was held. The decision point was passed.

*D2* PhD student after work in Flemingsberg campus 2024-02-15  
Presenter: Luca Love

Luca explained the background and function of the get together. Sviatlana explained the reason for changing in budget amount. Adina expressed her appreciation of balancing event from Solna to Flemingsberg campus.

The budget was put to election, and the budget was passed.

-----Break 19:17 until 19:30-----

Martha Paskin joined (19:30)

### Information & discussion

- /1* Consequences of NEO Liquid nitrogen freezer failure  
Presenter: Luca Love

Luca explains this issue. We should make sure these concerns are delivered to KFU and central meeting. During COVID era, student can go to KI and ask for compensation/restructure of their affected study. These students can potentially follow the same route. This issue can be generalised to any catastrophic event of any student's study.

In case of response, students should be allowed to restructure/repurpose their project so they finish on time. We should get the total number of affected students from KI and make sure we get the full picture/scale of this issue. What DSA can act is to prompt central to ensure students' benefit.

Luca left 19:40

- /2* MRC-LMB-KI symposium  
Presenter: Niels Krämer

Doctoral students from the MRC-laboratory in Cambridge want to organize a 2-day symposium about cell/molecular biology with doctoral students from KI. This symposium would be organized in Cambridge on July 18th and 19th. It would include poster talks, invited talks, a workshop on "the limits and possibilities of science" and a grand dinner in one of the old colleges. Lodging for visiting students is available on campus as well (and includes breakfast).

As per the request of the last DSA board meeting, I have investigated options for funding. A proposal is drafted and currently being worked on with Matti Nikola (director of doctoral education CMB) who thinks we stand a good chance that KPK will fund the activity. There is also funding available from the LMC, in case the KI funding falls through. Travel costs would be for individual PIs in that case. The work for the symposium will have started up, but more people are potentially needed. Niels will give an update on the work – and potentially invite the two chairs from Cambridge during the meeting to explain more as well.

Discussion of people organizing the LMC-KI Symposium and whether/how DSA can promote this event.



Contact Niels for more information.

*13* Centrally financed assistant professorships at KI  
Presenter: Daniel Söderberg

Each year, KI offers several positions as assistant professor that financed with central funds. The decision about the number and size of positions is taken in the Faculty Board during the spring.

I would like to ask the DSA what our opinion is about these positions, in terms of number and size. E.g., should there be more positions with less funding, or fewer positions with more funding. Should we perhaps reach out to KIPA and/or junior faculty to get more input on the issue?

Please refer to board meeting folder for the information of these positions:

[Centrally financed assistant professorship](#)

There was confusion between assistant professorship and docent. Other concerns include the funding status in case of changing location, whether you can bring the funding with you? Or do you have to return the funding? For centrally funded professor, the funding is not restricted to department.

DSA opinion is that this information is fundamentally important for doctoral students. We should work together with KIPA to come up with an argument on this issue. Don would be a window for that.

Vladimir suggest we compare this funding scheme with other university in Sweden. Cost difference between region should be taken into account.

*14* Representation of junior faculty in Faculty Board  
Presenter: Daniel Söderberg

The Faculty Board (FN) consists of senior faculty members (all professors) and 3 student representatives. As such, there are few representatives that voice the opinion of the future of KI.

One way to improve this would be to allow representation from junior faculty in FN. This can be done either by moving that FN should invite a junior faculty member to sit in on the

meetings (but without formal voting power) or by moving that Konsistoriet change the constitution of FN. I think the first option is more feasible, but can be discussed.

The issue was discussed at a DSA board meeting 2023 and we agreed this was a development we wanted to encourage. The issue was also discussed with MF reps who were also positive.

The question is now how we continue working with this, who should take discussions with MF, KIPA, junior faculty and finally KI.

Since Konsistoriet has the decision power on this issue, it wouldn't be straightforward to reshape this but affect the decision process within Konsistoriet should be possible. We could start with talking to pro-representative member.

*/5* Applications for the Committee of SNNC 2024 are now open  
Presenter: Ioanna Tsea

Students' Nobel Nightcap (SNNC) is the after party to the Nobel Banquet on December 10th. This year the party is organized by Medicinska Föreningen. The application for the SNNC 2024 committee is now open! Read more and apply here

<https://snnc.se/recruitment/>

If you have any questions regarding the project or the roles please do not hesitate to reach out to Lovisa Hagenfeldt and Hanna Grähs at

[generals@snnc.se](mailto:generals@snnc.se)

*/6* Topics to be highlighted by International Staff Services  
Presenter: Leo Gkekos

Ulla Tunkara (International Staff Services) would like us to brainstorm ideas for future events/seminars/workshops.

This request ignited some discussion about Bank account and ID card for international student. There was a suggestion to establish a representative to international student.

The discussion were also let to reflection on Ulla's role and how DSA should work with her. As an international officer regarding migration issues, DSA should play the role of consultation. Local HR should also be involved when it comes to migration issue.

Overall, it was agreed that we could arrange a meeting between Ulla and migration committee.

Daniel D left 20:10

Open Discussion

Ioanna: doctoral intro day needs 2 volunteers from DSA to give 30 min presentation followed 30 min Q&A to promote DSA. One opening remain. The position should commit once per month over zoom. Interested people please contact Ioanna

Niels: Bylaw committee shall continue unfinished work from last year.

Daniel: Introductory of social activity of new PhD students? For example, a welcome party. Martha is arranging social events but more can be done. Niels suggest to push for an in person session for this.

This is followed by discussion about the form of activity include fika, bar session, 1 or 2 day outing. A combination of these is also feasible. A doctoral chat group/ team channel to facilitate in time discussion and response is ideal. This can be done with QR code connect to DSA Calendar, social media account.

Regarding ways to promote the DSA, it is already visible through central newsletter, social media platform. We could push for more exposure. Ambassadors exist for bachelor and master students but not doctoral student. Considering a counterpart for DSA would be beneficial. We could brand this with soft skill training opportunity. Append DSA social activity to certain course is also ideal.

Subscription of PhD newsletter

Angelo: Expressed his interest in collaborating with Forskaren for a student visit. More details will follow.

End of meeting 20:34

# Signature page

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