

Agenda for the board meeting

Date: Thursday, 10-Apr-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 Mezzoioso; Daniel Doyon

Present: Leo Gkekos; Ioanna Tsea; Sviatlana Sukhanava; Tracer Yong; Osheen Sharma; Katalin Vincze; Martha Paskin; Maya Molinari; Sylvya Pasca; Daniel Doyon

Absent board members: Angelo Giosuè Mezzoioso

Others in person: Vladimir Pabón-Martínez; Fredrika Hellgren; Hugo Sjöqvist; Niels Kramer; Maria Belikova;

Others via Zoom: Ahmad Abbadi; David Wullimann; Francesca Gatto; Jing Zhou; Sara Abu Ajamieh

Formalia (5 minutes)

F1 Opening of meeting: 18:02

F2 Proper proclamation of the meeting: The meeting was properly proclaimed

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: Sylvya Pasca

F6 Reported absences: Luca Love, Manon Termote, Ahmed Abdelmoez, Maria Del Rosario Alsina, Willem Molenkamp

F7 Previous protocols: Minute for the 3rd Board meeting signed

F8 Approval of the current agenda:

F9 Verbalization of the decisions per capsulam: 1500 SEK was allocated to Easter fika at Biomedicum via per capsulam.

Reports from Student Representatives and others (45 minutes)

R1 Ombudsperson

Skipped

R2 KI careers (Vladimir Pabón-Martínez)

- Career Newsletter (April) sent 2024-04-10.
- 19 doctoral students did apply to the Internship Program (Spring 2024)
- Application for the doctoral course [Career Skills for Scientists \(Autumn 2024\)](#) will open April 15 as for the other KI courses
- Activities included in the KI Calendar co-organized with DSA

2024-05-20 [Academic productivity: Work smarter not harder/Work more effectively](#)

2024-05-21 [Workshop: How to write a popular science summary | Karolinska Institutet](#)

- New Blogs:

[Beyond the bench - Researcher blogs \(ki.se\)](#)

[Behind the Scenes of the Students' Nobel Nightcap - Researcher blogs \(ki.se\)](#)

R3 DSA Chairperson (Leo Gkekos)

- Meeting with Bob
 - We have had one meeting with Bob since the last board meeting.
 - Report on the freezer malfunction will be released this Friday
 - KI got a visit from the Minister for migration.

- Minister visit where they discussed about the PhD students that might have problem with their visas. They will have a new investigation that will start this autumn to see what problems they need to discuss. The investigation will also focus on making the renewal of the visa faster. Migrationsverket can give 2 years permit and then they need to renew it, now you will have to show resources that are relevant to 2 years of self support, KI also gives 1 year stipend (maybe we should give 2 year stipendium?). Variation on security that the student needs to go through depending on the country of origin. Minister said they are trying to make Sweden more attractive to non EU students.
 - The work on MF's aula has been delayed once again. Will now be completed end of May.
- SFS-DK meeting (SFS-DK is a committee within SFS, the Swedish National Union of Students, which works on issues concerning doctoral students)
 - We have had one meeting since the last board meeting
 - It was a workshop on how to attract more students to get involved
 - Language of Doctoral students was discussed a lot. This relates to various matters, such as teaching opportunities (thus having time for student representation), actual language barriers at meetings (administrative language is Swedish), and overall skimming down the pool of possible recruits
 - Communication channels: many associations have social media accounts, mailing lists, newsletter, or a website. Coherent mailing lists and periodical information was deemed important, as there is no single social-media platform which many Doctoral students use (and monitoring them all can be resource-intensive).
 - Trying to infiltrate a welcome day, introduction to PhD students course, or some similar event, either locally, faculty-wide or at the university level, was deemed very important for visibility. Here you are able to tell about yourselves, interact with them (quizzes etc.), and offer students valuable (hidden) information and possibilities.
 - It is also effective to headhunt single capable individuals to carry out the organisational work. People are busy, but often appreciate being reached out.
 - I can't stress this enough, but different universities can be very different, and the structures of associations vary a lot, from side-branches of student unions, to individual organisations with organisation numbers and liabilities, to independent student unions.
 - Finally, it was also discussed on what happens if no volunteers are to be found. General rules may be difficult to lay out and I hope no one is forced into such situation, but one should:

- Contact your nearest stakeholders to inform them about the situation
- Find out the liabilities your current board/equivalent has: do you need to hold a member meeting to grant you a freedom of liabilities? Does the student union need to close the books for this year? Etc
- Realize that abolishing organisations can be difficult, it may be easier to hibernate with effectively doing nothing.
- (This is not legal advice!)

R4 DSA Workgroups

-----Niels joined 18:12-----

a. Doctoral Education (Sylvya Pasca)

- Workgroup meeting on the 4th of April
- The KI core Facilities Day will be on 22nd of April, from 12-13, in Neo, Flemingsberg. Two vacant positions needed to be filled for on-site duties. They were discussions to present at the PhD conference
- Updating of PhD booklet is expected to finish by the end of May. Announcement about the working team has been sent out.
- Received the first updates from the teaching platform (RIMS): had a meeting with the RIMS on 10th to beta-test the platform, they aim to have the tags for teaching by the end of the year
- Mentoring platform: planning an in-person event
- Workshops with the KI Career Service: 2 upcoming seminars (productivity and writing popular science)
- Planning non-academic events for the students: Forskaren (led by Ioanna and Leo) and Working lab (to be discussed soon)
- Still waiting response from Clinical Therapy Research School
- The next meeting for the workgroup will be in the beginning of May, sending the invitation ASAP

b. Student Representation (Osheen Sharma)

- Met with UrO and Safety Network (Amitis) regarding their request for DSA assistance in electing department safety representatives. We've finalized the application form and plan to kick off the application process post-20th April.

- Helped Katalin to disseminate PhD conference information through department representatives.

c. Social Events (Martha Paskin)

- Up to 35 people attended Easter fika, exceeding expectation and capacity. Increased amount of food and drink must be considered in future events.
- DSA board game night preparation on track.
- Healthy promotion day under preparation.
- Pub evening 19th April Flemingsberg: too short for budget review, should consider postpone.
- New DSA hike plan.
- Summer party: BBQ 7th June, seeking collaboration with KIPA.

d. PR (Katalin Vincze)

- PhD conference advertising in full force, second email sent out now – 40ish sign-ups so far.
- Sent out new newsletter
- Advertising the Academic Productivity seminar from KI Careers
- Advertising KI Core Facilities
- Advertised Easter fika, actively advertising the Board game night

SULF event also needed for adv.

e. Welfare and Health (Maya Molinari)

Presented later.

R5 PhD Conference (Daniel Doyon & Jing Zhou)

- Currently 43 registered, more registration expected. Conference itinerary fully filled. Board member should join.

R6 The Senate (Konsistoriet, Maria Belikova)

Meeting next week

R7 Faculty Board (Fakultetsnämnden, Daniel Söderberg)

Skipped

R8 Committee for Doctoral Education (KFU) (Niels Krämer)

Discussion over review standards of PhD thesis. KID funding revision was also discussed.

R9 Committee for Research (KF)

No representative.

R10 Medicinska Föreningen (MF) and Fullmäktige (FuM)(Niels Krämer)

- Discussion about a new workgroup to improve FuM function.
- Budget approved.
- Fixing weekend can be used to exchange for free weekend for...

R11 Other boards, and committees

- Sara Abu Ajamieh: A brief update on KI cancer retreat and its grant application.
- Luca: The BioNut/MedH merging is going as planned the ISPs from BioNut are being transferred and the merging process will finish on the 1st July. There is an open meeting for PhD students in BioNut to meet the new study director (mattias svensson) next Tuesday.
- The investigation into the freezer disaster will be presented this Friday.
- DSA salary task force meeting on Friday
- Leo: Forskaren aiming 30 PhD student participate, mutual presentation, expected to take place at the end of May.
- Ioanna: representation for Doctoral introduction day on 24th April.

Decision Points

D1 Election of student representatives (5 minutes)
Presenter: Ioanna Tsea & Leo Gkekos

- Elect Maria Del Rosario Alsina and Hugo Sjöqvist as doctoral student representatives at the department of Global Public Health

- Elect Ahmad Abbadi as doctoral student representative at the steering committee for the Epidemiology Programme

Election was passed without against.

-----18:37 15 min break -----

D2 Changes in DSA Bylaws (30 minutes)
Presenter: Leo Gkekos

Leo presented the reason and changes to the DSA bylaw. The revised version is put under scrutinization. Essentially, some change in the board member's role and number. 2 non-workgroup manager position will be removed. PhD conference manager will become a board member.

The term time of DSA board is also subjected for changes: new 1st Dec till 30th Nov next year.

Enforce of board member resignation if fail to provide satisfactory reason for absence from 2 consecutive board meeting.

A discussion about how workgroup manager switch between different workgroups. According to the new bylaw, workgroup managers need to be decided at the moment of election. That is, people will not be elected as a Board member, but as a Workgroup manager of a specific workgroup.

There is a concern over an (evently) split vote during AGM, who will decide the way to proceed. Other issue discussed include condition for cancellation of AGM, nomination criteria, election process.

Further adjustment needed. The document will be available for DSA member to contribute. Aiming to reach a finalized version before the next meeting.

-----Maya 19:17-----

Report for Health and welfare workgroup (Maya Molinari)

- Discussion about the MHS 2024. Explanation of the main changes in comparison to the 2023 survey (we tried to shorten the survey by eliminating free text questions and questions we thought not being too important for the survey; we also tried to make some questions more clear and investigating aspects only in relation to the PhD journey, not "In general")

- Good affluence to the Easter fika, planning to organize another one in May
- Meeting planned with Health Care promotion on 16th of April
- Planning to meet the Ombudspersons to show them the MHS

One concern over sharing mantle health survey result with PhD students is sending out negative image. This impacts upper management.

Vladimir proposed to roll out the survey at PhD conference with a dedicated time frame to maximise the response rate.

-----Martha left 19:30-----

D3 Budget proposal for DSA Board Game Evening (15 minutes)
Presenter: Martha Paskin

Ioanna updated the budget proposal, the new proposal is 2000 SEK. The budget was put for election. The budget was approved without objection.

Information & discussion

I1 Looking for volunteers to chair the 2024 KI PhD Conference sessions (10 minutes)
Presenter: Ioanna Tsea & Jing Zhou

The organization of the 2024 KI PhD conference is going in full speed. As we finalize the conference program we need volunteers from the DSA to help us chair the different sessions. We need two volunteers to act as chairs for the following sessions:

- Day 1 - Session 1: Publish or perish – science communication, open science
- Day 1 - Session 2: Translational research collaborations
- Day 1 - Session 3: Research in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs – Sustainability in Science
- Day 2 - Session 4: Stress management, work/life balance and mental health
- Day 2 - Session 5: Unexpected career-paths (working for governments, advocacy work, NPO's, journalism)

For discussion proposal:

- What is the role of the session chair?
- Any immediate volunteers or any preferences in sessions?

Ioanna presented the latest information about PhD conference. Positions for chairs are open now, anyone interested to become a chair please get in touch with Ioanna.

12 Studerandeskyddsombud (15 minutes)
Presenter: Leo Gkekos

The new guidelines on the role of the student safety representatives have been shared with us by MF. We will share the new guideline during the meeting.

The role is to support student in unfortunate incidents. Meet student safety network monthly, and attend safety rounds once per year to assess environment. Safety for all level students. The role will be in English. The defined role of student safety rep is discussed, especially difference from departmental safety officers. The legal responsibility is a concern for students to take up the position.

-----Osheen left 20:01-----

Open Discussion (15 minutes)

Leo: Slow response rate to KI courses survey current around 40%. Way to increase response rate is to integrate the survey into the course, like append to the end of the course, (with fika ideally) but not compulsory.

Epidemiology coordinator is eager to increase the response rate. One concern is that the response period time is only 2 weeks, it should be extended. However, prolonged feedback time does not guarantee best recollection of the course. The survey is essential to the course organiser to get funding. It is not allowed to make the survey compulsory. The student behaviour toward survey was changed after pandemic.

It seems appending a survey at the end of the course is the good approach, maybe put in more incentives (fika) easier way (QR code) and social pressure (asking humbly)

Niels: DSA event is facing all PhD students, board meeting zoom link should be public available.

End of meeting 20:13

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