

## Minutes, board meeting of the PhD student section at LTH

**Date:** 2011-06-14

**Time:** 17:30-19:30

**Location:** Department of Design Sciences, IKDC

**Attending board members:** Farzad Foroughi, Karin Westerberg, Maisam Abbasi, Sofia Fahlvik Svensson, Belinda Adler

**Other present:** Angelica Andersson, president LDK

**Absent board members:** Fredrik Ejserholm

**Protocol number:** 2011:3

§	Topic
§1	<b>The chairman opens the meeting</b> Meeting opened
§2	<b>Was the meeting correctly called</b> The meeting was deemed correctly called
§3	<b>Election of one person to co-sign the minutes</b> Sofia Fahlvik Svensson was elected to co-sign the minutes
§4	<b>Approval of the agenda</b> The agenda was approved with the addition “§11 Fairness and equal opportunity for PhD students at LTH” Farzad also wanted to discuss the communication between the board and the student representatives at the department boards, which was added under §6 e – communication with members.
§5	<b>Last meeting protocol</b> The lunch with the PhD student representatives at the department boards was held on 10 <sup>th</sup> June. The webpage is partly updated, Fredrik is working on this.
§6	<b>Report/Info from the committees/members of the board</b> <i>a. Info LDK (board of Lund University PhD student union) – Angelica</i> Angelica Andersson who is the president of LDK presented herself and their activities. LDK organizes all PhD students at Lund University except the ones at LTH. They are organized in six councils, one for each faculty and on the common level two persons are working part-time for LDK. Some important issues at the moment are:

**EQ11** – There has been an evaluation of the quality of the education given by Lund University, including the research education. The faculties have written self-evaluations and a board of external reviewers have visited the university. An initial report has been given from the reviewers and a full report is to come in September. In it they give some good suggestions for quality assurance of the research education. This is something the unions have been saying for a long time, so it is good news.

**Fronesis** – there is a lot of work being done regarding how LU will be organized since the regulations from the state have been changed dramatically (autonomiutredningen). Six groups are working on making suggestions which will be presented in September. One important suggestion is that the PhD students will be able to vote for appointing the Deans and members of the faculty boards.

**Education grants** – it has been decided that it is no longer allowed to employ PhD students with education grants (utbildningsbidrag). This is something the unions have been working for.

**PhD student Ombudsman (Domb)** – There are negotiations going on with LU for the funding of the next term of the PhD student Ombudsman. LDK and the PhD student section at LTH employ the ombudsman together with support from LU. If we do not get full funding Angelica hopes that we will keep paying for this together as before.

**Communication with LU** – the chancellor and vice chancellor of LU are generally very positive to improve the situation for PhD students and listen to suggestions from the unions.

*b. SR-Dokt (Educational) - Sofia*

There will be a meeting next Thursday to discuss the document “Cirkulär migration och utveckling” which concerns the rights to residency permits for international PhD students.

*c. Status: Translation of documents – Karin*

Not started yet.

*d. Party/Social group*

**i. Football tournament**

The suggestion is an indoor football tournament in Victoriastadion on August 28<sup>th</sup>, which is a Sunday. There will be three fields and real referees. We discussed the budget for this since we want to save some money for other PhD student activities we will dedicate 7000 SEK for the football tournament. There will be a participation fee for the teams of around 300 SEK. (For original budget, see appendix) We also want to have a dinner afterwards which will be paid for by the participants, Belinda will see where we can have it, Lunds Nation and Sandras restaurant were suggested. We also discussed if we can get sponsoring for the tournament.

**ii. Doctoral evening**

Dan Johansson, from the division of mechanics, has contacted Belinda and is interested in organizing some social activity for the PhD students. He suggests a pub night with wine/beer/whisky tasting, games, cards, indoor climbing etc. We are positive to this suggestion and can give some money for it. It should be about one month after the football tournament. Belinda will ask Dan for a more specific suggestion.

**iii. Other?**

Nothing to report.

*e. Communication***i. with members**

Discussion on how to get an updated email list of our members. We should be able to search for “doktorander” in webmail and find PhD student mailing lists, but not all departments might have them. Bodil Ryderheim has one list but it is not certain that it is complete.

We arranged a lunch for the PhD representatives in the Department boards, the student council and the PhD student section board. 14 people attended and we think it went well. It was decided that we should continue with these lunches in the fall.

There was a discussion of whether we can and should have more control over the PhD student representatives, for example by asking them to report to us from the board meetings.

**ii. Homepage/Facebook**

The homepage has been partly updated. The list of PhD representatives in different boards should be updated, but we need to check the list with LTH first.

*f. Research day/LTH Conference*

Belinda has spoken with Ulla Holst about this and Maisam has written a proposal (see appendix). There will be a meeting with Ulla on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was a discussion of the scope of the project and how to motivate PhD students to participate. Maybe there could be some course credits for this? Angelica suggested that we have a look at the research portals at LTH for possible collaboration as the purpose of these is to facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration.

*g. Other committees?*

Nothing to report.

**§7 Our strategic plan**

It is not entirely clear what we do as a section and as section board. Belinda suggests that we create some document listing what we do and what our priorities are. The following topics were identified at the meeting:

- Social and networking activities
  - Football tournament
  - Pub night
  - PLUME
  - Research day
- Research education
  - Student council
  - Contact with PhD student representatives (and appointing them)
  - Monitoring issues such as guidelines for individual study plans and the meetings where they are updated. Course database.
- Other
  - Travel grants?

Under this topic we also discussed the new suggestion for a template for individual study plans which has been developed together with Gothenburg University and Angelica mentioned that there should be some kind of internal audit of the individual study plans.

**§8 Questionnaire from equality committee**

The equality committee at TLTH has sent out a questionnaire to all sections which was discussed. See appendix.

**§9 Movietime**

There is an offer to show a movie based on the webcomic PhD comic. We could do this together with LDK. Belinda will proceed to investigate price and other practicalities.

**§10 Include course from you undergrad to your PhD. Now available!**

Belinda informed that there is a decision that PhD students can include courses from their undergraduate studies in the PhD degree. There are guidelines for how this is done; one important point is that it should be done on the student's initiative. Sofia will find the guideline document so that we can link to it from our webpage. Angelica pointed out that there is a risk that students feel pressured to include courses and use this as a "selling point" in order to get a PhD position as this would save money for the departments.

**§11 Fairness and equal opportunity for PhD students at LTH**

Postponed until next meeting.

**§12 Next board meeting**

Should be sometime before the football tournament. Belinda will send out a Doodle.

**§13 Other questions**

Angelica informed us that Hanna Modin is our representative in “Rådet för utbildning på forskarnivå” at LU where presently we have one representative and LDK one. In the Fronesis inquest it is suggested that there should be only one council for all education with three student representatives. If this is decided we will work for having one seat dedicated to a PhD student representative which we would have to share with LDK.

**§14 Short communications**

None.

**§15 Closing the meeting**

The meeting was closed.

**Signatures**

**Belinda Adler**

Chairperson

**Karin Westerberg**

Secretary

**Sofia Fahlvik-Svensson**

Co-signer

**Event Name:**

Football tournament

**Event Date:**

2011-08-27

**Number of Participants:**

12 teams

**Fee / (Team, person):**

150

**Main Organizer(s):****Short Description:**

Football tournament for all LTH PhD students

**Budget:****Income:****Item Name:****Item Cost (SEK):**

Participant Fees (total)

1800

Money from Dokt

10000

**Total Income:**

11800

**Spending:****Item Name:****Item Cost (SEK):**

Stadium Rent

7000

Referees

2500

Prizes/Trophies

500

Footballs

500

Whistles

300

Advertisement

500

Fruit

500

**Total Cost**

11800

**SUM:**

0

0

# Proposal for a 'research week' at LTH

## Vision

Lund University – as a brand – is and is going to be one of the pioneers in research and research-based education in the World. In this regard, it sounds essential that all faculties, institutes, and Excellence centers of the university develop strategies for development of research in a global scale.

By bearing research as well as vision of LTH in mind, we should let all stakeholders to openly experience research at LTH. 'Research week' aims to take some initiatives in order to develop research visibility both inside and outside LTH.

## Initiatives

In line with the vision, the following brain-storming initiatives are suggested:

### ***Annual research book***

In this book, all the research projects running every year at LTH are presented. This may increase visibility of projects as well as their financiers. In addition, potential competent research areas for LTH can be identified.

### ***LTH research conference***

The idea is to let all the stakeholders to be familiar with results of former and current research projects. Both students and researchers at LTH may present their projects by communicating with other students and researchers through presentations, workshops, posters, etc.

### ***LTH research financiers***

The idea is to arrange a seminar where all who are interested to finance – or be financed by – research projects at LTH meet each other under one roof.

### ***Finding novel research disciplines***

Our ontological and epistemological believes is that combining different research disciplines as well increasing intra-organizational cooperation is the key to emergence of new research disciplines, science, and knowledge. New strategic research areas for LTH may be identified just by finding application of one discipline in another.

### ***Research education***

The idea is to arrange workshops or courses which aim to educate new PhD students by knacks of doing research. The new PhD students who enter LTH must dare to present their research contributions and share their knowledge in time.

### ***Research applications***

The idea is to arrange workshops among researchers, industries, entrepreneurs, etc. which may facilitate LU's third mission as well as finding innovative applications of research results.

Maisam Abbasi  
2011-06-13 Lund

## Questions for discussion from the equality committee (Swedish: “Jämlikhetsutskottet, JämU”)

1. What student guild are you?

*PhD student section*

2. What does the distribution of sexes, ethnicity, sexuality, religion and functional limitation look like in your guild? Please comment on the different groups.

*It is quite diverse, in terms of sex, ethnicity, sexuality and religion, we are not so sure about functional limitations. When it comes to the people with non-Swedish background, most are visiting students rather than immigrants (i.e. not Swedish citizens and many times not speaking Swedish).*

3. Is there any group that gets more or less visibility in different contexts compared to the rest?

*The stipendiates and foreign PhD students are not equally treated. There is an impression that they are expected to work more while the Swedish students are more visible. There are instances when foreign/Swedish students are even separated on different floors in the building.*

4. How easy do you think it is to belong to a minority in your guild? Do you believe that some of the minorities are easier to belong to than others?

*There are big differences between the departments. But again the most obvious difficulty is for foreign students, for instance a lot of information is only available in Swedish, but Swedish classes are not offered to everybody.*

5. Do you think that everyone gets along equally much in the guild?

*Again big differences between the departments, but in some places there are very tight groups going to lunch together etc.*

6. Do you think that your members know where to go if they feel they have been discriminated?

*No, and this is a big problem.*

7. Why do you think it is important to work with questions about equal treatment?

*Because not all students are treated equally, and obviously that's not how things should be.*

8. Do you think it would be easier to work with these questions if you had gotten clear directives? How would you like to get help with these questions?

*More information on student's rights and how to proceed if case of unfair treatment.*

9. How good is the contact between you guild's board and the Equality Ombudsman (Swedish: “Jämlikhetsombud”) of you guild (If you have one)?

*We don't have one.*

10. If you don't have an Equality Ombudsman, would you like to appoint another person to be your contact with equality committee at the student union at LTH?

*Yes, but we do not have a candidate at this time. Please keep sending information to the board as a whole until a contact person is appointed.*

11. If your Equality Ombudsman is not already collaborating with someone: do you think it would have been easier if your Equality Ombudsman had someone to share the responsibility with, e.g. have two Ombudsmen and/or a committee at your guild?

*No ombudsman at the guild.*

12. How do you think that the student union at LTH should work with these questions?

*One important aspect of this is through the student's rights work which is already being done such as making sure every student has a good "studieplan", lobbying against hiring PhD students on stipends etc.*

13. Do you have anything else to add?

*No*

**The equality committee will be very pleased to hear your answers!**