

Preliminary activity report 2012

Central

Communication

We have finally received a mail list to our members, which about 420 entries. We do not have the possibility of getting a complete list of all PhD students at the faculty but based on my estimation this number corresponds to 70-80%.

While there are several addresses that bounce, we do reach quite a few people now. The mail list has so far been used for informing the members for the upcoming events. It is essential however that we establish regulations on how the mail contact occurs from the section out to the members.

Representation

We have been invited to give a short talk introducing the student organizations (primarily ourselves and the union) at the introduction course, which is now compulsory for all new PhD students at LTH. The next course is ongoing now, and our introduction will take place on Friday 30/11.

Facebook

We are still using the facebook page, mostly for less formal spread of information. Some members have posted photos from events, or other stuff that could be relevant for all PhD students. It is however important, in my opinion, to administer the page as some spam posts have showed up through out the year.

Website

The website is still functional, and used in connection with events. It does not draw much traffic however, which could be rather problematic. It would the section good to think of ways of making the website a relevant place for the PhD students to look at on a more regular basis.

Contact with other organizations

Throughout the year we tried to keep closer contact with LDK, which has been a bit troublesome in the sense that there is little common ground for collaboration besides the questions that the student council wants to pursue.

It is my belief that the board should have a dedicated person to keep closer ties with LDK and representation of doctoral students in central university hierarchy.

We are having difficulties filling up vacancies in external representation positions. PhD students at departments across the campus usually choose their own representatives and these are not always reported to us, or to the union. There is a new system, where the student council can register the representatives at different departments to a central database, but so far the process has not been very smooth.

Activities and Projects

PLUME

Our mentorship program was organized for the third time this year. The format from the previous was kept, 4 common meetings for all mentors and mentees. More information regarding the economy and feedback from participants to come under it's own title.

A major item for PLUME organizers this year was to establish a formal ground for the support we get from the faculty. While the papers are not signed yet, it looks promising for future years.

Another important point that needs to be discussed is how the PLUME organization will be tied to the board. So far it has been so that at least one person in the board has been active in PLUME. While this is certainly a positive situation, it is rather unclear as we can expect it to be the case in the future. It is worth discussing whether we prefer the PLUME co-ordinator to be a board position, or that PLUME group is a separate effort from the board.

Social activities

There have been several activities arranged for our members through out the year. While the activities have been appreciated by the participants, the interest has been lower than expected. This is partly due to the difficulties in reaching out to members and partly due to the lack of manpower in organization. It is my opinion that organization has been pretty much left to one person alone, which makes things cumbersome for a single PhD student to carry on besides his own work. It is essential that organizing activities becomes a group effort instead of a couple persons pulling the weight all alone.

Economy

So far we are doing better than we have expected in terms of economy. The primary resource that we lack is interested and driven individuals.