

## TLTH vs LDK – where should the PhD student section belong?

During the fall of 2013 there has been a discussion in the PhD student section whether it would be better to belong to LDK instead of TLTH. The board decided to make a preliminary investigation so that the section meeting could get insight into the question and decide if further measures should be taken. The group working with the investigation has been Kerstin Johnsson, president of the PhD student section, Florian Sallaba, president of LDK and Daniel Lundell, vice president of TLTH. Opinions have been collected from the board as well as from previous presidents of the PhD student section. This summary has been put together by Kerstin Johnsson and it has three parts: reasons for staying in TLTH, reasons for moving to LDK and issues that would need to be investigated further if the PhD would like to move to LDK.

### Reasons for staying in TLTH

- TLTH is a big and well developed organization which can support the PhD student section in many ways, for example financially, politically and through industry contacts (e.g. ARKAD).
- The PhD student section has a long history within TLTH, which among other things means that it is well known within LTH and that there are traditions.
- TLTH has student representatives (full-timers) in the presidency of LTH. This means that we can get inside information from the LTH leadership and that there are more levels on which we can influence LTH. If we join LDK we could still have contacts with TLTH, in the same way as the LDK councils have contact with the main student union at their faculties, but the contacts would most likely be less frequent since TLTH no longer would have much interest in having contacts with us.
- TLTH has facilities at LTH. LDK has an office in AF-borgen, which is quite far from LTH.
- The PhD student section is a small part of the TLTH organization, which means that we don't have to take much responsibility for that TLTH works. For example we don't need to supply active members to the general assembly or presidency. Even though LDK has a slim structure there are among other things positions as president and vice presidents that needs to be filled.
- Those who have studied at LTH as undergraduates become members of the PhD student section if they start doing a PhD.
- Members do not have to pay a membership fee every semester or year.
- LTH is different from other faculties and we have a system that works here.
- When the PhD student section is within TLTH all students at LTH belong to the same student union which among other things means that we get a stronger unity within the faculty and that we get comprehensive view of issues at LTH. The undergraduate education affects research and research education in many way and vice versa and this makes a comprehensive view important.
- There are undergraduate students at TLTH that like to be involved in PhD student issues.

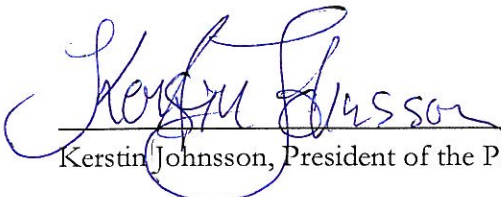
- As a part of TLTH it is a possibility for PhD students to be involved in issues regarding undergraduate education.
- As a part of TLTH the PhD student section get plenty of money for activities, but the faculty councils at LDK does not get this, they only get money for meeting costs.

### Reasons for moving to LDK

- If the PhD student section joins LDK all PhD students at LTH would be in the same student union.
- The organization will be more transparent for new PhD students who have not earlier been at LTH.
- It would be easier to collect all PhD student options in LU-wide and national issues. PhD students would have an united voice at the university administration as well as in LUS.
- LDK brings up PhD issues more often in LUS than TLTH.
- It might be easier to collaborate in cross-faculty projects such as MentLife.
- It would be easier to cooperate with the PhD student ombudsman.
- It would be more natural to spread information between faculties, which means that it might be easier to learn from each other.
- LDK only drives PhD student issues. This means that all resources that go to LDK (for example student union subsidies from the university) go to PhD student issues.
- LDK can give support to the faculty organizations, for example if the organizations have problems recruiting members. LDK is engaging the faculty councils to be active, if necessary LDK is supporting the council directly - as it happened at the School for Economics and Management.
- LDK could do a better job as a student union since it would get more resources.
- We would probably get dedicated positions for PhD students as student representatives in boards and committees at LTH.

### Things that need to be investigated if the PhD student section moves to LDK

- The right to have student representatives in boards and committees at LTH.
- Cooperation between TLTH and LDK in order to cooperate for example in the board of LTH.
- If the PhD student section joins LDK about 30% of the members in LDK will be members in the PhD student section. Will this warrant any changes in the LDK structure?
- Who can make the formal decision about moving the PhD student section to LDK.
- What will happen to the money that the PhD student section currently has?

  
Kerstin Johnsson, President of the PhD student section 2013