



**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 12.15-13.00, Öbrinkrummet (A7:3), BMC**

**Attendance:**

Emelie Öhnstedt	Department of MCB; chair of MDR
Kristel Parv	Department of MCB; vice-chair of MDR; MCB department representative in MDR
Markus de Ruijter	Department of Neuroscience; treasurer of MDR
Helen Haines	Department of Neuroscience; information officer/web master of MDR
Loora Laan	Department of IGP; MDR representative in DN
Tianqi Xu	Department of IGP
Viktor Ek	IMBIM
Mohammad Redwanul Islam	Department of Women's and Children's health
Daniel Schmitz	Department of IGP representative in MDR
Tabassom Mohajer Shojai	Department of IGP
Jon Jakobsson	Department of Neuroscience
Gbemisola Allwell-Brown	Department of Women's and Children's health
Salvador Daniel Rivas Carrillo	IMBIM
Nadja Visser	Department of Women's and Children's health
Chalobol Chalerm Sri	Department of Women's and Children's health
Sedigheh Naseri	Department of IGP

1. The meeting was declared open by Emelie.
2. Kristel was elected as a secretary, and Markus the corrector.
3. No co-options.
4. The agenda was adopted without additions.
5. No previous meeting minutes were confirmed.
6. Update on research tracks
  1. There is a PhD Day coming up on 12th of March, where all research track leaders will be present. There is a cardiovascular research day happening on 16th of April.
  2. By 2025, PhD students should have been able to attend at least 2 theme days, although it is not compulsory. In 2025, the concept of research tracks will be re-evaluated.
  3. Neuroscience track day will be coming up in November 2020.
7. Course selection for third-cycle education.

1. Markus informed everyone that KUF is looking for recommendations for courses that PhD students would be interested in taking.
8. Administrative e-mails in Swedish only- problems in most departments.
1. Department of Women's and Children's health, MCB, Neuroscience and IMBIM PhD students reported that there are problems with important e-mails coming in Swedish only. In IGP, there does not seem to be a problem. However, it seems like while in some departments, foreign PhD students hired are provided a English version of the contract they are signing (Department of Women's and Children's Health), in other departments no English version is provided (e.g. IGP). It is also problematic that while important e-mails are in Swedish, support for learning Swedish during PhD studies is not sufficient according to some. It was suggested that perhaps an extension to PhD programme should be provided for students who are learning Swedish. Further, courses that take place in the evenings are often not accessible for PhD students with a family, while the Swedish for Academics course (with classes during the day) is in high demand, with queues of up to one year and very big groups sizes per teacher. It was proposed that MDR will contact people in charge to ask whether there are any changes in progress in order to increase access of UU employees to Swedish for Academics course (i.e. are more teacher's going to be hired).
9. Messages:
- Faculty board (Emelie), in their last meeting, discussed the changes in the medical programme in UU, and rebuilding of BMC (more group/study rooms). UU has also received a donation to study Parkinson's disease, and it was discussed on how this money should be used.
  - Committee for education on research level (KUF) (Markus), in their last meeting, discussed the new guidelines for applying for funds from KUF for all PhD courses (including new ones), as the current guidelines are not clear enough.
  - PhD student board at Uppsala Student Union (DN) (Loora).
    - Due to Loora graduating, MDR needs a new representative for DN (meetings are in English).
    - In their last meeting, DN discussed the newspaper article they have been writing regarding the lack of internationalization in UU. They will try to publish this in a national newspaper, and Loora can provide the article for reading to anyone interested.
    - Deadline for operational grants from DN is on 17th of February. It is unclear if DN is now also providing funding for department-level PhD boards.
    - PhD students gasque is organised by DN on 4th of April, and they are also looking for new people to be involved with organising the event (contact MDR, or DN directly, if you are interested in organising).
    - DN is organising a PhD Health Day on 7th of April, with talks from Previa (UU employee healthcare provider), a researcher from KI studying PhD student mental health, and possible a CPR course.
    - DN has a working group looking into prolongation issues (i.e. defining more clear guidelines on how much prolongation PhD students should get for e.g. teaching or being active in a PhD student board), and developing a mentorship program similar to KI.
  - PhD student board at Faculty of Pharmacy (FDR)
  - Committee for the Medical Faculty (Medicinska Kommittén) (Vacant)
  - Rekryteringsgruppen för medicinsk fakultet (Recruitment board) (Vacant)
  - Universitetsnämnden/-styrelsen (Vacant)
  - Committee for Docenturkommittén (appointment of associated professors/senior lecturers) (Vacant)
  - Representative in MedSek /Medical Section Union (vacant)
  - Library cooperation group (Vacant)
  - Committee for equal opportunities (Vacant)
  - SVEK (Kommittén för Samverkan) / Collaborations Committee (Vacant)
  - EXODIAB (Vacant)

- Representative in Infrastrukturkommittén/Infrastructure Committee (shared with FDR)/ (vacant)
- Messages from Medical Faculty departments' representatives
  - Department of Neuroscience (Harmen Koning, not present). Other attendees from the Department of Neuroscience said that they have a Neuroscience day coming up for PhD students.
  - Department of Immunology, Genetics and Pathology (IGP) (Daniel). Credits (registered in Ladok) are being deducted from PhD students by KUF. MDR is currently in process of getting a formal written response from KUF on this issue.
  - Department of Medical Cell Biology (MCB) (Kristel Parv). Nothing to report.
  - Department of Public Health and Caring Sciences (vacant).
  - Department of Surgical Sciences (vacant).
  - Department of Women's and Children's health (vacant). Nothing to report.
  - Department of Medical Biochemistry and Microbiology (IMBIM) (Filip, not present). Viktor reported that IMBIM PhD students now have an internal travel grant they can apply for (2 times a year). This year, IMBIM will not be organising the career seminars, but will instead organise something similar to IGP PhD students conference.
  - Department of Medical Sciences (vacant)

Other matters.

1. There is a possibility to stay at Ingmar Bergman's house (i.e. for writing a thesis). Read more here: <https://medfarm.uu.se/nyheter-evenemang/nyheter/?tarContentId=694302>

11. The meeting was closed by Emelie.

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Chair, Emelie Öhnstedt

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Corrector, Markus de Ruijter

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Secretary, Kristel Parv