



Stockholm  
University

ARRHENIUS LABORATORY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS

## PhD council meeting

**Date:** 2021-02-26

**Attendants:** Sara Kosenina, Marie Lycksell, Rike, Max, Eloy Vallina Estrada, Urska Rovsnik, Ylva Johansson, Jens Berndtsson, Roksana Khalid, Andriana Mantzafou, Joan Patrick, James, Frida Niss.

1. Opening of the meeting
  - a. Election of meeting chair and secretary
    - i. Sara as meeting chair, Marie as secretary.
  - b. Approval of agenda
  - c. Review of meeting guidelines
2. Outside minutes/information
  - a. DBB Board meeting
    - i. Travelling stipends discussed. Some stipends have age limits, 30 for one 35 for another. Age discrimination, Henrietta has been bringing it up and do not think that we should accept money that is discriminating. Henrietta asks if we can bring further. Luleå had similar situation and brought up with diskrimineringsombudsmannen, can be age discrimination. Ylva has been reading up and emailed stipends @ su to learn more. Could go to the jämlikshets person at SU, and if still unhappy can go to diskrimineringsombudsmannen. Academic years should matter more than

physical years if wanting to support young scientists. Mixed opinions, some fall on the side of a more pragmatic approach and not finding it all that extraordinary, others dislike these conditions and would like to pursue it. We could send it with our equal treatment representative to the equal treatment group.

- ii. There has been a risk assessment done for the changes in what rooms DBB rents
  - iii. 96 PhD students during last year, 22 defended, accepted 9 new
- b. Working groups
3. Election of representative to equal treatment group.
- a. Rike was nominated and elected.
4. How did COVID affect PhD students / potential prolongations
- a. Seminar from Swedish civil servants, nationwide PhD wide organization, done nationwide survey on impact on PhD students. Found that senior PhD students should get extension, SU disagreed and delegated to department level.
  - b. Treat research and teaching separately?
  - c. Work environment during the pandemic? Borrow chairs, computers screens ect.
  - d. After, have we all been treated fairly?
  - e. Elect student representative to prolongation policy group
    - i. Conflict of interests? How can we decide without knowing the situations we are deciding about? HR should probably be dealing, we and the professors are probably unqualified. We want a fair assessment, not a restrictive assessment. Give HR the sensitive stuff, give the committee anonymized stuff. Send back to the board that we are still concerned about this approach. Wonder how other institutions have gone about making these decisions. A student representative needs to be on the committee. Eloy will be our representative once we are happy with the solution. Marie draft response to DBB board.
5. SU central PhD council (CeUL) meeting elections on Monday, 1st March. If interested, nominate yourself today.
6. Update from last council meeting

- a. Holidays/vacations, transfer of days between years, and what happens if you have days left when you finish. Will be covered next meeting again.
  - b. New webpage/tab with PhD information. Currently sort of two PhD student tabs, one for people who may want to come, one internal for us. Update/reorganization of internal is going to be a work in progress.
7. Additional order of business
- a. Provisions for alumni. There is a broad mentorship scheme, the student gets paired with a person in industry. Nice to promote this to people who are leaving, they could become mentors (maybe in a few years after leaving). Maybe put in a “Are you leaving”-checklist.
8. The meeting was closed.