



Stockholm  
University

ARRHENIUS LABORATORY  
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOPHYSICS

## PhD council meeting

**Date:** 2021-03-26

**Attendants:** Sara Kosenina, Marie Lycksell, Juliane John, Rike, Max, Urska Rovsnik, Joan Patrick, Hyunho Kim, Jens Berndtsson, Erik Zhivkopilas, Ylva Johansson, Eloy Vallina Estrada,

1. Opening of the meeting
  - a. Election of meeting chair and secretary
    - i. Juliane as chair, Marie as secretary
  - b. Approval of agenda
    - i. Approved
  - c. Review of meeting guidelines
    - i. Agenda approach discussed. Minutes more important than the agenda. Time for the PhD council meeting, vary it so more people can join? Lunch meetings again? Let's try having it as a lunch meeting at 12:00 next time.
2. Outside minutes/information
  - a. DBB Board meeting
    - i. Marie went over what was discussed at the board meeting.
  - b. Working groups
    - i. COVID group

1. Went over how to handle the situation, did not go over specific. Tried to identify what doesn't qualify one. Will refine what one needs to send in to apply for prolongation. Will be a few documents. Students with one year or less left should apply, others should apply at one year left. The institution applies to the faculty for prolongation on behalf of the students. The obligation of the department is 48 months of access to resources and good supervision, so this is what has to have been lacking due to Covid. More tangible situations are easier to argue. At the board meeting the document to send out to us students was approved. Prolongation is unrelated to having been sick, should be handled through different channels, nor teaching having taken more time. Should present how much time you think you should have, why, and what you've done to handle the situation. Advisor signature is needed. With teaching more, talk to the course responsible, who talks to Pia Harryson who decides how much your teaching counts for. They will not consider any prolongation shorter than a month. Possibility of blanket prolongation for having to set up a home office asked about? Impression is that getting this is highly unlikely, see not considering anything shorter than a month. We looked at the document presented at the DBB board meeting. The focus is very much on clearly measurable situations, not so much softer things and general loss of time. Is it still worth to apply if you have had soft time losses to make these things visible?
- ii. Work environment group
  1. Will be looking at what to make out of the surveys that have been done. Remember that Företagshälsovården exist if you need that!
- iii. Equal treatment group
  1. Want to have a seminar again in October. Suggestions are welcome. Someone talking about borderline harassment cases would be interesting. Mentor group for female PhD students and post-docs, is planned to start officially in the fall. More info forthcoming. There should be more female opponents. Put a graph on the DBB website frontpage with male vs female opponents. Working groups in general do not have equal gender distribution, e.g. the recruitment group has only one female member. Especially in the more powerful groups there should be more equal distribution. Parental leave, mothers take more than fathers. Would

like someone to talk parental leave (especially fathers) at the seminar.

3. Central PhD student council election

- a. Elections have happened since last time.

4. Additional order of business

- a. Roxana has looked into the alumni network thing, there is a SU wide network. Updated their contact information for DBB PhD council, Roxana as their contact person for us. If anyone has had contact with the alumni network, get in touch with Roxana to share what it was like.
- b. Vacation days and what happens when you have more saved than you are allowed to save, and what happens if you have days left when you graduate. The question of what happens with the vacation is ongoing and bouncin around. Maria asked the SU personnel section about this. Personnel section is going to update our prefect Martin Högbom on how it works. DBB does not pay money when having too many saved vacation days, appears that we actually need to poke them on this issue from time to time.
- c. Productivity stream, text channel on our discord. On working effectively from home. Examples of several people being on zoom together and work together to have accountability. Due to zoom fatigue, text stream on Discord. Up to everyone to use it and how we use it. May work better if several decide on day and time to be there. Maybe start with 15 min watercooler chat, then transition to productive work?
- d. Tell Maria or Elisabet when we've earned prolongation from being part of the PhD council or working groups that makes you entitled to prolongation. You typically need to provide minutes noting that you were present as proof that you are entitled to your days. Impression is that we need to do a lot of the accounting to get our days. We should try to coordinate how to update Maria and Elisabet on these things.

5. Closing of the meeting

- a. Meeting was closed.