PROTOCOL FOR THE ANNUAL PHD COUNCIL MEETING 14 OF JANUARY 2014

This is the protocol for the annual meeting for all the PhD students at the school of Computer Science and Communication held Tuesday 14 of JANUARY at 12.00 in room 1537, Osquars backe 2 / Lindstedtsvägen 3, floor 5.

PEOPLE ATTENDING:
Karl Palmskog
Rebekah Cupitt
Malin Picha Edwardsson
Filip Kis
Francisco Viña
Siavash Soleimanifard
Fredrik Enoksson
Jan Pieczkowski
Reuben Mugisha
Florian Feibig
Michael Schliephake
Pedro de Carvalho Gomes
Oliver Schwarz

1. Opening of the meeting
Karl Palmskog opens the meeting at 12:10

2. Formalities
1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Election of chairman (Karl Palmskog) and secretary (Rebekah Cupitt) of the meeting
3. Appointing two "justeringsmän" (Filip Kis and Pedro de Carvalho Gomes)

3. Time compensation for representation
The chairman gets a time compensation of 10% and the secretary of 5%. Work in doctoral program councils, work environment group and equal treatment group:
- 1 h preparation plus the meeting time
- Up to 5 h for work done in between meetings.
- Reported in a time sheet which states the type of work and the hours put towards the work. Found on the PhD council webpage.
- Hand in time sheets to CSC school to Linda Kann and school economy head.

Time can be accounted for as institutional service (institutionstjänstgöring) or for prolongation of
employment. Employment committee case based as before

Discussion:
- At the time it is not possible to get time for work done as an council representative. This type of work often take up more time than representing the council in a group: doctoral program, work environment group or equal treatment group (time that at the moment can be accounted for). It would be good to be able to account for hours for pure council work, for example gathering information from students, organising meetings or writing reports. Maybe a new model for compensation can be negotiated with the dean during the next year.
- The time accounted can either be counted as institutional work or prolongation of the PhD. It is not always clear in the departments how these hours can/should be accounted administratively. We have to clarify this and make the administration aware of the problems.

4. Doctoral Programs

What has been done?
- Mediated Communication: "Doctoral conference" in May 2013; consensus about the doctoral ladder and quality of PhD education reached and measures implemented; discussions on the situation for scholarship students initiated; improvements in the amount and quality of PhD-courses; PhD student retreat in September 2013; PhD supervisory panel December 2013; insisted on the yearly Development dialogues for PhD students which were going to be overlooked.
- Computer Science: 2 day workshop to be held in January 2014; advancements made in discussions on the doctoral ladder estimated to take effect March 2014;
- Applied and computational mathematics: No representative present.

Discussion:
Is is important to have similar standards between the different programs?

5. Nominering av kandidater och presentationer / Nomination of candidates and presentations

The candidates were nominated at the meeting

6. Election of PhD representatives

Positions to be filled:
1. Chairman of the Postgraduate Students' Council / Member of Strategic Council and Executive Group
   Rebekah Cupitt
2. Secretary of the Postgraduate Students’ Council / Deputy Member of Strategic Council
3. Election of doctoral program and representatives

Doctoral program in Mediated Communications
- Media technology (MID): Malin Picha Edwardsson
- Media technology and interaction design: Filip Kis
- Speech, Music and Hearing: Vacant

Doctoral program in Computer Science
- Computational Biology: Vacant
- Theoretical Computer Science: Pedro de Carvalho Gomes

Computer Vision and Robotics: Francisco Viña
- Speech, Music and Hearing: Vacant
- High performance computing and visualization: Michael Schliephake

Doctoral program in Applied and Computational Mathematics
- High performance computing and visualization: Vacant

4. Election of PhD council department representatives

- Media technology and interaction design: Malin Picha Edwardsson
- Computational Biology: Florian Freibig
- Theoretical Computer Science: Pedro de Carvalho Gomes

Computer Vision and Robotics: Francisco Viña
- Speech, Music and Hearing: Vacant
- High performance computing and visualization: Vacant

5. Election of doctoral program representatives towards THS (PAD)

- Doctoral program in Mediated Communications: Malin Picha Edwardsson
- Doctoral program in Computer Science: Pedro de Carvalho Gomes

6. Member of Working Environment Group
Jan Pieczkowski, Rebekah Cupitt

7. Member of Equal Treatment Group
Rebekah Cupitt, Pedro de Carvalho Gomes

8. Member of Employment Committee
Jan Pieczkowski, Siavash Soleimanifard
7. PhD Level Courses at CSC – Present and Future

- The selection and repetition of PhD level courses is an issue that still needs to be addressed.
- Funding of these PhD level courses is also an issue as funds from doctoral programmes for these courses are sometimes re-routed within the departments to finance hiring of new professors, for example.
- PhD student council needs to suggest incentives so that Faculty are interested in teaching PhD level courses. Perhaps it should be a requirement in order to be hired as an Assistant professor (Docent).
- Using Post-doctoral researchers is also an alternative but there are known issues with this such as too specialised course topics.

8. Focus for next year

- The Breakfast seminar series should be continued but perhaps with a different format or at a different time.
- How to improve the working situation for PhD-students on a stipends
- Improving PhD course selection and reliability
- Clarifying steps on the PhD ladder and PhD education quality
- Social aspects of being a PhD student at CSC
- Standards between the programs

9. Other items

- Scholarship student wages - It was identified that students in stipends are not receiving the minimum wage according the Swedish regulations. The council takes this seriously and have been working on addressing this issue. Meetings with students on stipends, supervisors of these students and FA (Erik Fransen); Dean officially does not encourage hiring of scholarship students; continue to work with the issue during 2014
- Website - is the information current, should it be updated?

10. Closing of the meeting

Karl Palmskog closes the meeting at 13.15.