

# Graduate School of Natural Sciences (GSNS)

## PhD committee meeting

**Time: Thursday, 1 December 2022 at 14.15-16.00**

**Place: Ny Munkegade 120, bldg. 1520, room 732**

## Minutes

### 1. Meeting information

Participants:

Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Duncan Sutherland, Anders Møller, Henriette Rübsam, Clémence Rose, Mads Blichfeldt Amdisen, Simon Panyella Pedersen and David Lundbek Egholm.

Apologies for absence:

Ragnhild Ørbæk Laursen, Erik Asbjørn Mikkelsen Jensen and Joanna Martin Davies

Guest:

Rikke Frøhlich Hougaard (during item 5)

The secretariat:

Rikke J. Ljungmann

### 2. Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting on 8 September 2022

The minutes were approved.

Follow-up from last time:

- Screening grants: To be discussed at a later meeting

- Study time extensions (not corona-related): There was a request for some kind of guidelines on this topic, perhaps for the Heads of programme group.

In this connection, it was mentioned that the AU Well-being committee would like to make it a theme for 2023, i.e. looking into regulations/guidelines concerning situations where time is not lost, but there is not enough time to finish the PhD study.

**Action:** The issue will be discussed in the Heads of programme committee over a couple of meetings.

### **3. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

### **4. Round of introduction**

There was a round of introduction to greet Duncan Sutherland, who has taken over from Henrik Stapelfeldt, and the coming substitute for Physics and Astronomy PhD student Simon Panyella Pedersen.

### **5. PhD courses – part 1**

#### **The course Science Teaching**

Rikke Frøhlich Hougaard from Center for Educational Development (CED), which runs the Science Teaching course, visited during this item. She gave a short presentation of a slightly revised version of the course. As the course needs to be reduced to 2.5 ECTS, it was proposed that the PhD students can gain another 0.5 ECTS by doing local follow-up activities after having participated in the course.

Pros and cons regarding the issue were discussed, and the members agreed that if implemented it should be very clear which part of the course belongs to the 2.5 ECTS and the 0.5 ECTS, respectively. There was a concern that the local follow-up activities might take up more time than the 0.5 ECTS accounts for.

Summarising the discussion, it can be said that for those PhD students where the course is mandatory, the 2.5 ECT will still be mandatory. The 0.5 ECTS will not be mandatory, but only offered as a possibility, and if more time is spent on the activity people can get more ECTS correspondingly.

### **6. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 31 August 2022 to 22 November 2022**

David Lundbek Egholm pointed out important cases in connection with the overview files, for instance he mentioned that the number of applications for Covid 19-extension is going down as expected.

Ernst- Martin Füchtbauer pointed out that the overview of assessment committees showed a very small number of women among the external assessment committee members. A discussion ensued on this point, e.g. it was mentioned that it should be discussed further in the Heads of programme committee and that Heads of department ought to mention it at VIP meetings. It was also suggested that the notification e-mail and the template for assessment committees could be updated to include information on this issue.

**Action:** The secretariat will provide data for the past two years to include in the discussion at the Heads of programme meeting.

## **7. News from the PhD students**

It was mentioned that PhD students are at times confused as to whether they should upload co-author statements in the MyPhD system. It was suggested to mention in the notification e-mail sent to PhD student and supervisor three months prior to thesis submission date that it is not necessary to do the upload, but that it will suffice to send the co-author statements to the PhD administration only and in connection with thesis submission.

## **8. Follow-up on the GSNS seminar**

David Lundbek Egholm summarised some of the important points from the seminar that the PhD committee might continue focusing and working on in the time to come:

- PhD student-supervisor relationship – how to strengthen it and how to involve supervisors more
- PhD student engagement – how can we follow-up and share knowledge
- Well-being – have a plan and a push for this

A discussion took place in which in particular a possible GSNS PhD association was debated, incl. whether to focus attention on creating programme-specific associations or a joint faculty-wide association. Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer pointed towards the fact that if the PhD students do not have a coordinated faculty-wide committee, it might be difficult to get input back to the Faculty level. Different options were debated in that regard.

The PhD student representatives also mentioned that one option might be to be compensated in teaching hours.

**Action:** Discuss the issue of a PhD association at the PhD committee meeting in January.

It was suggested that the GSNS seminar should run every second year. It should be held in early October again to account for the period where the PhD student should run for election for the PhD committee.

## **9. A GSNS PhD association**

This item was included in the discussion under item 8 and will be discussed further at the next meeting in the new committee.

## **10. SDD for PhD students**

The item was discussed briefly, but due to lack of time, it was decided to discuss it more in-depth at the next meeting. It was asked that in particular the PhD student members consider the content of the questions to be discussed at the SDD for the next meeting.

The topic will also be discussed in the Faculty management.

### **11. PhD student members of the local programme committee to participate in the evaluation of applications?**

Due to lack of time, this item was postponed till the next meeting.

### **12. Status on work obligations/teaching**

David Lundbek Egholm informed that the matter had also been discussed in the Faculty management. There was consensus that it is important and that something needs to be done, however the number of hours was under debate.

Furthermore, David Lundbek Egholm said that the next step would be to discuss in the committees how the Graduate School should consider this, i.e. how much teaching should be inside the school and outside the school. It would be important for all parties, i.e. PhD students, supervisors, heads of programme and departments, to have more transparency and clarification on this matter.

### **13. PhD courses – part 2**

#### **13A. The course Science Writing and Communication and condensed course Science Writing Toolkit**

The course was approved.

#### **13B. PhD course in dissemination**

Due to lack of time, the discussion was postponed till the next meeting.

#### **13C. PhD course in BSc/MSc supervision**

Due to lack of time, the discussion was postponed till the next meeting.

**Action:** Before the meeting, the Secretariat will contact CED to ask if such a course might be part of their offer.

### **14. Any other business**

The next PhD committee meeting will be held in January 2023 and will be both an opening and an ordinary meeting. To welcome the new members and say a proper goodbye to the retiring members, there will be a dinner after the meeting.