

Graduate School of Natural Sciences (GSNS)

PhD committee meeting

Time: Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 13.30-15.30

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

Minutes

0. Meeting information:

Participants:

Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Anders Møller, Henriette Rübsam, Clémence Rose, Mads Blichfeldt Amdisen, Erik Asbjørn Mikkelsen Jensen, Ragnhild Ørbæk Laursen and David Lundbek Egholm.

Apologies for absence:

Joanna Martin Davies and Henrik Stapelfeldt

The secretariat:

Rikke J. Ljungmann. During item 4, Sututhi Perrananthasivam and Mathilde Skarum-Johnsen. During item 6, Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen

1. Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting on 11 May 2022

The minutes were approved.

Follow-up from last meeting:

- Ragnhild Ørbæk Laursen will be substitute for Henriette Rübsam at the well-being committee meetings, if necessary.
- Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer followed up on some of the action plan points:
 - Remuneration for participation in PhD committee – status: It is connected to the work obligation/teaching issue.
 - The process for looking into the work obligations/teaching issue has started and is well under way.

- The issue on whether PhD student members might participate in the evaluation of candidates in the programme committees will be discussed at the next PhD committee meeting.
- The PhD student committee members have created a text on the PhD committee work, and it has been put on the GSNS website.
- Screening grants will be discussed at a later meeting.

2. Approval of agenda

Approved

3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 3 May 2022 to 30 August 2022

At each committee meeting an overview is presented of the following:

- Defences – assessment committees
- Qualifying exams
- Requests (incl. credit transfer granted during the PhD study, if any)
- Credit transfer granted in connection with admissions process
- Covid-19 extensions applied for and approved during the period

David Lundbek Egholm pointed out important cases in relation to the above. He also mentioned that applications for corona extensions are slowly declining.

Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer asked about extensions not due to corona and whether it would be possible to continue extending the employment. David Lundbek Egholm answered that the PhD Order leaves room for extending the employment if time has been lost during the PhD study, and for concrete, individual reasons it has not been possible to complete the 180 ECTS.

4. The GSNS onboarding programme

At the meeting, the final suggestion for Introduction day and final suggestions for workshops were presented, discussed and subsequently approved. So was the suggested allocation of ECTS. It was mentioned that from the next Introduction day, the book *You and Your PhD* will be handed out to all new PhD students.

It was also mentioned that the GSNS onboarding programme will be announced soon after the GSNS seminar in early October.

5. Well-being funds/pool

As mentioned at an earlier meeting, DKK 80,000 per year have been granted for 2022 and 2023 to support wellbeing initiatives. As part of the initiatives, two workshops (one of which will also run as part of the onboarding programme in 2023) will be offered in November and December 2022.

6. News from the PhD students

There were no items.

7. News from the Well-being committee

a. At the latest meeting in the Well-being Committee, the supervisor role and supervisor courses as well as matching expectations between PhD student and supervisor(s) were discussed. The discussion was followed up at the present PhD committee meeting with contributions from Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen who runs our supervisor courses. Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen mentioned that aligning expectations is a major topic of the courses.

Action: Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer asked for a list of supervisors who had already taken the course. The secretariat would send a list to the Heads of programme shortly.

Action: David Lundbek Egholm will look into how to make sure that all newly appointed supervisors attend the course.

b. Follow-up from earlier meeting and discussion on the Workplace Assessment (APV): Extraction of specific PhD data were now available and discussed and will also be discussed at the next Well-being Committee meeting.

8. The GSNS seminar

A draft programme had been prepared and was discussed and subsequently approved.

9. A GSNS PhD association

An initial discussion of a possible format of a GSNS PhD association took place drawing on ideas from the PhD student members' inspirational meeting with the Health PhD association.

There were several important points but one in particular was that the primary way of getting people to attend and get actively involved is not by e.g. Facebook or e-mails, but by word of mouth.

At the GSNS seminar in October, a GSNS PhD association will be discussed further.

10. University elections coming up in the Autumn

University elections, including PhD student nomination and election for the 2023 PhD committee is coming up. The new GSNS PhD student areas of representation have been approved and will be implemented.

The elections will be announced on the GSNS website and news e-mails and reminder news e-mails as well as separate e-mails to the PhD committee and Heads of programme will be sent out.

A discussion ensued in terms of what else could be done to raise awareness and inspire interest and engagement in running for the election.

Action: Rikke J. Ljungmann will send out an e-mail to all the PhD committee members shortly with all the deadlines.

11. Online vs physical PhD defences (and qualifying exams)

Due to lack of time, the issue of whether to have PhD defences and qualifying exams as online or physical or even hybrid events and guidelines to that effect were only discussed briefly.

Action: Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer would send out an e-mail afterwards to ask for more input from the committee members.

12. Any other business

None.