

The PhDStudents is a student union section in Teknologkåren that represent the graduate students' interest and participate in the development of education at the graduate level at Luleå University of Technology (LTU). Members of the association are those who paid the membership fee to Teknologkåren, currently held at 100 kr. We have now a record high level with 164 members (increase with 64 new members from last year).

## 1. The board of PhDStudents

PhDStudents board is responsible for daily operations of the section and is represented in several collegial groups at the university. The Board for PhDStudents has during the year 2015/16 held 11 board meetings, a winter meeting and the annual meeting. In addition the board has facilitated some member activities such as lunches and afterwork. The PhDStudents board during this year (20150701-20150630):

### Chairman

David Newell (2015)

Elisabeth Häggquist (2016)

### Board members

Anders Viking

Erik Nilsson

Emma Palola Kirby

Katarina Sundqvist Leijon

Linda Sandström

Martin Karlsson (2016)

Niklas Karvonen

Ola Dagsbro (2015)

Roger Hamberg (2016)

Stefan Linde

Sofia Nordquist (2016)

Wiebke Reim (2015)

The board for the PhD student association has worked with the following activities during the year:

- Represented LTU at work fares such as LuleåARBetsmarknadsVecka (LARV) and LuleåSciencePark@work together with Sofi Waltare from the HR unit.
- Advocated for equal opportunities among PhD students (focusing on scholarship issues). This included meeting with the internal auditor and responding to debate article in DN. The board is also submitting comments to the LTU referral (*remissvar*) to "Trygghet och attraktivitet – en forskarkarriär för framtiden" (SOU 2016:29)
- Printed PhDStudent Hoodies, the cost for members was set to 400 kr and for non-members 450 kr. This can be compared to the LTU hoodies available in the LTU store currently cost 519 kr.
- Supervision Award 2015 went to Vinit Parida, Assistant Professor in Innovation and Design, for commendable mentoring efforts in the graduate program 2015.
- Participated in meeting LTU Strategidag 2017/18
- Revising the web page for the PhD student association. Moving all files from Fronter to Box, reorganizing for easier access to older meeting documents.

- Revising the PhD students organizational bylaws (new draft)
- Participating in the upcoming introductory day (May 26<sup>th</sup>). The doctoral student section will be talking to the new graduate students how they can get involved and get the benefit of being represented by a doctoral student section at LTU.
- Encouraged LTU to update the mail list to all PhD Students at LTU. A manual update in ETS doubled the number of graduate students on that list. Hopefully all department will continue to improve their lists.

## 2. PhD Representations at LTU and time compensation

| Position  | Time ( LTU )     | PhD Representative (2015/2016)  |
|---|------------------|---|
| <b>Chairman</b>   | 1 position 4%    | David Newell (2015), Elisabeth Häggquist (2016)   |
| <b>Faculty Boards of i) Science and Technology ("TFN") and ii) Humanities and Social Sciences ("FFN")</b> | 2 position 10 %  | TFN: Ola Dagsbro (2015), Sofia Nordquist (2016)<br>FFN: Elisabeth Häggquist (2015/2016) |
| <b>Steering Committee Postgraduate Group for the faculty boards</b>                                       | 2 positions 5 %  | FFN: Linda Sandström (2015/2016)<br>TFN: Wiebke Reim (2015), Roger Hamberg (2016)       |
| Steering Committee KU for FFN   | 1 position 5 %   | FFN: David Myhr (2016)  |
| Department Steering Committees  |                  |   |
|   | 1 ETS 7 %        | ETS: David Newell (2015), Martin Karlsson (2016)  |
|   | 1 HLV 3 %        | HLV: Katarina Leijon Sundqvist (2015/2016)  |
|   | 1 KKL 7 %        | KKL: Emma Palola Kirby (2015/2016)  |
|   | 1 SBN 5 %        | SBN: Anders Viking (2015/2016)  |
|   | 1 SRT 5 %        | SRT: Niklas Karvonen (2015/2016)  |
|   | 1 TVM 5 %        | TVM: Erik Nilsson (2015/2016)   |
| <b>University Pedagogical Centre (HPC)</b>  | 1 HPC 5 %        | Emma Palola Kirby   |
| Employment Boards (ANS1, ANS2)  | 2 positions 10 % | Ulrica Strömbäck (2015/2016)<br>Maria Johansson (2016)                                  |
| <b>Union ( 10 % through SACO)</b>   | -                | Stefan Linde (2015/2016)  |
| Student Union Council (KF)  | 2 positions 0 %  | Anders Viking (2015/2016)<br>Stefan Marth (2016)  |
| Seth M Kempe stipendiefond  | 1 position 0 %   | Silje Gustafsson (2015/2016)  |

More information on the positions connected to the PhDStudents are available at:

<http://www.ltu.se/research/Utbildning-pa-forskarniva/Doktorandsektionen/Fortroendevalda/Fortroendevalda-utses?l=en>

### 3. Annual report from the PhD representatives

#### 3.1 Chairman

As chairman, David Newell represented the PhD Students in the university board during 2015. Beginning in 2016, our new chairman, Elisabeth Häggquist, has attended one university board meeting. The chairman has also participated in all monthly “student union lunches” together with the chairman of the Teknologkåren and the chairman of Luleå Studentkår. Present at those lunches are the vice-chancellor, the two deputy vice-chancellors and the university director. These lunch meetings aim to give the student representatives an opportunity to raise issues discussed in the doctoral student section and/or student unions.

##### **The PhD Student Association reported on**

Increasing awareness of post-PhD defence opportunities, the PhD student introductory course, the sections' participation in the LTU Career Day, ordering of PhD Student hoodies and the PhD Student Association Annual Meeting. Brought to the board's attention the situation of non-employed PhD students.

Reported on the efforts to improve the PhD student email lists university-wide, followed up on the situation of non-employed PhD students, the transition to a financially independent section, and the election for a new PhD Student Association Chair.

#### **Summary of Important Points from University Board Meetings (2015/2016)**

- LTU Employee Survey
- Strategic questions for LTU were discussed, including the politics of higher education and lobbying, immigration and refugee questions, life-long learning, big data, strong research areas and digitalization.
- The national audit of universities
- LTU operational planning
- LTU risk analysis
- Annual report LTU 2015
- Internal auditing annual report LTU 2015
- Internal auditing plan 2016
- Revision of operating plan LTU (verksamhetsplan)

#### **3.2 Faculty Board of Science and Technical (TFN) and Faculty Board Humanities and Social Sciences (FFN)**

The Faculty board has overall responsibility for postgraduate education regarding quality, efficiency, organization, study plans and supervision, as well as for the coordination of courses and education of PhD supervisors. In addition, the Faculty Boards have a general oversight responsibility for postgraduate education. The main tasks of the Faculty Boards are strategic planning, follow-up, and evaluation. The amount of issues concerning graduate students varies between each meeting of the faculty boards. An important question for has for been reviewing all research subjects and discussing the upcoming

During the fall of 2015 Ola Dagbro was the PhD representative in TFN. From January 2016 Sofia Nordquist has been the PhD representative in TFN. During the year 2015/2016 Elisabeth Häggquist has been the PhD representative in FFN. Niklas Karvonen has been the substitute representative in TFN but also assisted in FFN when needed during the year 2015/2016. The PhD representative in the faculty boards also participated in the research strategy committee during the period, which prepares issued prior to reaching the faculty board. Joint meeting with the two faculty boards held in August 2015 and January 2016.

### **Summary of Important Points considered in both faculty boards:**

- Annual report LTU 2015
- Educational range and programs LTU for 2016/17 (Utbildningsutbud)
- Criteria for reviewing faculty affiliation research / research subjects
- Discussion and revision: model for the development and evaluation of educations
- Discussion and revision: LTU model for the evaluation of research topics
- E-learning strategy
- Evaluation internal resource allocation model based on bibliometric performance indicator
- Learning outcomes (Lärandemål ) in graduate education
- LTU referral Högre utbildning under 20 år SOU (remiss)
- LTU quality management (kvalitetssystem)
- Operational planning LTU for 2017-2018
- Pilot evaluation of graduate level environment Hälsovetenskap (UKÄ evaluation)
- Planning the evaluation SFIO
- Progress report: Pedagogisk utvecklingsfond
- Progress report: Pedagogisk idé
- Report Head of department (prefekt) 2015 Lärandemål i utbildning på forskarnivå
- Review and Strategic Development of the research subjects portfolio
- Revision of operating plan LTU and budget SFIO 2016
- Revision of the guidelines for double or joint doctorate degree
- Step 1 agreement for double degree at the graduate level

### **3.3 Steering Committee Postgraduate Group (FoG)**

The Postgraduate Group (FoG) has two PhD representatives. FoG works with issues relating to third cycle studies. FoG acts as a steering committee for supervisors and doctoral educations and works for example with quality assurance aspects. During autumn 2015/spring 2016 FoG has evaluated courses offered to third cycle students at LTU and examined suggested collaborations between universities to implement double degree. FoG meets approximately 1/month (2-3 hours) and the educational leader of third cycle studies ("ULF") are present twice per semester. During the autumn 2015 Linda Sandström (FFN FoG) and Wiebke Reim (TFN FoG) has represented the PhDStudents. From January 2016 Roger Hamberg has been the PhD representative for TFN FoG.

### **3.4 Steering Committee Artistian (KU)**

The Artistian Steering Committee work with issues concerning artistic education at LTU and reports on issues to Faculty Board Humanities and Social Sciences (FFN). This position is new for 2016 and currently held by David Myhr.

### **3.5 Steering Committees at the Departments**

As the PhD student representative at the department executive committee you get the chance to observe and influence issues concerning PhD students in your department. The main duty entails attending meetings with the executive committee once or twice a month.

#### **3.5.1 ETS**

The doctoral student representative at the institution for Business Administration, Technology and Social Science (ETS) is Martin Karlsson. He succeeded David Newell in January 2016. ETS has 89 doctoral students (48 employed by LTU and 41 with external financing), with 22 (11/11) in Human Work Science, 31 (8/23) in Business Administration and Industrial Engineering, 14 (12/2) in Innovation and Design, and 22 (17/5) in Social Science. The management team at ETS has had approx. 18 meetings during the business year.

### 3.5.2 HLV

HLV has 19 PhD students, 6 in Nursing, 3 in Occupational therapy, 4 in Physiotherapy and 6 in Health Science. During 2015-2016 Katarina Leijon-Sundqvist has been the PhD student representative in the board of the Department of Health Sciences. The following topics have been discussed in meetings once a month during the year:

- PhD student participation in HLV's Ethic Group was decided to be seen as voluntary. During the spring semester the first voluntary PhD student joined this group.
- The Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) pilot evaluation of the research topic Health Sciences: a reply to the preliminary decision has been sent and the final decision from UKÄ is expected to be communicated in June 2016.

The monthly PhD student lunches has continued. Some issues discussed during these lunches have been raised to the management board and vice versa. Some cases have led to rapid change, for instance, the numbers of participation of senior researchers in our various seminars has improved. Another question discussed was if it should be seen as mandatory for PhD students to participate in the Ethic Group. The main opinion was that it should be seen a voluntary task.

### 3.5.3 KKL

- The supervision hours for PhD students have been changed to 7.5% and now apply to all units at KKL. The principal and assistant supervisors decide how they allocate their mutual percentage.
- Hours for attending departmental meetings and dates will not be included in the research time for PhD students at KKL. If the head of department requires that an individual student attend these meetings, the student will receive 40 hours per semester and these hours will be part of their departmental duties.

### 3.5.4 SBN

During the year 2015/2016 **Anders Viking** has been the Ph.D. representative in the board of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Natural Resources Engineering (CENE) and the CENE Research Education Group. The following topics have been discussed in meetings during the year:

- CENE has launched its own Introduction School for third cycle studies. The overall goal is to jump start the research education by briefly introducing important topics such as scientific methods, research ethics, scientific writing and teaching. After the first year the participating students are expected to formulate a plan for the remainder of their third cycle studies at which point they are awarded 5.0 credits. Responses to this initiative have so far been overwhelmingly positive.
- After three years of absence, the annual CENE Ph.D. student Barometer has been re-focused and re-launched. The response rate for the 2016 edition was just below 40 %. The responses infer that most CENE Ph.D. students are genuinely satisfied with their own progression towards the intended learning outcomes of their research education. With regards especially to supervision, the responses indicate a large variance ranging from extremely satisfied to extremely dissatisfied, signalling that the supervision climates in some divisions or subject groups are not entirely sound. Overall, the 2016 Barometer shows that there is significant room for improvement although what concrete measures are to be taken has yet to be decided.

### **3.5.5 SRT**

The SRT steering group has had meetings every third week and there has also been a strategy day for steering groups and chaired professors of the University the 24th of February. In the steering group there has been little of interest for the PhD Section during this period except the fact that SRT got two rejections on PhD Students visa applications due to alleged security reasons. The applicants were from Iran and were supposed to work in UAV drone technology research. This is the first time PhD Students have been denied a visa and the future could hold increased regulations and control regarding citizenship and visa for all PhD Students.

There was a meeting with all PhD Students of SRT at the SRT Division day in Storforsen 26-27 October. In this meeting there was an open discussion about the SRT "Third Cycle Studies Introduction" course on how to improve it. There was also a discussion about the SRT PhD internal webpages, and it was decided that we should try to utilize these and keep them better updated. This was later discussed with Wolfgang Birk and a representative was found that was granted some time for this task by the head of the department. The launching of the new web pages will take place at the autumn of 2016.

Lastly, a social event has been arranged for June 13 where the SRT PhD Students will meet and have dinner together and play some bowling. The PhD representative during the year 2015/2016 has been Niklas Karvonen.

### **3.5.6 TVM**

The steering committee of TVM has had few interesting PhD student subjects during the period of 2016/2017. The group has changed their meeting frequency from every third week to one time each month and has its normal starting time at 14:45 on Mondays.

During the department days the PhD students were gathered in discussion groups to investigate what an introduction course for PhD students should contain. Hans Åke Häggblad who is responsible for the PhD student education at TVM is continuing the work.

## **3.6 University Pedagogy Centre ("HPC")**

PhDStudents currently represented by Emma Palola Kirby. HPC (University Pedagogy Centre) has the mandate to pursue educational development at the university. Part of their role is to support teachers, managers and other staff to strengthen the quality of student learning. The PhD student elected for this position attends HPC's board meetings which take place every six weeks (approx. two hours). The representative attends to issues regarding PhD students' competence and development related to university pedagogy.

## **3.7 Employment Boards**

At LTU, there are two employment committees which meets approximately every two weeks. The employment committee has a chairman, vice chairman, two teacher representatives, one PhD-student representative and one student representative. The matters discussed is recruitment of teacher positions and promotion for higher competence of existing employees.