

Agenda der öffentlichen Sitzung / Agenda of the Open Regular Meeting

Datum / date:
13.02.2019

Beginn / start: 18:16 hrs

Ende / end: 19:52 hrs

Anwesende / attendants: Members of the ExCo (Le, Michael, Martin, Linda, Ding, Theresa, Alan, Janathan) and other doctoral students

Sitzungsleitung / session chair: Alan Gärtig

Protokollantin / recorder of minutes: Linda Shen

Important dates:

Next General Assembly: 13.11.19

Open regular meeting: 12.06.19

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Introduction of the new ExCo

Alan introduces the new members of the ExCo as listed in the following:

Gärtig, Phil-Alan (Biology)

Representative of scientific employees

Speaker of the ExCo

Huang, Ding (Linguistics)

Representative for individual doctoral studies

Representative of the interests of international doctoral researchers

Juarez Altuzar, Janathan Michael (Biology)

Representatives of doctoral researchers in the Life Sciences

Speaker of the ExCo

Möke, Theresa (History)

Representatives of doctoral researchers in the Humanities and Arts

Seat in the university senate

Opata, Rogo Michael (Chemistry)

Representatives of doctoral researchers in the Natural Sciences

Pham, Le (American Studies)

Representatives of doctoral researchers in the Humanities and Arts

Seat in the Council for Graduate Studies

Schröter, Martin (Chemistry)

Representatives of doctoral researchers in the Natural Sciences

Financial officer

Shen, Linda (Physics)

Representative of members of a graduate school

Seat in the Council for Graduate Studies & in the Advisory Board of the Graduate Academy

Topics for discussion

TOP 1 Administratives / Administrative issues

Alan checks the following administrative issues:

- Permission to take pictures: Noone raises objections against taking pictures for the website of the DSC.
- Verification of the quorum: All ExCo members are attendant and have voting right. The attendant doctoral students are informed, that they do not have voting rights during open regular meetings.
- Election of the session chair: Alan is elected to be the session chair.
- Recorder of minutes: It is agreed that Linda will take the minutes.
- Language: English is chosen as the language for today's meeting.

TOP 2 Bericht über die Arbeit des DSC im vergangenen Semesters / Report on the work of the DSC in the last semester

The audience is informed about the new status group of doctoral students at the university.

Consequently, Alan gives a short summary about the financial cuts of the Landesgraduiertenförderung (LGF).

Facts:

- The budget was decreased from around 0.96 million euro to around 0.63 million euro, corresponding to a cut by 38%.
- The university agreed on continuing already awarded stipends, which implies making debts in 2018 and 2019.
- As a consequence, no new stipends are awarded in 2019.
- The Council for Graduate Studies agreed on better stipends conditions for the future. These will comprise stipends of 1468€ per month and an additional budget for the health insurance.
- Currently it is discussed, whether the budget should be split between the two options Promotionskolleg and Individualstipendien, or whether one option should be chosen for the reduced budget in the future.

Comments and discussion:

- How many stipends are awarded? In the future, there will be about 13 stipends steady state per year.
- Who can obtain these stipends? These stipends are awarded to students from all fields. However, 30% of the stipends have to go to small subjects.
- It is possible that we pronounce an opinion regarding the discussion between Promotionskolleg and Individualstipendium. Two aspects against Promotionskollege are raised: 1) Considering the reduced budget, they are not so useful. 2) They do not spread over so many different faculties.

TOP 3 Finanzen / Finances

Since the summer semester 2018, doctoral candidates constitute an own status group. This implies, that 7.50€ p.p. of the semester contribution of about 150€ are given to the Doctoral Students Convention (DSC) as financial budget for issues regarding doctoral students.

The precise amounts are

SS 18:	20,205.00 €
WS 18/19:	19,305.00 €

The contribution of 7.50€ can be changed every semester by the DSC. Hence, the idea is that the DSC adapts this contribution every semester according to the current needs of the DSC, for instance the running projects.

The current plans for this budget of about 20,000€ per semester are:

- A fixed percentage of 18 % (≈ 3600 €) are forwarded to the constituted student body, because
 - doctoral students can benefit from services of the constituted student body
 - the constituted student body provides services for us, e.g. insurances and taxes
 - the constituted student body covers the administrative organisation of our finances
- Snacks and drinks for the Open Regular Meeting and General Assembly (≈ 500 €)

This means we are left with 15,900 € per semester. This budget can be used for various events, such as seminars, workshops, parties, monthly meetings with doctoral candidates, ... However, since the DSC does not have the manpower to organize all these events, the attendant doctoral students are encouraged to get engaged into such projects.

One upcoming event, which will be co-financed by the DSC, is organized by Angela and is introduced during the meeting. Angela gives an overview over her lecture series „The 80 year’s end of the Spanish Civil War” as an example of a supported project. It is supported by 700€.

Comments and questions:

- Clarification: All doctoral students have to be enrolled as PhD students as of April 2018. If you earn 50% or more (TV-L 13) you can request to not enroll. This is formally done by writing a formless letter to the Doktorandenbüro.
- Question: What happens if you are employed by a third party employee, i.e. not by the university or by the university hospital)? Employees of EMBL, DKFZ and other institutes are obliged to enroll.
- Comment: heiDocs is currently working on making the data about the employment status more accurate. The problem is that many doctoral students change their employment status during their doctoral studies, e.g. going from a stipend to a contract.

TOP 4 Arbeitsgruppen / working groups

Alan introduces the body of working groups (WGs) in the DSC:

- WGs are build to handle a certain topic or faculty specific issue.
- Every doctoral student can join or establish a WG. The only requirement is that at least three doctoral students participate in a WG.
- Each working group has to name a speaker as contact person for the ExCo. In the following, the speakers’ names are indicated in bold letters.

Alan gives a report of the existing WGs:

- heiDOCS
 - Personnel: Luca Bayha, Jan Wysocki (will be leaving soon)
 - What is heiDOCS? HeiDOCS is a big data base collecting data about the doctoral students in Heidelberg. The university wants to register all PhD students. The aims are 1) to build a quality check of the doctoral studies in Heidelberg, and 2) convey an evaluation of the doctoral study time. Furthermore, the data is collected in order to find appropriate measures regarding the needs of doctoral students. However, some faculties are against heiDOCS because of the data collection.
 - Work done by this WG: This working group sends one person to the steering committee of the heiDOCS project, which meets once per month. Further, this WG stays in contact with the heiDOCS discussions between the university and a faculty.
 - Status of heiDOCS: Not every faculty has joined the project yet. Every faculty evaluates itself, how the money from heiDOCS is spent. In total, the budget comprises 3 million euros which are distributed to the different faculties.
 - Philosophical faculty is currently realizing heiDOCS and discussing how the money should be spend. Amongst others, the DSC was able to increase the stipends rates from 800€ to 1000€.
 - Comments:
 - How is the money distributed to the different faculties? No answer yet.
 - How is the money of heiDOCS spent? One can talk to Prof. Loureda whether the needs of the PhD students are targeted.
 - Discussion point: The heiDOCS money must not go into administrative work but only into the needs of doctoral students.
 - Who in the faculty is in charge of spending the money? Many faculties have a committee for spending the money.
- International Doctoral Students
 - Personnel: **Meah Mostafiz**, Ding Huang, Michael Rogo
 - Activities and tasks of this WG:
 - Inform about gender equality and university equal opportunity procedures
 - Mediate issues in labs and with supervisors
 - Deal with matriculation issues
 - Advice on residents permit issues
 - Tips in settling down upon arrival in Heidelberg
 - Inform about APS for certain countries
 - Comments:
 - Most of the points also apply to German students. However, international students encounter visa problems and can be more dependent on their supervisors. Therefore, this working group wants to support these students.
 - Do we have another WG dealing with issues of non-international doctoral students? No, there is no such WG but the issues can be covered by either this WG or other WGs or the ExCo.
- Communication
 - Personnel: **Ralph Höger**, Martin Schröter, Lukas Riedel, Martha Reina Campos
 - Activities:
 - Raise awareness of the DSC
 - Increase involvement of doctoral candidates in the work of the DSC

- Promote the DSC, e.g. the regulars table, the newsletter, and the facebook page
- Redesign the website
- Write texts for flyers including the new information about heiDOCS
- Comments:
 - How many people are coming to the regulars table? It depends, but not so many. Usually not more than ten people.
 - The DSC can send one email per semester via the Zentrales Doktorandenbüro (ZDB). Although many people do not read the emails from ZDB properly, there are always some people who do read them. Hence, we should use all possibilities to contact doctoral students.
 - We should try to organise appealing events to reach doctoral students, for instance a science communication event.
 - A cooperation with the Studentenwerk could give possibilities for better promotion.
 - We could take a service of the graduate academy and pay them for this service.
 - The Marsilius Arkaden could serve as a location for events.
- MedSurvey
 - Personnel: **Raban Heller**, participation is possible.
 - Activities: Performing an evaluation of the medical dissertation. The evaluation has already taken place. The WG is working together with the Mediss office to analyse and interpret the data.
- Interdisciplinary network of German and Russian doctoral students
 - Dissolution of this WG is decided upon unanimously.

Alan introduces the planned new working groups.

- PhD workshops and seminars:
 - Personnel: **Roman Sakson**, Janathan Juarez Altuzar, Le Pham
 - The WG is accepted and instantiated by the ExCo.
 - This WG aims to organize seminars and workshops for doctoral students.
 - Comments:
 - The courses or workshops should focus on topics that are not captured by the Graduate Academy (GA) yet.
 - Ideas: lectures about supervision during a PhD and the rights of PhD students, courses in quality management by experienced employees from industry
- New status group doctoral students
 - Personnel: **Maximilian Kellner**, Theresa Möke, Ralph Höger, Linda Shen
 - The WG is accepted and instantiated by the ExCo.
 - Reason for forming this WG: Each status group has representatives in the senate and faculty councils. Doctoral students will have four seats in the senate and a number of seats in every faculty council. The first elections are taking place this summer. All these reforms are new and the information about these reforms is poor yet. This WG is supposed to keep track about the upcoming first elections, e.g. also making advertisement for the elections.
 - Comments:

- The elections are independent of the DSC, but the DSC would like to stay informed.
- Doctoral students have to show their CV in order to be elected into the senate but normal students do not have to do that.
- The DSC would like to have an advisory seat in the senate.
- This WG possibly also represents the needs of doctoral students in the Lenkungsausschuss for the upcoming implementation of the new Campus-Management-System.

TOP 5 Vorschläge von Doktoranden / Proposals from doctoral students

TOP 5.1 TV-L auf Englisch / TV-L in English

The ExCo was approached by international students about the lacking information in English regarding the TV-L contract.

Alan gives an overview:

- There is no English version of TV-L.
- The legal binding version is German. It is not clear, why there does not exist an official English translation.
- The Dezernat Personal has not been contacted successfully yet. There exists a translation within the university. Probably, this English version of the TV-L 13 cannot be put online due to legal reasons.
- It remains an open question, whether an English version will be published online or made accessible elsewhere.

Comments:

- We can talk to the GEW (Gewerkschaft für Erziehung und Wissenschaft).
- Roman offers his help to take care about this issue.
- This issue is important for international master students who are interested in a PhD in Germany.
- One could provide an informal translation on the DSC website, starting with the key points.

Offene Diskussion / Open Discussion

There are no further discussion points raised.

The session is closed.

Phil-Alan Gärtig

Linda Shen