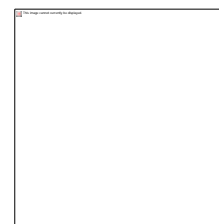


Agenda / Tagesordnung

Regular Meeting of the Doctoral Students Convention (DSC)

Reguläre Sitzung des Doktorandenkonvents



Date / Datum: 28.04.2016, 19:00
Place / Ort: Seminarraum 5
Centre for Organismal Studies
Im Neuenheimer Feld 230 (INF 230)

TOP 0 – Welcome / Begrüßung

TOP 1 – Administratives / Administratives

- Verification of the quorum / Feststellung der Beschlussfähigkeit
The quorum is established. Eight committee members are present.
- Election of the session chair / Wahl der Sitzungsleitung
Andreas Spitz chairs the meeting.
- Recorder / Protokollant/in
Angela Calderón Villarino takes the minutes.
- Choice of the meeting language / Festlegung der Sitzungssprache
German is set as the meeting language.
- Additions to the agenda / Ergänzung der Tagesordnung
The agenda is supplemented by point 5/2.

TOP 2 – Informations / Informationen

- Brief report on the recent work of the DSC / Kurzer Bericht über die bisherige Arbeit des Konvents
- Internal organization: The initial work of the DSC was directed to establish the operating business: A room was found, some funding from the side of the rectorate was ensured and first measures were implemented to establish a fixed office. The Doctoral Students' Convention takes care of its public image as well as advertisement and is about to establish its website, to enable its e-mail address, to produce an information leaflet etc.
- University-internal communication: The Doctoral Students' Convention contacted all central bodies of the university; this applies particularly to the faculties. Representatives of the DSC have introduced themselves in individual faculty councils and requested, among others, a permission to attend the faculty council meetings. Most of the faculties were very accommodating.
The DSC achieved that the electoral process in the Council for Graduate Studies was modified in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Doctoral Students' Convention and the doctoral students representatives in the council are suggested by the executive committee of the DSC (cf. below).
Moreover, it was obtained that a consultative Senate seat has been awarded to the doctoral students; this is in particular due to the help of student representatives in the Senate (cf. below).
DSC representatives have met with the ombudspersons. A meeting with prorector Loureda is planned concerning the doctoral students' registration system heiDOCS.
- University-external communication: A meeting with the Minister of Education of Baden-Württemberg Theresia Bauer took place. The Heidelberg Doctoral Students' Convention introduced itself and presented its objectives and possibilities of political participation (cf. below). Representatives of Doctoral Students' Conventions of Baden-Württemberg met in Ulm with the purpose of networking and communication (cf. below).
- Report on the meeting with the Minister of Education / Bericht vom Treffen mit der Wissenschaftsministerin
On February 1st, 2016 nine committee members of the DSC participated at the meeting with the Minister of Education Theresia Bauer in the Ministry of Education. Overall, the meeting numbered about eighty representatives of different Doctoral Students' Conventions from Baden-Württemberg. Key points of discussion were primarily the

lack of finances for DSCs, the limited political impact of doctoral students, since they occupy only advisory functions in the respective committees, as well as the establishment of doctoral students as a status group. Other topics aimed at Baden-Württemberg as a science location and the specific feature of the German doctorate (not as a third cycle in the Anglo-Saxon sense of understanding) and the nature of the German doctorate (especially its versatility, which is expressed through the individual doctorate, graduate schools or academic staff). From the side of the ministry there was a request to determine one or two contact persons for communication purposes. This has been denied by the Doctoral Students' Conventions on the basis that no representative can be elected. However, the DSCs will seek to find a possibility for a "slim" but democratic communication; this has to be subsequently negotiated in cooperation with the ministry.

– Report on the Forum of Doctoral Students' Conventions in Ulm / Bericht vom Forum der Doktorandenkonvente in Ulm

The meeting took place from February 26th to 27th, 2016 at the invitation of the Doctoral Students' Convention in Ulm. In total, representatives from 10 DSCs were present. The majority of universities have chosen to establish faculty internal conventions. The Heidelberg Doctoral Students' Convention currently holds the opinion that a university-wide convention is a more favorable solution in terms of efficiency and coordination.

– Report from the Council for Graduate Studies / Bericht vom Council for Graduate Studies

The composition of the Council for Graduates Studies (CFGs) is explained, as well as the previous and the new electoral arrangements. The DSC campaigned that the doctoral students' representatives in the CFGs are nominated (one representative per knowledge culture) from the Executive Committee Members of the DSC. These will be subsequently confirmed by the Senate, as this procedure is a rule for the Senate committees, such as the CFGs. It is still unclear who will raise the application in the Senate; this will be decided at the following CFGS session.

– Advisory Senate seat for doctoral students / Beratender Senatssitz für Doktorandinnen und Doktoranden

Thanks to the cooperation with the student representatives in the Senate and the rectorate the Doctoral Students' Convention may send a representative into the Senate. It is an advisory guest-seat. Christoph Poetsch and Stefanie Höger are the elected representatives. The importance of the seat is emphasized.

– Possibility of running for a student senate seat / Kandidaturmöglichkeit für studentische Senatssitze

From June 14th to 16th, 2016 the elections for the Senate and the Faculty Councils will take place. From the executive committee members of the DSC, nobody has agreed to run for office; the committee however strongly welcomes and particularly calls for a candidacy. A possible candidate would be actively supported by the executive committee of the DSC.

– Competition for logo design for the Doctoral Students' Convention / Wettbewerb zum Entwurf eines Logos für den Doktorandenkonvent

The Doctoral Students' Convention would like to obtain a logo that ideally draws on the ideas of doctoral students. To this end, a call for logos will be published. It is emphasized that not an elaborated graphic is demanded, but every idea/each design is welcome. Deadline is June 20th, 2016.

TOP 3 – Mandate for a guest-seat in the Senate / Mandat für den Gastsitz im Senat

– Christoph Poetsch: primary representatives of doctoral students in the Senate / Vertreter der Doktoranden im Senat

– Stefanie Höger: deputy representative / Stellvertreterin

It is voted upon that Christoph Poetsch and Stefanie Höger are sent by the Doctoral Students' Convention to hold a consultative guest-seat in the Senate and are able to speak for the doctoral students of the university.

Vote: 8/0/0 (Y / N / U)

TOP 4 – Working groups / Arbeitsgruppen

Objectives and functioning of the working groups are explained.

– The working group reports / reports from the working groups

- Website and Communication

The content of the website is already completed, the group is currently working on the implementation; the same holds for the information flyer. The wish is expressed to establish a closer communication with the faculties and / or graduate schools, so that newly enrolled doctoral students are immediately put on notice whom they can contact in issues regarding their doctorate and how they can reach the Doctoral Students' Convention.

- PhD Regulations – Overview

The doctoral regulations of each faculty have to be worked through en détail and systematically revised, since they represent the core responsibility of the Doctoral Students' Convention. Currently, the group is scheduling a meeting.

- Supervisor Award

Based on a model from Frankfurt University the idea was coined that doctoral students who have already graduated may argue for the separate award of a supervisor. Different faculties were contacted in order to catch an opinion. The faculties' replies are rather reserved.

- Doctoral Forum

The working group could not start its work due to heavy workload of its members.

- Survey – Needs and Wants

The working group consists of about eight members. A questionnaire will be created, that captures the incentives, researches the quality of supervision and also explores everything of which it is not clear yet what it could be, but which occupies doctoral students. This raises the question of whether and to what extent the DSC and the rectorate may/should be involved. This also implies the question to which extent the Doctoral Students' Convention will be active in the survey. There are considerations, if a survey should be implemented as a 'pilot project' at the Faculty of Medicine.

- Academic Employees

The working group particularly takes care of the interests of doctoral students who work as academic staff at the university. It consists of three persons and calls for cooperation. Two members participated in the general meeting of the employees which took place on April 11th, 2016. During that meeting, the amended Employment Act was discussed which relates to academic staff. Basically, according to employment legislation employment contracts have to be open-ended; in higher education, however, it was *usus* that contracts were limited without a proper reason. The provisions for that have been tightened in order to counteract this problem: time limits are still possible, but they must be in accordance to the qualification. For doctoral students, this usually means the time of the doctorate completion. This is particularly true for the natural sciences, where doctoral candidates rarely occupy fixed positions and often require longer than the promised third-party funding. The Agreement about the Doctorate should be taken more into use to regulate the appropriateness in this case. Furthermore, the 12 years "science time act" (Wissenschaftszeitgesetz) continues to be upheld; now stepchildren and adopted children are also applied to time extension, previously it only to biological children (2 years / child).

- International Doctoral Students

There should be more inter-connectedness between the international doctoral students. Often, international doctoral students are not aware of contract clauses and many key documents are not available in English to which particular attention must be paid and international doctoral students made aware of these facts. The next meeting will take place in May; interested parties are welcome and strongly invited to participate. It is therefore requested to inform international colleagues about the group and clearly state that English is spoken there.

- Doctoral Grant

Scholarships are often not granted for the duration of the whole doctorate. High insurance costs often poses a major problem. A date for a next meeting is not yet fixed.

– Dissolution of working groups / Auflösung von Arbeitsgruppen
The working groups “Doktorandenforum “ and “Faculty of Medicine” are dissolved.

– Proposals for new working groups / Vorschläge für neue Arbeitsgruppen
No new working groups are established.

TOP 5 – Discussion / Diskussion

– German courses for international doctoral students / Deutschkurse für internationale Doktorandinnen und Doktoranden

Since the person who has submitted the issue, is not present, the point is canceled.

– Doctoral Students' Office of the Faculty of Medicine / Promotionsbüro in der Medizinischen Fakultät
For some time, there have been several complications within the doctoral students’ offices of the Medical Faculty: It has not been staffed for months; the format of the doctoral supervision is slowly implemented, a meeting of the committee that heralds the promotion process has been postponed several times which leads to disadvantages of several doctoral students. It is requested that the Doctoral Students’ Convention makes an official statement. A cooperation is decided.

– Questions and feedback concerning the heiDOCS system/ Fragen und Feedback zum System heiDOCS
The heiDOCS project is presented. This is, essentially, a project of the university management for a central recording of doctoral students from a policy perspective, as well as to support an evaluation process of the faculties under the framework to improve the doctorate. The information level of present doctoral students is inquired.

TOP 6 – Miscellaneous / Verschiedenes

There are no further comments.

End of the meeting: 21:06.

Andreas Spitz
(Chair)

Angela Calderón Villarino
(Minutes)