

## Protokoll / Minutes

### Reguläre Sitzung des Doktorandenkonvents

### Regular Meeting of the Doctoral Students Convention (DSC)

Datum / Date: 19.07.2018 – 18:37 Uhr / 6:37 pm

Ort / Place: Im Neuenheimer Feld (INF) 294, Raum 015/16 / room 015/016  
Büro des Doktorandenkonvents / Office of the Doctoral Students Convention

#### **TOP 0 – Begrüßung / Welcome [end 18:39]**

#### **TOP 1 – Administratives / Administrative issues [end 18:40]**

– Feststellung der Beschlussfähigkeit / verification of the quorum

- Fünf von 9 / 5 of 9 → verified

– Wahl der Sitzungsleitung / election of session chair

- Jan Wysocki

– Protokollant/in / recorder of minutes

- Ralph Höger

– Festlegung der Tagungssprache / choice of language for the meeting

- English

#### **TOP 2 – Bericht über die Arbeit des Doktorandenkonvents im vergangenen Semester / Report on the work of the DSC in the last semester [end 19:08]**

##### Protest against cuts of the State Graduate Funding program (“Landesgraduiertenförderung”)

- The state of BW deals out stipends for doctoral students
- BW Science Ministry enforced cuts for this stipend program
- 2 Mio € from 7 Mio € total have been cut
- suddenly up to 90 stipend holders in HD were in danger of losing their funding
- the DSC got in contact with the Graduate Academy, the affected doc. students, and the other DSCs of BW, discussed the problem and issued a protest letter to the Ministry
- as a response the Ministry promised a guarantee for everybody who is already funded through those stipends
- doc. students got invited by the Ministry for talks how to manage the situation
- we are awaiting the talks on 31st of July
- Question: Guarantee for only one year?
  1. For full stipend or only for one year?
  2. The ministry's statement is not as clear as we hoped.
  3. Therefore, we hope that our representatives will make the vague points clear.
- Question: Why did they cut the funding?
  1. Ministry was going to redirect the money.
  2. Wanted to centralize the stipend programme.
  3. The cuts are already fixed by the parliament in the State budget plan („Landeshaushalt“)
- Question: What about the funding in the future?
  1. No further fundings at the moment. The stipend programme is on halt.
  2. All in all about 400 people that won't be funded in this way anymore.

### Implementation of the new State Law

- we have been busy with making sure that the new state law is getting implemented by the university as smoothly as possible for doc. students
- working together with the senate and the student body (StuRa) to change the basic order of the university (e.g. how many seats doc. students will get in the senate)
- obligatory enrollment for doctoral students
  1. opt-out possibility for doctoral students who are academic employees (Akademische Mitarbeiter)
- possibility to have four seats in the senate
- 2019 will be the first elections
- Question: How will the new senate be formed?
  1. Changes affect the whole senate – not only introduction of new status group.
  2. More elected professors less representatives ‚qua Amt‘ (per office)
  3. There will be the new status group of doctoral students
  4. Implementation of the new basic order (Grundordnung) of the university will probably take place in April 2019.
- Question: What about the student ticket (‘Semesterticket’)?
  1. Doctoral students are enrolled as students therefore they are legible to all tariffs of the students.
  2. Students are in favour of these regulations.

### Finances

- we now have the possibility to fund doc. initiatives
- by the new State Law the student body (StuRa) has to manage our funds; we now work together with them on this issue to find out which procedures have to be followed
- we have to change our Rules of Procedure and add a section that explains how these funds will be managed; we called for an exceptional general assembly (after this meeting)
- we funded parts of a publishers workshop for doc. students from the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
- we funded an info event from the Mittelbauinitiative about the working conditions at the universities of HD and Mannheim
- all doc. students and initiatives are invited to send the ExCo proposals to fund projects that benefit the doc. students
- 7.5€ per enrolled doctoral student → all in all about 20.000 € in 2018
- This semester we funded two projects.
  1. Mittelbauinitiative event
  2. Publisher’s workshop of the social sciences
- How does the implementation work?
  1. Collaboration with Verfasste Studierendenschaft by law → they will administer our money
  2. All the money of the Beiträge of the doctoral students will go to DSC.

### **TOP 3 – Arbeitsgruppen / Working groups [end 19:29]**

– Bestätigung von Arbeitsgruppen / confirmation of working groups

– Berichte der bereits arbeitenden Arbeitsgruppen / reports of working groups (already running)

#### WG Smart Card

- Robin Njenga says that nothing new occurred in regard to the SmartCard and she has high doubts that there will be a SmartCard in the end
- Stuttgarter Zeitung asked Robin for an interview
- Things did not work out as Prorektor Prof. Loureda expected. Therefore Robin asks for dissolving the WG → dissolved (5 of 5)

#### WG Med Survey

- Raban Heller says that they are evaluating the survey and will tell us in the next few months how it turned out.

#### WG International Students

- Issue with Institute of Public Health. Admissions for their PhD program (Dr. Sc. Hum.) are not working.
- Also involved in protests against LGF cuts.

#### WG heiDOCS

- we are constantly monitoring this project; we have our representatives in the Faculties and the Senate group that evaluates the faculty measures
- for now 4 Faculties have gone through the process of working out measures to help their doctoral students (namely: Economics & Soc. Sc., Physics & Astronomy, Behavioral and Empirical Cultural Sc., Philosophy)
- measures seem helpful; e.g. stipends for doc. students in tough situations, funding for travel and conferences; more information and consultation for doc. stud.
- we will have to see how those measures will work out in the long run and will keep an eye on that
- we also stated in front of the senate committee that those measures can be helpful for doc. students  
BUT many of us face precarious working conditions (too much work for a small amount of money) and often won't be able to continue their scientific work on a long basis due to the failures of the general science system (no long term employment plans)
- we plan to further address this issue to make clear that general things have to change to make the doc. phase more stable and positive for young academics

#### WG Interdisciplinary network of Russian and German doctoral students

- contacts to several societies such as the Immanuel Kant society and politicians
- looking for financial support at the moment

#### WG Communication

- we changed our website to make relevant information more accessible
- we try to advertise our monthly regulars' table more (through posters)
- we got 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Café Botanic Pub Quiz
- we regularly represent the DSC at the university welcome events for new and prospective doctoral students (run by Graduate Academy)

– Vorschläge für neue Arbeitsgruppen / proposals for new working groups

- Comment: If you have certain topics / concerns / issues, you can form a working group at any time!

**TOP 4 – Vorschläge der Doktorand/innen / Suggestions from doctoral students [end 19:30]**

- no suggestions

**TOP 5 – Diskussion / Discussion [end 19:31]**

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**TOP 6 – Verschiedenes / Misc [end 19:31]**

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