

Department of Molecular Biosciences,
The Wenner-Gren Institute

Protocol for PhD Board meeting – 29/01/2026, 12:00, E503.

Attendees: Terence Infant Wilson Lawrence, Miren Urrutia Iturritza, Symeon Kourmoulakis, Lova Granqvist, Ylva Veith, Emma Block, Thomas Mazza

Chair: Emma Block

Clerk: Thomas Mazza

1. Next PhD Council Meeting

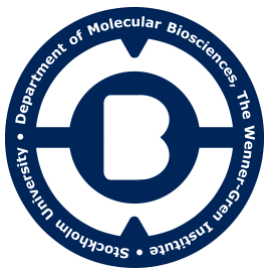
- The next council meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, week 9 (Tuesday 24)**, as Mondays are blocked by seminars and Thursdays may conflict with other meetings.
- A PowerPoint outlining the agenda will be prepared in advance by Emma.
- Pizza will be ordered for the meeting; reimbursement will be handled via salary the following month.
- Responsibility for ordering and pickup will be confirmed via group communication.
- Alexander will be contacted to include announcements in the next departmental newsletter.

3. Welcome Event for New PhD Students

- A welcome FIKA is planned for new PhD students joining this semester.
- It was agreed that the event should be marketed broadly, not only as a new PhD event, to encourage attendance.
- A personal invitation will be sent to new students.
- Timing: March or April, depending on teaching and course schedules.
- At least one PhD board member should attend to distribute PhD guides and MBW information.

4. Departmental & University Events

- **MBW MOSS seminars:**
 - First seminar of the year scheduled for April 2nd (Anaswara).

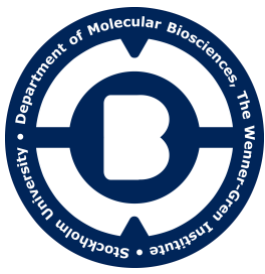


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- Two weeks before: request seminar title from the speaker.
- One week before: announce to the department.
- Hosting and communication tasks were delegated to Thomas Mazza.
- **PhD Day:**
 - Uncertainty whether it will take place this year. Ylva will send an email to ask sara Rydberg.
- **Social events:**
 - Possible alumni event (Zoom-based) before midsummer propose by Terence.
 - Consider inviting more recent alumni, particularly those now in industry.
 - Discussion of summer activities (grill, beach gathering, or pub), pending departmental plans and permissions.
- Proposal to invite Naturvetarna (union) to give a lunch seminar:
 - Focus on career statistics for molecular biology PhDs.
 - Potential timing: late April.
 - Funding to be requested from the student union (SUS) before March 15. Ylva will handle the form filling and Emma will upload it.
- Additional ideas:
 - Invite speakers from public institutions (e.g. Public Health Agency). Ylva is in contact with a potential speaker. Plan maybe for next semester (HT 26).

5. Courses & Teaching Feedback

- Feedback from the Bio Research School meeting (December) highlighted:
 - Need for renewed PhD course feedback.
 - Continued strong demand for bioinformatics-related training.
 - Patrick Bryan's course was very popular but not PhD-specific.
- Some courses risk cancellation due to low enrollment (minimum ~8 participants).
- Decision:



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- Raise course feedback and needs during the following PhD council meeting.
- Send reminder emails to PhD students about under-subscribed courses.
- Coordinate better with teaching coordinators (e.g. Jessica) to promote courses.

6. Scholarships and Stipends

- Scholarship committee update:
 - Some stipends were under-applied despite available funds.
- Decision:
 - Send reminder emails to PhD students about available stipends.
 - Share practical tips on application strategies.

7. Safety, Security & Data Management

- Fire alarm incident highlighted serious safety concerns:
 - Some labs did not hear the alarm due to system deactivation, especially IFSU, but has been fixed by now.
- Recent theft of laptops reported within the building.
- Decision:
 - Strongly encourage regular data backups.

8. MBW Merchandise

- Discussion about creating MBW merchandise (e.g. tote bags).
- An older MBW logo was mentioned and will be retrieved.
- No decision yet; funding and feasibility to be explored.

Chair

Clerk