



Department of Molecular Biosciences,
The Wenner-Gren institute

Protocol for PhD Council meeting – 27th May 2026 – 12:30 to 13:00 in F504

Attendees

Emma Block, Elena Afanaseva, Denise Parreira, Julian Vogel, Andrea Lobo, Tonyak Riba, Lova Granqvist, Thomas Mazza, Terence Infant Wilson Lawrence, Magdalena Marchewa, Symeon Kourmoulakis, Anaswara Sugathan.

Chair: Emma Block

Clerk: Thomas Mazza

1. PhD Day Feedback

The council discussed feedback from the recent PhD Day

General observations

- Participation from other departments was higher than in previous years, which was viewed positively.
- Overall, the event was appreciated by attendees.

Suggestions for improvement

Several participants felt that the poster sessions could be improved:

- Increase the amount of time dedicated to poster presentations.
- Reduce the number or duration of oral presentations.
- Consider splitting poster sessions into multiple shorter sessions throughout the day.
- Allow more opportunities for discussion around posters.

Credits reminder

Students who presented a poster or gave a talk can register the activity for doctoral course credits.

2. Naturvetarna Seminar

The seminar organized together with Naturvetarna was well attended, with approximately 30 participants.

Positive feedback

- Good attendance and engagement.
- Useful reminder of the role and benefits of unions for researchers and doctoral students.

Areas for improvement

- Participants felt the presentation lacked some detail.
- More information about career opportunities, employers, and industry trends would be appreciated in future seminars.

3. NFR Meeting and Housing Campaign

Representatives reported back from the NFR (student representative) meeting.

Housing initiative

SUS (Stockholm University Student Union) is launching a campaign focused on the student housing crisis.

The goal is to:

- Gather student experiences.
- Raise awareness among politicians ahead of upcoming elections.
- Advocate for improvements in student housing conditions.

Issues highlighted

- Limited housing availability.
- Increasing rental prices.
- Problems related to renovations and housing management.

Action

A form will be distributed where students can submit testimonies regarding their housing situation. Students are encouraged to participate once the form becomes available.

4. MBW Day Reminder

Poster printing

Students were reminded to:

- Book poster printing slots in advance.
- Avoid waiting until the last minute, particularly the evening before the event.

Printer issues

If there are any shortages of:

- Paper
- Ink
- Other printing supplies

Students should contact Alexander immediately so that issues can be resolved promptly.

Booking information

Poster printer reservations are made through the:

“MBW E5 Poster Printer” calendar/mail system

although the printer itself is currently located in F3.

5. Teaching Duties

Questions regarding teaching assignments for the upcoming academic year were raised.

Current status

- Information is still pending.
- Klas has been asked to discuss the matter with Stefan, who is responsible for coordinating teaching duties.

Further information is expected during June.

6. MOS Seminars

Several MOS (Midway/Final PhD) seminars are scheduled for the autumn semester.

Students are encouraged to attend and support their colleagues.

7. Social Events

Summer Barbecue

A departmental barbecue is being considered for late June or early July, depending on staff and student availability.

Interdepartmental PhD Pub

An interdepartmental PhD pub is planned for autumn.

The organizers are currently coordinating with representatives from other departments.

Volunteers to help organize future events are welcome.

8. Equipment Update

The department is considering replacing the current ChemiDoc imaging system.

Proposed alternative: Azure 600

Reported advantages include:

- Improved laser performance.
- Higher sensitivity.
- Better camera quality.
- Lower cost compared with the current ChemiDoc system.

Outstanding questions

- Software compatibility?
- Access to analysis software across the department?
- Licensing arrangements for users?

A final decision has not yet been made.

9. GraphPad Prism Licensing

An important software update was discussed.

Issue

GraphPad Prism 11 has introduced a new licensing structure.

Certain statistical analyses that were previously available in the standard license now require a Pro license.

Examples include:

- Multifactor ANOVA analyses.

Recommendation

Students are advised **not to upgrade to Prism 11** for the time being, as some functionality may be lost under the university's current subscription.

Users who have already upgraded can contact IT for assistance reinstalling an earlier version.

10. Teaching Feedback

No significant issues were reported regarding teaching activities during the spring semester.

Overall, teaching responsibilities appear to have proceeded smoothly.

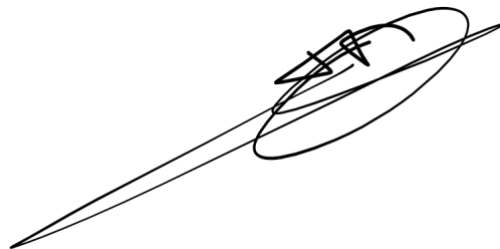
11. Administrative Updates

Work continues with Alexander to improve the publication and accessibility of PhD council and PhD board notes.

Some delays remain, but improvements are ongoing.



Emma Block



Thomas Mazza