



Department of Molecular Biosciences,
The Wenner-Gren institute

Protocol for PhD Board Meeting 2026.04.17 – F504, 12:00

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. University 150th Anniversary

The university will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2028.

PhD representatives/students are encouraged to propose ideas or activities.

No clear plan yet as it is in 2 years, we will keep this topic for a later point.

2. NFR:

NFR posters are up now around the department.

3. CDR guideline AI Usage Guidelines (Students & Teachers)

CDR is developing guidelines for AI use in academia.

Aim: provide a framework defining acceptable use for both students and staff.

Wellbeing working committee presented a supervisor “Green/Red Flag” System:

“Green flags” = positive supervision

“Red flags” = problematic supervision

Would likely be internal (not public) and accessible to PhD students.

Concerns raised:

- Additional workload
- Who can access the data
- Risk of bias or misuse

Alternative idea discussed:

- Conduct exit interviews with PhD students to gather structured feedback instead.

4. New “Honors Program”

Proposed program allowing flexible, interdisciplinary study tracks with 125% credits.

Students could combine fields (partial workload across disciplines).

Concern:

- Accessibility for students with disabilities
- Increased workload may not be inclusive

5. Scholarships & Awards

Discussion on how the selection of best theses/projects takes place.

How it mostly works right now: ranked by number of papers and impact factor.

Difficulty noted in:

- Defining “best”
- Maintaining objective evaluation criteria
- Some prizes seem less appealing (low-value rewards)

6. SUS grant for Naturveterna seminar, Organisation of groceries + budget + gift for speaker

a) Food

Debate over catering:

- Simple snacks (chips, dips)
- Finger food vs. more structured meals

Concern about:

- Cost
- Practicality
- Flow of the event

Decided: Pizza and chips for ease.

b) Speaker / Funding

Discussed a small gift for the speaker (chocolate box).

Discussed the reimbursement system for the money spent that may take time.

7. PhD Day 6th of may

Need to increase participation from other departments.

Past events had low diversity in representation, mainly MBW speaker and posters.

Plan to:

- Contact department chairs
- Encourage broader engagement

8. Mental Health Initiatives

Proposal to organize another mental health workshop.

Previous workshop provider could return with different formats/topics.

Maybe a potential to set one up after the summer.

9. ISP (Individual Study Plan) Issues

Problem: Supervisor responsibility to leave at the required discussion part not consistently enforced.

Suggestion: Add clearer requirements/reminders in ISP process.

Limitation: Administrative changes are difficult to implement.

10. Welcome Event for New PhDs

Planned but not yet organized.

Ideas: Welcome fika or social gathering.

Possibly barbecue event in June, still need planning.

11. Upcoming Meetings & Timeline

One more council meeting before summer (likely late May).

Scheduling conflicts noted due to conferences.

Date will be set in the following days.

12. Chemi Doc for F4

Ask about Chemi Doc for F4 during next week Board Meeting as the need is important and urgent.