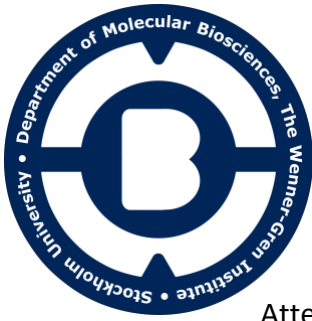




Department of Molecular Biosciences,
The Wenner-Gren Institute

Protocol for PhD Council Board meeting – scheduled 09 June 2025, 12:00-13:00, Room F504

Attendees: Max Louski, Emma Block, Isabella Badolati, Miren Urrutia Iturritza, Terence Wilson Infant, Andrea Lobo Monicio, Sergei Pirogov, Elena Afanaseva, Rebecka Eriksson Thulstrup, Martin Säflund.

Chair: Max Louski

Certifier: Isabella Badolati

Clerk: Emma Block

1. Low number of attendees to Council Meetings

Meetings are advertised both by email and posters and reminders are sent. It was pointed out that Monday seminars end at 12:30, therefore council should not be planned on Mondays in the future.

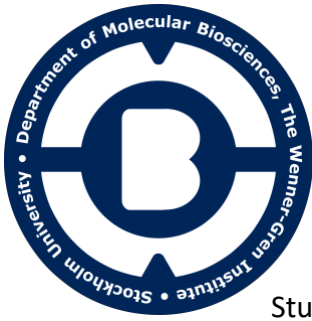
2. Results of survey about working conditions of PhD students at SU.

Only 20% of students answered but the majority was from the Natural Sciences Faculty.

Most important results: 24% of non-EU students reported racism, 14,2% of women reported a form of sexual harassment, 60% of students reported stress, and 40% reported a form of serious burn-out!

Solutions to create a conversation about mental health in PhD studies:

- Organise a mental health seminar including PIs Post Docs and PhDs? But will PIs come? One seminar of this kind was organized at KI lately, Miren will ask people who organized how it went. It would be a good idea to bring to the new head of Department Ylva.
Could invite as a speaker the Swedish researcher who published in Science about stress in PhD students (name?)
- Try to push PhD students to answer the surveys, forward the emails of SUS to the PhD MBW students list.
- We could add resources about mental health into the PhD Guide?
- We could add a mentor/buddies system for new PhD students, so that they have another PhD student from a different group than theirs to go to in case of problems/questions.
- Send an email with results of this survey to all.mbw as only PhD students seems to have received it?
- Bring this issue to the next Department Board meeting happening on Wednesday! Elena will ask Neus to add it to the agenda.



3. Teaching Duties at MBW

Students report vary variable teaching loads. This year Stefan Åström mentioned problems leadin to “exceptionnal measures”. This led to Sergei Pirogov having to teach in HT25 even though he is in the last 6 months of his PhD studies; or Andrea Lobo Monicio (first year) to teach both a 2 months master course and a 1 month master course in the same year, way over a normal teaching load.

Some students also pointed out that even if number of hours spent at the course were the same, the difference of preparation required between a bachelor course and a master course were vastly different, which should be taken into consideration. A survey to all PhD students about the working load for the courses they have taught could be an option.

The continuation/passage of knowledge between generations of PhD students in course is also not met, as some courses next year will have to be taught with only new students, this is also an issue.

The number of PhD students available for teaching thias yeat are as low as they have ever been. We need more PhD students to be hired!

Also some courses that used to have 5 TAs are now down to 3, are they any legal requirements to how many student one TA can manage at the same time?

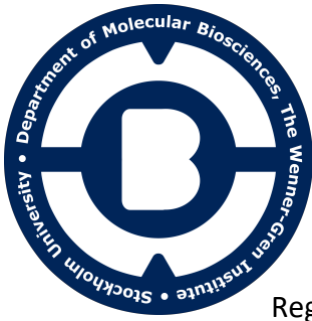
PostDocs teaching: issue that it is neither paid nor gives them a certificate for teaching hours (solution refused by the department last time it was brought up). But still some PostDocs do it for free, whicvh does not push the department to act differently.

4. MBW Summer Party

Will happen on 17th June 2025. Board has been tasked to prepare activities, A treasure hunt will be planned, a google document is available on Drive for anyone who whishes to participate in preparing clues ect. Notes will be added to this document, but all printing and preparing will be done the afternoon before the party.

Max will send an email to Cecilia at admnistartion to ask how many participants we have in order to plan teams, and to ask for a gift to be bought for the winner team.

The tennis table could also be used, but it is still broken. Emma will ask Roger hos it is going and send an email to Servicen about the issue.



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5. Registration of credits

Registration of credits in ladok sometimes takes months to appear, if you have any problems with credits not appearing you should send an email to Alexander Malmstedt. Everyone should check ladok from time to time as mistakes can happen, last year some PhD students were mixed and given wrong credits. If you see credits appearing in double you should also notify Alexander to avoid bad surprises.

6. Meeting closure



Chair



Certifier