

DBB PhD Education Group meeting Oct 11 2021

1) General information from the Faculty (ongoing revisions of the half-time control rules, d-ISP roll-out, stricter rules for 'tillgodoräknande' and the 'post-Corona' dissertation rules)

The stricter rules concerning the 'tillgodoräknanden' that you cannot count credits from before you start your PhD without a shortening of your PhD time was briefly discussed.

2) Revision of the new Annual Revision/Evaluation of the ISP- feedback on how the forms worked last year

Pia informed about suggested updates to the form: Published manuscripts box will be taken away and some more minor changes. PhD students are in general happy with the new format. It was decided that Elisabeth and Pia will revise the forms before they are sent out.

3) Revision of the PhD Handbook

Pia reported briefly about the changes suggested in the version sent out, mainly new links and updates to be in agreement with new rules. PhD students asked for additions about literature used for the different oral exams, and this will be in an Appendix on our website. Pia will revise the handbook and upload it.

4) Brief re-take on the revision of procedures for applications/selection into the PhD program.

Background: The PhD selection must live up to the general 'fair and transparent selection' criteria. The procedure and what to add in the document describing the process (that is now submitted to the administration only) was discussed. The first step will be to send this document to the board before decision on each selected candidate. The issue will move on to the steering committee/PI group before the DBB board.

5) Set some rules/limits for using MOOCS ('massive open online courses' e.g. Coursera) for credits in the PhD program.

Background: Most departments at SU do not allow MOOCs for credits in the PhD program, as they are considered to be on a too basic level. We discussed limiting the number of allowed MOOCS credits. Students highlighted that it is difficult to find PhD level courses. For now, the decision will move back to a more careful 'case-by-case' decision'.

6) Next meeting by Zoom or IRL?

Arne suggested to keep using Zoom; if someone does not like that contact Pia.

7) Additional topic from Dan on thesis committee feedback.

Background: As the chair of many committees at DBB, Dan has had frequent feedback on the theses not highlighting the student's contribution to the papers included. Another issue is that the quality of "future perspective" is often disappointing.

We discussed this issue, and noted that they are mentioned in the existing faculty

guidelines on writing the thesis. Pia will add the 'Student contribution' and 'Future Perspective' to the list of items to include in the thesis to the Handbook and a link to the guide.

8) Additional topics: None were presented.