

# PhD Council Meeting 15.04.2021

## Agenda:

### 1) Vote on the moderation language

German was unanimously voted to be the language of moderation.

### 2) Confirmation/appointment of chairperson (Iris Arndt) and keeper of minutes (Julia Ratke)

The previously appointed persons have been confirmed.

### 3) Determination of the those present and statement of the quorum:

Luca von Bogdandy, FB 01  
Robert Beyer, FB 01  
Jonathan Vogt, FB 03  
Lia Musitz, FB 03  
Laura Weidlich, FB 06  
Matthias Struth, FB 07  
Christina Engelmann, FB 08 (joined the meeting later)  
Daniel Seelbach, FB 08  
Meike Melles, FB 08  
Michael Jekel, FB 09  
Iris Arndt, FB 11  
Melanie Lauffenburger, FB 11  
Sören Tholen, FB 11  
Vanessa Schlidt, FB 11  
Jan Zimmermann, FB 13 (joined the meeting later)  
Marina Dajka, FB 13  
Julia Ratke, FB 15  
Gast: Mathias Ochs, Vertreter aus der AstA

Sören and Iris have mentioned that the number of faculties present in the PromRat meetings for the quorum should be raised again as an issue. At the moment, the 7 faculties required by the rules of procedure are present; in the future, this could become more critical.

Lia brings up the suggestion that we first see how the situation of the faculties develops and that we do some advertising so that we are able to keep the required faculties.

### 4) Possible amendment and approval of the agenda.

No changes proposed. No votes against.

### 5) Possible amendments and approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2021.

No changes proposed. No votes against.

### 6) Date setting (is a fixed day of the week desired?).

Sören proposes to keep Thursday.

Daniel thinks Thursday is also suitable because it should clash with other committees as little as possible. However, he points out that the people who are not present today cannot otherwise be present on Thursdays.

As a compromise, it was decided that Thursday will be kept for the time being, but an email will be sent to ask if Thursday generally suits non-attendees.

## 7) Clarification of responsibilities for next meeting

Invitation: Jonathan Vogt (as board member)

Moderation: Daniel Seelbach

Minutes: Jonathan Vogt

## 8) Rules of procedure

### a. Reminder of group names.

A quick reminder of the structure of the doctoral student representation:

Faculties elect faculty representatives to the faculty conventions (optimally 2 delegates + 2 representatives). These representatives are automatically on the PhD Council. The council elects the board of directors which is then, among other things, also on the GRADE board and has broader representation.

In addition, there are the working groups, which are formed by all PhD students and also PhD Council members. There should be an exchange between representatives and all doctoral students.

The Promovierendenvollversammlung confirms e.g. the rules of procedure.

### b. Definition of the quorum

Sören proposes that we leave the current rules of procedure as they are for the time being, as long as we have no problems with the quorum. No dissenting votes.

### c. Gender-sensitive language

Lia found in the old minutes that the rules of procedure should be revised with regard to gender-sensitive language. However, we don't know who is responsible for this right now. Daniel reminds us that we have to confirm a change of the rules of procedure again via the Justitiariat. This could probably also be asked about directly at the Justitiariat.

Julia agrees that we need to contact the Justitiariat to further discuss and determine what should be done on the topic of the gender-sensitive language. In addition, it would be useful if everyone were to take another look at the rules of procedure in order to work out further points that should also be changed. This would allow us to work out a newly revised set of bylaws by the next plenary. Lia will join Julia in this working group on rules of procedure.

## 9) Report from the Faculty Conventions

From FB 15: Informal meeting, more updates than planning because not much is possible at the moment.

From FB 08: Informal meeting, also with regard to a request to the dean's office for a grant application.

From FB 07: no meeting in FB07 since Sept. 2019 because there are currently too few PhD students in the FB. Next meeting planned for SS2021.

From FB 13: a meeting where new representatives were elected. The "old" delegates introduced the newly elected ones to their tasks.

From FB 01: flyer was updated, QR code for WhatsApp group for exchange.

## 10) Report from the committee meetings (Julia Ratke, Christina Engelmann)

Summary of committee meetings:

ECR Senate Committee 10.02.2021: Some changes to the doctoral regulations of the Faculty 04. Among other things, this explains the possibility of a cumulative dissertation. In unclear cases, the doctoral committee should decide (this would probably be especially helpful in humanities faculties, where supervision is sometimes not as close as in science faculties).

Senate Christina: Funds for Corona extensions (up to 12 months via WissZeitG) are drawn from central funds, which can lead to unequal treatment. Even with necessary extensions, some faculties will eventually run out of funds and no extensions can occur. Schleiff and Fester initially interpreted this as an isolated case; however, the problem is also seen frequently both in state positions and externally funded positions. At some point, Fester agreed to draw funds for this from HSP residual funds in the future, especially for state positions.

Some questions arose from our side with regard to these extensions after some discussion. For example: does this extension also apply to pure third party-funded positions? How does this look for scholarship holders? Sören proposes a working group based on this discussion.

Corona-related extensions working group: Sören, Christina, Jan

Survey on extensions, summary of possible means, elaboration of a statement of the PhD student body.

Lia expresses interest in another general working group: average doctoral time to complete the doctorate

## 11) Report from the WGs

### a. Working Group "Online Circulation" (Mami Odoom)

Mami was unfortunately not present today, therefore no update. The item will be postponed.

### b. Working group "Flyer" (Sören Tholen)

Sören presents his flyer design. On one side "Promovierendenrat"/PhD Council, on the other side the respective "Fachbereichskonvent"/Faculty Council.

Question from Sören: Each faculty with a separate design? Or rather a uniform design? Which program will be used? Illustrator or rather Inkscape as an open-source program?

We don't have a logo for the PhD Council. It would probably be nice to have one. If you are familiar with such things and would like to design it, please contact Sören.

Sören agrees to update the faculty page of the flyer for the respective faculties. The texts for this can be sent directly to him.

## 12) Free exchange of (new) topics in the PhD Convention

#### a. Working Group Fun (Iris Arndt)

Iris: Organize a social event as a doctoral convention. First for us, later also for all PhD students (e.g. barbecue, if possible).

Daniel asks whether it makes sense to open the event to all doctoral students, since there are quite a lot of doctoral students at the university. Julia suggests that the number might be more manageable than assumed, considering how many people were there for the plenary. Additionally, she raises questions about funding, planning, and reasonable location.

A barbecue following a meeting at the casino was mentioned as a possibility for implementation, with funds possibly being requested from GRADE.

Iris volunteers to email around a survey or invitation link for planning soon. Planning, of course, would not be able to be implemented until Corona restrictions allow.

#### b. "Average Doctoral Time" Working Group (Lia Musitz).

The working group will be in collaboration with GRADE if possible.

### 13) Clarification of our concerns for next GRADE board meeting on April 21.

Funding for social events?

Daniel: GRADE program. What he is missing is more IT competency. Julia points out an email from Ms. Held asking for workshop requests. Julia forwards the email to Daniel, and anyone who would also like the email/contact is welcome to contact her.

### 14) Autonomy and freedom of university self-government (Michael Jekel)

Mathias Ochs is present as a representative of the AstA to explain the situation of poor communication between university committees. Among other things, there have been several conflicts between AstA and the presidium, for example because AstA would have liked to have had more support from the presidium.

The AstA's current wish is that the problem of communication remain present in discussion and that strong communication between AstA and doctoral students representation is established. In an unofficial talk after the meeting there was further discussion about possibilities for communication and the possible establishment of a working group.

Possible working group: Michael, Lia

### 15) Other

#### a. Certificate of Activity for PhD Convention (not GRADE).

Is there a solution approach for this activity description? This does not seem to have progressed yet, but should not be forgotten in the future.

Jan: The dean's office at the faculty of physics issues such activity certificates, what about other deans' offices?

The other departments should ask if their respective deans' offices would issue something like this.

#### b. Next general meeting of doctoral students

The date for this can also be set in the next meetings, e.g. when the rules of procedure have been worked out.