

## Minutes of the meeting of the PhD Council of Goethe University Frankfurt on 26.01.2023

**Start:** 5:15 pm on the Westend Campus in room PEG 1.G111 and digitally via Zoom.

### 1. Vote moderation language

German was unanimously agreed as the moderation language.

### 2. Confirmation/Determination Speech Direction

Luca von Bogdandy takes over the chair, Marina Dajka takes the minutes, Jonathan Vogt takes over from 18:17.

### 3. Determination of those present and establishment of the quorum

| Name  | Department |
|---|------------|
| Robert Beyer, Luca von Bogdandy, Justus Schmidt | 01         |
| Jonathan Vogt, Hans Goerdt, Tina König          | 03         |
| Nils Richber                                    | 07         |
| Christina Engelmann, Maike Melles               | 08         |
| Iris Arndt, Melanie Lauffenburger               | 11         |
| Marina Dajka, Jan Zimmermann                    | 13         |
| Kaja Wächtershäuser, Julius Adam                | 15         |

Thus, 15 members from seven departments are present, which means that the committee is quorate.

### 4. Approval of the agenda

Item 6.c. is added to the agenda. *Election for the Senate Commission for the Interests of Early Career Scientists.*

### 5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 15.11.2022

The minutes were approved unanimously.

### 6. Ballots

#### a. Election of the Executive Board of the Promovierendenkonvent

Jonathan Vogt, Melanie Lauffenburger, Iris Arndt and Christina König are standing for election to the Board. The election is unanimous.

Justus Schmidt and Hans Goerdt are standing for election as deputies. The election was unanimous.

#### b. Election of a substitute and a deputy for the meetings of the Senate

Kaja Wächtershäuser is standing for election to the Senate. The election was unanimous.

Jan Zimmermann stands for election as deputy. The election was unanimous.

#### c. Election for the Senate Commission for the Interests of Early Career Researchers

Jonathan Vogt stood for election as a substitute. The election was unanimous.

The following are standing for election as deputies: Julius Adam, Christina Engelmann. The election was unanimous.

#### **7. Scheduling of next meetings**

Justus Schmidt will send out a doodle to find dates for the week of 17 - 21 April 2023 (at 5pm each week).

#### **8. Clarification of responsibilities for next meeting**

Space and technology: Robert Beyer

Moderation: Jonathan Vogt Minutes:

Melanie Lauffenburger

#### **9. Report from the committee meetings (Kaja Wächtershäuser, Christina Engelmann)**

Kaja first reports on the senate meeting on 14 December 2022: the main topic of discussion was the university's energy-saving measures, as a deficit of 16 million euros had to be closed. The presidium considered earlier closures (but not during the examination period), whereas the students demanded dynamic closures in order to take into account the needs of the students. A budget freeze of 6 per cent was also announced for the departments. Criticism was levelled at the fact that this would go hand in hand with job cuts, as the departments can hardly save money elsewhere. Statements made by a member of the senate from the economics department, who advocated for cuts at the university, were criticised as being in a "war for democracy". The PhD Council criticised in particular the threat of job cuts, low temperatures in the buildings and the threat of earlier library closures. The consensus of the subsequent discussion was that it is important for the PhD Council to list the ways in which the cost-cutting measures specifically affect PhD students, but also to show solidarity with the status groups of students and academic staff and their demands.

Kaja then reported on the Senate meeting on 25 January 2023: At this meeting, the Executive Committee announced that the gas savings target had been achieved due to the mild winter, but that only 2.5 percent of electricity had been saved instead of 15 percent, which is why there is still a need for savings. In the wake of current DFG rules for the practice of good science, the Executive Committee emphasised writing as an important competence in science. In the course of this, the Senate also discussed AI applications such as *ChatGPT* and the extent to which these could be considered and detected as plagiarism. There was also discussion about whether minutes should therefore only be handwritten in future, but no solution was found. At the end of the discussion, an appeal was made to the integrity of the students. There was also a report on the excellence clusters, of which only three are still in the application phase.

#### **10. Report from the working groups**

##### **a. Code of Good Work WG (Christina Engelmann, Marina Dajka, Maike Melles, Martin Renz, Amadeus Ulrich, Jonathan Vogt)**

The WG is waiting for reliable information regarding the employment of doctoral researchers with a BMBF scholarship. Further information under point 11.

##### **b. AG Fun (Iris Arndt, Jonathan Vogt)**

Iris and Jonathan report that a dinner in the city centre is planned after the meeting and that a table has already been reserved for this.

Furthermore, an excursion to go ice skating is planned, which will be open to other PhD students interested in the PromRat. A date will be announced via the e-mail list and the Signal group.

**c. WG Promotion Evaluation (Marina Dajka, Maike Melles)**

The AG will contact you if there is any news,

**d. AG Posters (Sören, Maike, Vanessa, Jonathan)**

The WG is still looking for low-cost stickers and would like to contact GRADE for funding. In doing so, they will also discuss the possibility of making the stickers more visible in the GRADE premises.

**e. AG Plenary Assembly**

The minutes of the Assembly will be prepared and uploaded to the Dropbox folder soon.

**11. Signing of the letter "Wissenschaftliche Hilfskräfte mit Promotionsstipendien der Begabtenförderungswerke" by several doctoral conventions**

The motion to sign the letter to the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) sent in advance to the members of the PhD Council was unanimously adopted.

**12. Clarification of our concerns for the next senate meetings**

First of all, there should be an exchange with the status groups of students and the Mittelbau, especially in view of the impending austerity measures.

**13. Free exchange about (new) topics in the doctoral students' convention & miscellaneous**

**a. Contact GRADE for a research address**

The doctoral students' council was approached by doctoral students who wanted to set up an email address specifically for doctoral students in order to simplify their communication by making their connection as a doctoral student to Goethe University clear through the email address. This applies above all to doctoral students who are doing their doctorate at Goethe University but are not employed as academic staff and are therefore not provided with a work email address. The PhD Council would like to enquire about the possibility of setting up a research address for PhD students.

**b. Police eviction of the auditorium on 6 December 2022**

Jonathan reports that doctoral students have approached the doctoral council and reported their concerns about the way the presidency has dealt with the occupation of the lecture hall and the police eviction on 6 December 2022. In order to obtain further information, also about the further course of events, it is decided to found the new "AG Kommunikation", which Jonathan, Maike, Tina and Nils join.

**c. Support for research trips**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

**End: 19:00**