

PhD Association General Assembly 2025

(Minutes were approved by Vice chair Helene Bei Thomsen on March 14th 2025)

Time: 15.15-17

Location: 1266-222 Det Blå Auditorium

Participants:

- Online: Livie, Sofie, Emil, Anders, Victor
- In person: Nina, Helene and Anne Marie

Agenda

1) Election of Moderator and Minute Taker

- Moderator: Helene (since the chair is on vacation)
- Minute taker: Anne-Marie (new student assistant)
- ~~Order food~~

2) Presentation of the PhD Association

- Working groups within the PhD Association
 - o Inclusion group (however, not active anymore)
 - o PR and webpage group (the main issue is more outreach)
 - o Social events
- What do you gain by becoming a board member?
 - o Influence
 - o Organizational skills
 - o Networking
 - o 15 dissemination hours after a year as board member
- Meetings every first Thursday of the month from 15.15-16.00
 - o Or at social events such as board games night etc.

3) Goodbye and welcome to members

- Goodbye to
 - o Anders will no longer be treasurer or board member
 - Nina is keen on becoming the new treasurer
 - Important task: Every year we can apply for 35k DKK from the Graduate School of Health (yearly task in January)

- If we do academic events, we can apply for money from PAND (they'll cover half of the costs)

4) Financial statements and Budget approval

- Healthy budget → room for spending
- 83k DKK available in the bank account
- We should spend more in the future
 - Especially, if we apply for the Graduate School of Health-funding every year
- Our bank demands 1000 DKK every time we're changing treasurer – we should consider this, since it's expensive
- Consider our aim – we shouldn't just cater to the people within the board of the Association

5) Report of the Year

- Student assistant
- Opinion paper by the inclusion group in Omnibus
- Anders made a course: "How to secure funding for your research"
- Meetings with the Graduate School
- Bi-monthly social events: Knit & Drink + bouldering
 - Not a lot of participants – we're working on that
- The PhD Day booth
- Outreach activities (presentations)

6) Proposals Received

- None

7) Changes to Bylaws

- Livie and Helene has made suggestions for an updated set of bylaws (haven't been updated since 2016)
- Main updates:
 - Translated to English besides Danish version
 - The Danish version counts however

- Size of the board = 5-19 members
- Deleted that members are voted in for a year since it shouldn't be too big of an obligation
- Member contact can happen through webpage, LinkedIn or FB due to GDPR
- Deleted that the board can only make decisions, if 3% of the association is present
 - But we can't change any bylaws then
 - However, there's a loophole by sending out the info on the updates to the members. If there isn't any objections, it's OK
 - Therefore, we'll need another meeting to pass the bylaws
 - You could say, we're playing the rules. On the other hand, we have to adapt to the circumstances
- No objections

8) Event proposals

- A wish for a bigger effort to do more events
- Any ideas from the general assembly?
 - No
- Helene brought ideas: Bowling, bouldering, boardgames, escape room + dinner afterwards
 - Helene will decide and make a Doodle
 - People are leaving for exchange – a good idea to schedule soon
- You can always bring ideas for events for all our members
- Do something in collaboration with AUPA about the well-being of the PhD students from the other faculties as well (Sofie will reach out to a contact person from AUPA)
 - We have money but limited capacity. If the others have more capacity, they can do more work, and we can pay more
 - Anne-Marie can give you the mail address of the chair of AUPA
 - Livie also has ideas in this regard...
- Emil can't take part through March and April
 - We'll need another rep in PAND

- Do we want to prioritize still being in PAND? Yes
- General assembly in PAND on March the 15th. Emil will share the info, if anybody would like to take his place. He's attending the general assembly
 - Is anybody interested in becoming a member or in attending the general assembly? Helene will join online, if nobody else is interested. She does so

9) Any other business

- Working groups could be a nice issue to touch upon this year
 - We'll take it up on the next meeting
- Sofie shares from the PhD Committee
 - Next meeting will be in May
 - Last time, they discussed that supervisors weren't taking their mandatory courses – therefore they wanted to make the courses non-mandatory
 - We disagree
 - The topic will be discussed on the next meeting
 - Also, sexual harassment is a topic which is being discussed on a mandatory course – therefore it's especially problematic to make the courses non-mandatory
 - Our action points will be to discuss this and decide, which solution we'd like to propose (high priority on our next meeting. Sofie can present the issue). Then Sofie will take our proposal to the PhD Committee meeting in May
 - Also they discussed equality in PhD leader positions – working for more inclusivity

10) Election

- Who wants to be the new treasurer?
 - Nina
 - No objections. Nina is the new treasurer

- We'll have to vote Livie in as chair and Helene in as vice-chair in this meeting as well
 - o Nobody else is interested in becoming chair nor vice-chair
 - o No objections in both cases
- But are we enough board members?
 - o Haven't heard from anyone, whether the board members want to continue as such or not
 - Is there a minimum for members now?
 - We'll be five
 - But should we not have a minimum
 - Emil stays as a board member – then it's no problem
 - Leonardo is still a board member as well, we think
 - o Helene has updated the member list for now
 - Victor, who's attending the general assembly, is pending on whether he wants to become active/board member

~~11) Food and Networking~~

- The majority is attending via Zoom