Department of Molecular Biosciences,

The Wenner-Gren institute

Protocol for PhD Board meeting – 22nd September 2026 – 12:30 to 13:00 on Zoom

Attendees: Emma Block, Lova Granqvist, Thomas Mazza, Terence Infant Wilson Lawrence, Symeon Kourmoulakis, Miren Urrutia Iturritza, Ylva Veith

Chair: Emma Block

Clerk: Thomas Mazza

1. Previous PhD board events

Events organized during the previous semester were discussed and no issues or improvements were identified. The barbecue was mentioned and because of the weather, some participants remained outside while others moved indoors, which made the event somewhat divided. However, this was considered mainly a consequence of the weather rather than an organizational problem.

The organization of an interdepartmental pub was also mentioned, and Pub chairs from the different departments will try to coordinate one before the end of the year.

2. PhD representation at Work Environment Meetings

Eva had contacted the Board because no PhD student had attended the Work Environment Meetings for more than a year. According to the planned responsibilities, the PhD representatives expected to attend are the Safety Officer and Equality Officer.

The Board discussed whether the current representatives, Martin and Akshit, had actually been receiving invitations to these meetings. It was considered possible that they were simply not included in the relevant mailing list.

To avoid the same problem when representatives change, it was suggested that the meeting invitations could also instead be sent to the general PhD Board email, allowing the Board to coordinate who attends.

Martin and Akshit will be contacted to determine whether they have been receiving invitations to the Work Environment Meetings and it will be followed up with Eva once this has been clarified.

3. Responsibilities associated with PhD board positions

People elected to PhD Board and representative positions may not always know exactly what is expected of them. The relevant information can also be difficult to locate on the MBW website.

The Board therefore proposed preparing a short document describing the responsibilities associated with each position. The document could then be given to newly elected representatives in future elections.

4. Next PhD council meetings

Two further meetings were set: one the 7th of October starting at 12:30 and another later on 25th November 2026, when we will conduct the elections for the next PhD Board members. An earlier date was selected as a lot of PhD students have been going on vacations during the month of December, therefore missing the elections of the PhD Board. A zoom link was discussed as an option to also allow participants that are away to join.

5. Teaching and PhD Courses

Jessica had contacted the Board and asked to attend the next PhD Council meeting to discuss the Introduction to Teaching course. Now that a Council meeting date had been selected, she will be invited to attend.

6. MOSS Calendar for 2027

The MOSS seminar calendar for the coming year needs to be prepared during the autumn. The organizer should contact Clara, who has replaced Alexander, to identify which PhD students still need to give their MOSS seminar. Those students should then be contacted and offered possible dates.

MOSS seminars are normally held on Thursdays, but dates need to be checked against other departmental activities such as Topics to avoid conflicts. Vivi also need to be booked for the selected dates.

Miren volunteered to take responsibility for organizing the calendar. Emma will share the previous calendar with her.

7. Nobel week / Invitation of Nobel laureates

The Board plans to continue the tradition of inviting a relevant Nobel Prize laureate to SU during Nobel Week. Depending on the year's prizes, potential guests could come from biology/medicine, chemistry, or another field relevant to MBW.

Ylva was involved in organizing this previously and has the invitation templates. Once the laureates are announced, suitable candidates can be identified and the invitation adapted accordingly.

Additional organizational aspects discussed included finding a suitable host (Eva did it last year), arranging catering, potentially collaborating with another department such as Chemistry, setting up registration to estimate attendance, and possibly advertising the event to Master's students if space permits.

8. Possible Ig Nobel event

The Board discussed the possibility of organizing an event involving an Ig Nobel Prize winner as a more informal and entertaining way of connecting PhD students with scientists.

The main issue would be funding, particularly if travel and accommodation were required. The possibility of applying for funding was raised. The Board also discussed checking where potential speakers are based, since this would substantially affect the cost. A Zoom presentation could serve as an alternative if funding for an in-person visit cannot be obtained.

9. PhD board elections for 2027

Several current Board members are approaching the later stages of their PhDs, so the Board needs to recruit new members and begin planning for next year's leadership. In particular, Emma indicated that she does not plan to continue as Chair next year.

It is considered important to recruit newer PhD students while experienced members are still present, allowing knowledge to be transferred rather than requiring a completely new Board to start from scratch.

10. MBW website: PhD council and board information

The PhD Council and PhD Board protocols on the MBW website remain incomplete or incorrectly linked. Some entries appear to have titles but no functioning links. This issue had already been raised with Alexander previously but was not fully resolved. Emma will contact Clara to make sure that the website is up to date.

11. Introduction to research biology: presentation of the PhD board

The Introduction to Research Biology course is taking place the following day (23rd of September) and the PhD Board had been invited to give a 15 minutes introduction explaining what the Board is and what it does.

Emma planned to attend, if possible, with Lova and Thomas to help or substitute if necessary.

12. Welcome fika for new PhD students

The department had three new PhD students in September. The Board noted that the planned welcome fika for new PhD students had not ultimately taken place the previous year and suggested organizing one this semester.

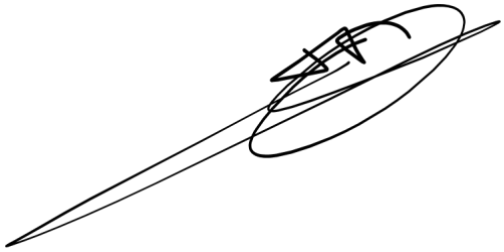
Because additional PhD students may join soon, the Board decided there was no need to establish a date immediately. It may be preferable to wait until after the next Board meeting so that additional newcomers can be included.

13. PhD well-being meeting

A PhD well-being meeting with Eva is scheduled for the following day. Miren planned to attend to understand what would be discussed and report and follow up as appropriate.



Emma Block



Thomas Mazza