

Meeting 2017-1-16

Present: Dieuwke, Sara, Iris, Marco, Arnold, Chenwei

Changes since last time: Iris and Sara will quit the council from February

Agenda

1. Developments of PhD councils of FNWI/FGw
2. Skill courses
3. PhD bonus
4. Communication between the PhD council and PhD community
5. Facilities in common room
6. PhD day
7. TA allocation
8. Others

1. Developments of PhD councils of FNWI/FGw

- The faculty level PhD council of FNWI will make a petition on the issue of extending the formal right to have PhD students to researchers that are not Full Professors (Ius promovendi).
- A new representative from ILLC for the PhD council of FGw is in need. Currently Gert-Jan Munneke is still the contact person, but he wants to quit soon.

2. Skill courses

- Update: Project management, research integrity and academic writing are finished. Evaluations are done. Presentation skills is being organized. Career development is being revised with the help of the new career development person at FNWI. We want to know from the management how the evaluations of the Project management course were this year, and what the plans are for next year.

3. PhD Bonus:

- The website says that PhD's on a four year contract, who graduate within 3 years, will get a bonus of 3000 euro, which is more than the bonus for graduating in time (i.e., before the end of the contract). The management team worries that this would encourage the students to pursue a quicker graduation.
(<https://www.illc.uva.nl/PhDProgramme/current-candidates/other/financial.html#bonus>)
- The council agrees with the worries had by the management team, and is okay with lifting the special 3 years bonus. We propose that the regulations for the bonus be made more uniform, one description could hold for all different cases (e.g., 3 year contract, 4 year contract, part-time contract). The time-scales should not be measured in absolute time, but in terms of percentage of the contract, this will make it more fair for, e.g., PhD's with a part-time contract, or PhD's who take time off to do an internship.

4. Communication between the PhD council and PhD community

- It is agreed that a pigeon hole under the name of the PhD council for collecting suggestions and feedback should be set up.
- An offline method of distributing newsletters will be adopted. The copies of newsletters are expected to be hanged in PhD students' offices. The task of distributing newsletters will be assigned to members of the PhD council.
- Marco will take over the task of making newsletters from Sara.

5. Facilities in common room

- Dieuwke will organize a team to make concrete plan on improving facilities in common room based on the input collected from the post, and coordinate with Karine.
- Iris suggests to have reusable cups instead of disposable paper ones.
- The new coffee machine seems to make the same coffee as before. The better coffee should be pursued.

6. PhD day

- The next PhD day will be on February 21st. Since there were only three new PhD candidate this time, we will highlight a discussion of all kinds of issues related to PhD students. It should be made clear in the invitation that this PhD day is mainly about discussion, and target to all ILLC PhD's not particularly to the newcomers.

7. TA allocation

- Update: Jan 19 there will be/was a meeting between some members of the PhD Council and Marco Vervoort.

8. Others: The tasks of the secretary of the council related to the MT- Council meeting include:

- sending reminder to Tanja about sending the agenda at the latest 2 weeks before the MT-Council meeting;
- after receiving the MT-Council agenda for the meeting, sending around to all ILLC PhD's with request for input
- Sending a reminder to the PhD council members a few days before the council meeting, with a link to the agenda, and the minutes of the last council meeting.