

Meeting 2017-09-26

Present: Samira, Arnold, Dieuwke, Chenwei, Malvin, Marco (over skype)

Agenda:

1. Agenda of the PhD-council-MT meeting
2. Problem with no new members joining the PhD council
3. Organizing the next PhD day
4. New round of TA allocation

1. We were supposed to discuss the points raised in the agenda for the upcoming PhD council-MT meeting next week, but we have not received this agenda yet, so we will not do it.

2. Arnold, Dieuwke, Chenwei and Marco would like to quit the council. Malvin never officially joined actually. There will be only Samira left.

We sent an email asking whether people would like to join, but received no replies. Chenwei says one of his officemates might be interested. We will also ask people during the upcoming PhD Day. There is a danger that the PhD council will cease to exist.

Why do we have difficulty finding new members?

- Arnold thinks one of the problems is that it isn't compensated. Several council members confirmed that they would not have joined if they knew there was no compensation at all. We should raise this issue.
- The second year PhDs should now take over but we cannot find anyone who is willing to do it. We do not know why they are not interested.
- Malvin says that he agreed to do the TA allocation because that is something he really cared about and could see the outcome of.
- It seems like there have been no visible changes at ILLC in the last year. There have been proposals, but for a variety of reasons the MT did not or could not make anything happen: e.g., renewed common room, sexual harassment workshop, problems with bathrooms/facilities in general.

We will organise the PhD day, tell the PhDs that whether there is going to be a new PhD council depends on them.

Dieuwke can be available for advice to new PhD council if we can find some members.

If the PhD council will not exist anymore

- who will organize the PhD Day? → The PhD programme director/MT can organize it. Here, the PhDs can be informed about new things and give their feedback.
- who will do the TA allocation? → This is something important that we should keep. It can be asked who is willing to do the next round during the PhD day organised by the ILLC itself.

3. It is time to organise a new PhD day. Arnold can organise it again.

There are 4 new PhDs that we need to introduce to the institute. We will meet them separately to tell them about what we do, how we organize TA allocation and give them some practical tips. There is a presentation for that in our Google Drive folder.

We agreed to organise the PhD day on Tuesday 17. We will agree on lunch with, probably, Maslow and send an email asking the PhDs to propose topics for discussion.

Chenwei stresses that during the meeting we should really stress how important the PhD council is.

4. It is time for a new round of TA allocation soon. The system has been made and should be working fine by now already. This should make the work much easier to do. The MT will ask for input from the lecturers and approve the courses and TA loads. After that, we will take over and send out an email to PhDs and propose the allocation. In the final meeting, the MT will approve the allocation.

Sirin agreed to do the TA allocation this semester as well. It would be great to find someone else who would volunteer to help her out. Hopefully, this person can continue the semester after that together with a new volunteer and so on.

The new point system will be evaluated sometime next year: whether it worked, made it actually less work and the distribution more fair.