



AGENDA FOR AUPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TIME: 16:00-18:00

LOCATION: Zoom

GUESTS:

ABSENT WITH APOLOGY:

1. Welcome
2. Formalities
 - Election of Chairman: René Bærentsen
 - Approval of minutes from the last meeting (available via Dropbox)
 - i. The minutes have been approved
3. Presentation of the work done by the board of AUPA in 2020-2021
 - Collaboration with PAND
 - i. They work towards strengthening/supporting PhD students during Covid-19
 - A. There are two representatives from AUPA
 - B. PAND Board meetings are the first Monday of every month
 - C. PAND general assembly will be in April
 - Together with PAND and DM, we have made a survey regarding how PhD students are coping with the lockdown.
 - We have sent a letter to heads of graduate schools, co-signed by the PhD associations from other departments (BSS and Health)
 - i. This led to a meeting with the heads of graduate schools
 - ii. From now on, AUPA will have a permanent spot in their meetings, so that we can represent the PhD student perspective
 - AUPA PhD supervision conference
 - i. In late January over Zoom
 - ii. We hope to do another conference in 2022 (hopefully in person)
4. Presentation and approval of the Financial report
 - Very few expenses this year
 - We have excess money: We should contact the graduate schools and suggest that we keep the money for next year's conference.
 - i. Tenna will contact them
 - We have a yearly budget of 25.000 from AU
5. Short briefing about further work
 - Mid-February Rene and Tenna were invited to the Head of Graduate schools meeting to discuss the communication strategy
 - They are listening to what we are saying and have updated accordingly
 - Usually AUPA would have brainstorms about coming plans – this has not been the case this year due to Covid-19 and the restrictions.

- i. We have nothing set-up for the next year, so incoming suggestions are welcome.

6. Incoming suggestions

- There has been no introduction to the PhD community at AU. Attempts to improve connectivity and networking between PhDs is something we could work on.
- Helping students when they arrive: Different unboarding package that PhD students receive. Right now it is just an email where AUPA is listed at the bottom
 - i. AUPA could make two events: one in spring and one in autumn – this could be part of the welcoming email.
- When announcing events, we could try something more visual than just announcing on social media – maybe printing posters and hanging them up around campus.
- PhD students should get more information about funding opportunities. This gives quite a bit of freedom to PhD students
- The next meeting with the heads of graduate schools is the 5th of May. We could figure out how new PhD students experience their start at AU and present this at the meeting
- BSS has an introduction day within the first week of new PhD students starting – this should be a requirement at all faculties. Have the introduction day more often than two times a year.
- Working conditions for PhD students with small children
 - i. This differs from faculty to faculty
 - ii. AUPA could strong-arm the stricter graduate schools to loosen up a bit
- Possibility of finishing PhD on unemployment benefits
 - i. It is difficult when you have kids and it is hard to get prolonged pay – one of the solutions would be to finish dissertation on unemployment benefits.
 - ii. It would be something that we should take through PAND and DM
 - iii. Ana Lucia will send this on to PAND

7. Presentation of candidates for new board

- Normally we have meetings once a month (maximum two hours, but usually less)
- Formally AUPA has are two candidates from each graduate schools
 - i. Workload: Chairperson has a bit more work than a “normal” board member

8. Election of board members and alternates

We will decide the positions next meeting. Below is a brief overview of the positions.

Chairman:

- AUPA’s frontman. In charge of conducting the board meetings.
- Attends meetings with the heads of graduate schools.
- This year we have had co-chairmen, which worked well. It is recommended that we continue with this, and possibly remove the vice-chairman position.

Vice-chairman:

- In charge if the Chairman is not available.

Treasurer:

- In charge of having an overview of AUPA's expenses and processing invoices.

Social media:

- In charge of updating and promoting AUPA on social media platforms.

PAND:

- Ana Lucia Cardenas
- Katia Soud

9. Any other business?

- Next board meeting: A doodle has been sent out