

# Meeting

## Matematiska studentrådet

14 September 2022

15:15

Location: Kovalevsky, house 1, Albano

## Agenda

### § 1. Meeting opened

1.1 Choice of meeting chairperson: Carl Tjernell

1.2 Choice of meeting secretary: Priscilla Dufweke-Lantto

### § 2. Approval of meeting agenda

### § 3. Presentation round

From the department of mathematics: Lars Arvestad, Jennifer Chamberlain, Anders Hagberg, Neshat Lindberg and Dennis Öberg

From SUS: Carl Tjernell, student ombudsman

Students attending a MSR meeting for the first time: Felix Almay, Sachi Dilami, Jesper Flodmark, Betty Frankl, Oskar Hogman, August Jonasson, Johannes Khaazal, Timothy Lindqvist, Simon Jorstedt, David Sermoneta, Zacharias Wigh Broman and Wongsathorn Wuthikun.

Former MSR members: Priscilla Dufweke-Lantto (former vice chairperson), Max Brehmer (former treasurer) and Jonathan Osser (former board member)

### § 4. Former MSR members inform us about last semester.

Most of what MSR did last year involved social activities such as board game nights. The former members attempted to represent the students at the department as best they could but faced problems such as low engagement (from their part too) and difficulties making the existence of the council known to other students. The former members have decided to step down from involvement in the student council but are happy that this meeting had such a great turnout to keep the council going.

### § 5. Information from the department of mathematics

Lars Arvestad begins listing the importance of having a student council at the department.

Students help ensure a good quality of their studies by putting pressure on the department.

One way of doing that is by participating in the recently formed program boards for the undergraduate and master educations.

Another way is by having students in the department board, which discusses topics such as: profiles for new employees and evaluations of different programs among other more “boring” topics by Lars Arvestad’s own words.

Having MSR choosing student representatives for these tasks ensures a more objective evaluation than if members of the department searches for them themselves. Theoretically, then the department could pick and choose representatives to get the best evaluation possible which raises an ethical issue.

Lars Arvestad then makes a comment that he appreciates the engagement among students on the Discord server.

Dennis Öberg makes a comment that students come to him to ask questions regarding things such as housing or other topics that a student council might deal with. This suggests that there is a need for MSR among students at the department that can help answer these types of questions.

The members of the department then receive a couple of questions from students.

Question: How does the program evaluations differ from the course evaluations that are sent out for students to answer at the end of every course?

Lars Arvestad explains that the program evaluation is much more comprehensive than the course evaluations that deal with a specific course. The program evaluations touch on broader subjects and is more extensive as it is only performed every six years. It also evaluates student influence on the education.

Question: Can you be a teaching assistant (amanuens in Swedish)/employed by the department and still be a part of MSR?

Paraphrasing Lars Arvestad: Yes, but you cannot be reimbursed for participating in department meetings. As someone employed by the department, a conflict of interest could arise and if so it will have to be discussed within MSR.

Paraphrasing Jennifer Chamberlain: On the other hand, teaching assistants are more informed about what's happening in the department which could also be an advantage for the council.

Jonathan Osser brings up the point that teaching assistants are also students and are therefore still represented by the student council and should feel welcome to voice their opinions and ideas.

## § 6. Information from the Student Ombudsman

Carl Tjernell gives a powerpoint presentation explaining how student engagement works at Stockholm University.

### General information about student influence and SUS

- A student council is created when students gather to influence their studies and quality of education.
- The right to student influence is integrated in Swedish law.
- Stockholm University has the student union (SUS) who appoints the student council in every department but each student council still has their own autonomy.
- The Department of Mathematics is part of the mathematics-physics section under the Faculty of Science.

### About student councils and MSR in particular

- MSR has the right to appoint student representatives at the department (department board (IS), RALV and program councils).
- MSR mostly influences the Department of Mathematics, but has the right to influence at a faculty level.

### Student council works as a forum for students to influence:

- Quality of studies
- Student rights
- Study social aspects, for example: study environment
- External aspects, for example: student recruitments and studies about alumni's current professional careers

Student councils usually consist of:

- A chairperson
- A vice chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Students without a specific position.

The student council has the right to elect student representatives at different bodies of the department. Most councils have yearly meetings (usually in December) to elect board members or have elections when a position has vacancy.

Usually students have their elected positions for a year but it's not necessarily binding.

What does a student council do?

- Hold meetings that welcomes all students
- Inform about these meetings
- Write protocols of the meetings
- Arrange activities
- Apply for fundings (activities and projects)

## § 7. Elections

Elections were held by voting with hand raising. In the case of more than one nominee for a position, voting was performed with the voter's eyes closed with the chairperson for the meeting holding count. In the positions where only one person was nominated, the voting was performed with eyes opened.

### § 7.1 Board members for MSR

It was decided that the nominees who weren't elected to a specific position were instead applying for a position of regular board member.

Chairperson

Nominee: Zacharias Wigh Broman

Elected by vote: Zacharias Wigh Broman

Vice chairperson

Nominees: Johannes Khaazal, Oskar Hogman

Elected by vote: Oskar Hogman

Treasurer

Nominee: Felix Almay

Elected by vote: Felix Almay

Secretary

Nominee: Jesper Flodmark

Elected by vote: Jesper Flodmark

Board members

Sachi Dilami, Betty Frankl, August Jonasson, Simon Jorstedt, Johannes Khaazal, Timothy Lindqvist, David Sermoneta, Wongsathorn Wuthikun

It was elected by vote that the board will contain 12 members. We voted to approve all eight board members at once.

Someone named Felix who had expressed their interest in becoming a board member through Discord was absent. It was decided that Felix will be contacted to get a chance to join the board at the next council meeting.

We now have a new board for MSR.

#### § 7.2 Student representatives for other boards

It was decided that those nominees that weren't elected for a position were instead chosen as alternates (suppleanter in Swedish). Alternates are the ones who attend the meetings when the ordinary representatives are absent.

The department board (2 positions):

Nominees: Oskar Hogman, Timothy Lindqvist, Zacharias Wigh Broman

Elected by vote: Oskar (first representative), Timothy (second representative), Zacharias (alternate representative)

Rådet för arbetsmiljö och lika villkor (RALV) (1 position)

Nominees: Simon Jorstedt, Jesper Flodmark

Elected by vote: Simon Jorstedt (first representative), Jesper Flodmark (alternate)

The undergraduate program council board (4 positions):

Nominees: Felix Almay, Simon Jorstedt, David Sermeta and Wongsathorn Wuthikun as representatives. Oskar Hogman and Zacharias Wigh Broman as alternates.

Elected by vote:

First representatives: Felix Almay, Simon Jorstedt, David Sermeta and Wongsathorn Wuthikun

Alternates: Zacharias (first alternate), Oskar (second alternate)

The master program council board (1 alternate position):

Nominees: Sachi Dilami

Elected by vote: Sachi Dilami

The natural sciences faculty council (NFR) (1 position)

Nominees: Johannes Khaazal and Sachi Dilami

Elected by vote: Johannes Khazaal (first representative) and Sachi Dilami (alternate)

#### § 7.3 Operational grant (verksamhetsbidrag)

The board voted to apply for the operational grant.

### § 8. Additional items

#### §8.1 MSR's items from Kräftriket

Neshat Lindberg informs that the student council's things are stored at the department on the third floor in house 1, Albano. Neshat suggests a tour with the new MSR board and granting access to the chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

She also says that the department appreciates information regarding activities planned here and encourages the council to contact her for any questions regarding the department and Albano.

§8.2 Carl shows how to register the council.

§8.3 Discord

The discord server “Mattesupport” isn’t managed by MSR. The current administrator of the server has raised the question for MSR to take over its administration. It can be a good idea to discuss this in a future meeting.

§ 9. Next meeting: To be decided.

§ 10. Meeting closed.