

Agenda for the Meeting of the Doctoral Convent of Physics

Date: 27.03.18 Time: 5 PM

Place: 3-1, physics tower

17 participants

I. Acceptance of the Agenda

- The Agenda was accepted.

II. Presentation of Ombudsperson

- Stefan Kühnlein presented the work of the four ombudspersons for PhD students and their supervisors.
- They have about 20-30 cases per year in which they try to mediate between the doctoral student and his/her supervisor.
- They are not always successful, but often it just helps if the student and the supervisor start to talk to each other.
- The contact details of the ombudspersons can be found at <http://www.khys.kit.edu/ombudspersonen.php>.

III. Report from Working Groups

- Status Group (SG) for Doctoral Researchers (Hendrik and Andreas)
 - The new version of the Landeshochschulgesetz will be published soon, and it includes the Doctoral Researchers as own status group.
 - Own status group means, that doctoral researchers will have guaranteed seats in all university panels like the faculty council or the university-wide council.
 - The doctoral convents will exist further to enable discussions among the doctoral researchers.
 - A doctoral researcher holding a contract with more than 50 % can decide whether he/she wants to belong to the status group of doctoral researchers or to the status group of scientific employees (“Mittelbau”).
 - Members of the doctoral researcher status group have to pay a fee per semester, but they also get some benefits, e.g. cheaper prices in the canteen, a ticket for the public transport, ...
 - For some reasons (health insurance for non-contract holders, international doctoral researchers who need a visa, ...) the status group of doctoral researchers will be a subgroup of the status group of all students, but will be organized independent from them.
 - Since the Landeshochschulgesetz is not fully valid for the KIT, which has its own KIT law, this new status group will only be introduced at KIT, if this KIT law will be changed. Minister Bauer said that this will be the case within the next year (hopefully).
 - Andreas and Hendrik were involved in a KIT-wide feedback on the Landeshochschulgesetz by all KIT doctoral convents and also participated in a personal discussion with Minister Bauer in Heidelberg.
- Working Conditions (Janina)

- There were no complaints about the working conditions, so that there are no news from this working group.
- From the audience, it was mentioned that PhD students who work at KIT but are funded by other institutions or other universities have to pay the guest price at the canteen. This is unfair and should be changed, the new board will work on this.
- How to PhD (Aso)
 - Aso has started to translate the PhD ordinance of the faculty of physics into English, so that international students have the chance to read and understand it. He did most of the work with google translator and needs some input from Germans if everything is correct so far.

IV. Report from Helmholtz Juniors (Aso)

- Aso is one of the two Helmholtz Junior Representatives at KIT. He presented some of the results of the Helmholtz Junior survey on working conditions at the Helmholtz centers and advertised the next Helmholtz Junior workshop in July in Potsdam.
- The full results of the survey can be found at https://www.helmholtz.de/fileadmin/user_upload/HeJu_survey_2017_results_report.pdf

V. Election of the New Board

- It was decided to have only three representatives in the board (votes: 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstention)
- The new board members are Woo-Jeong Baek, Stefan Backens, and Florian Herren, each of them got 16 votes.

VI. Miscellanea

- None