

Protocol of the 1. meeting in the summer semester 2015

28.04.2015, 16:00 – 17:00, Seminar room 3/1

Participants: 20: Alexander Herbig, Alexander Wlotzka, Iris Schwenk, Julia Link, Julian Gethmann, Juraj Streicher, Konrad Deetz, Mareike Hoyer, Martin Schumann, Mathias Scheurer, Niklas Thiel, Pablo Schad, Patrick Hlobil, Philipp Frings, Robin Roth, Saskia Meißner, Simon Fink, Simon Kast, Tiemo Bückmann, Wolfgang Hollik

Guests: Cornelia Hintze, Janina Klier, Matthias Bard, Tim Ludwig

Chair: K. Deetz

Protocol: R. Roth

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Presence of a quorum

We have a quorum.

1 Acceptance of the agenda

There are no changes to the agenda.

2 Reports

- At the last meeting we voted on our Geschäftsordnung and elected the Vorstand.
- Tomorrow is the first Fakultätsrat of the semester.

- Meeting of all KIT Doktorandenkonvente: There will be a meeting, organized by KHYS (Gabriele Gregolec) of all Doktorandenkonvente of KIT on 11.05.2015. Also there the election of the Ombudspersonen (for mediation between PhD student and advisor) will be discussed. We started to fill a email list of the Vorstände of all Doktorandenkonvente.
- Change of Promotionsordnung: The Promotionsordnung (all departments) has to be changed to included the recently added “Ombudspersonen”. Maybe we can use this change to get our changes in there as well?
- Every PhD student has the right to have a @kit.edu address if the advisor is ok with that, including stipend holders and external PhD students, who sometimes don’t get one.
- Working group “Promotion” of the jDPG: Within the jDPG (student group within the German Physical Society) there is a working group for PhD students. They try to connect PhD students and give a forum for discussion. contact: promotion@jdpdg.de

3 Distribution of information

We want to have the (public part of the) minutes of the Fakultätsrat public (online).

Vote

Der Vorsitzende des Doktorandenkonvents setzt sich dafür ein, dass der öffentliche Teil des Fakultätsratsprotokolls im Intranet verfügbar ist.

The chairman of the Doktorandenkonvent is committed to ensure that the public part of the Fakultätsrat minutes will be made available on the intranet.

Yes	No	Abstain
20	0	0

We also would like to have a document on details for the exam:

- form of presentation (beamer, posters, ...)
- duration
- how is the exam grade calculated

Vote

Der Vorsitzende des Doktorandenkonvents setzt sich dafür ein, dass ein Dokument auf der Homepage der Fakultät veröffentlicht wird, in dem Anmeldung, Inhalt und Ablauf der Doktorprüfung beschrieben wird. Insbesondere: Form der Präsentation (Beamer, Poster, ...), Dauer der Präsentation, Zulassung von Gästen.

The chairman of the Doktorandenkonvent is committed to ensure that a document will be published on the departments homepage, in which registration, content and conduct of the PhD exam will be described. Especially: Form or the presentation (beamer, poster, ...), duration of the presentation, acceptance of guests.

Yes	No	Abstain
20	0	0

Also it would be interesting to have a recommended schedule for:

- registration for the exam
- handing in forms
- getting an exam date
- handing in the exam
- referee reports

Maybe an official schedule will be more strict than the now practiced version.

Do we want to have a guarantee to get an exam date?

We will try to write up the current state in an unofficial document. Please let Julian know, when you have information (like in an institute wiki) about the schedule.

4 Collect notes about exams

We would like to organize a faculty wide collection of exam questions. Meteorology and Geophysics should probably be collected separately as the exams are quite different. The student union is willing to provide the infrastructure for collection of notes.

Vote

Der Doktorandenkonvent spricht sich dafür aus, Gedankenprotokolle von Doktorprüfungen zu sammeln. Diese sollen die Namen der Prüfer und die Prüfungsfragen beinhalten.

The Doktorandenkonvent is in favor of collecting notes of PhD exams. Those should include the examiners and the exam questions.

Yes	No	Abstain
18	0	2

5 Discussion of the Promotionsordnung (PO)

We will present the current version and some experiences with how exams take place. Then we can discuss possible changes. Especially:

- public or non-public exam
- questions only about the topic or physics in general
- duration and structure of the talk
- aims of the exam (depth, breadth, knowledge, ability to present, ...)

Our PO allows for an oral exam in one main subject and two additional subjects. According to Dieter Zeppenfeld this is used only rarely, mostly for students without physics degrees and the decision is made at the beginning of the PhD together with the student.

Ideas for additions:

- Maximal duration of the exam
- More exam slots, as at the end of the semester, people sometimes get shifted to the next term; maybe more days than just Friday
- How is the grade determined (dissertation, oral exam, own subject, general physics questions)
- More specific role of the mentor, Mentoring
- How much teaching is required

6 Further wishes/suggestions

Next date: Doodle, before 03.06.2015