

Tätigkeitsbericht der Studienvertretung Doktorat an
der TU Wien laut §19a HSG und §20 HTU-Satzung

Activity Report of the Programme Representation of
Doctoral Candidates in Accordance with the Austrian
Law Regulating the Representation of Students (§19a
HSG 1998) and the Articles of the Students'
Representation at University Level (§20
HTU-Satzung)

Studienvertretung Doktorat

Budgetjahr 2015/2016 (1.7.15 - 30.6.16)

Abstract

The activities of the representatives of the doctoral candidates at TU Wien during the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 are briefly summarised. They include counselling, meetings, workshops for doctoral candidates and much more. A short financial overview is given in this report.

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1 Introduction

In accordance with the Austrian Law Regulating the Representation of Students (Hochschülerinnen- und Hochschülerschaftsgesetz 1998, shortly HSG [4]) the main task of the Programme Representation of Doctoral Candidates (Studienvertretung) is the representation of the interests of all doctoral candidates at the TU Wien (see §18 HSG). In our case this comprises the counselling of doctoral candidates, participation in the curricular committee for the doctoral programme (Studienkommission für die Doktoratsstudien), contact to professors and the works council (Betriebsrat), writing official statements (Stellungnahmen), organising workshops, providing infrastructure and much more. The costs for workshops, infrastructure for counselling, etc. are covered by a part of the students' union fee (ÖH-Beitrag) [4] [5]. Due to the fact that every doctoral candidate has to pay this fee, we want to report the expenses and the activities of the programme representation, as stated in §19a HSG 1998 and in §20 HTU-Satzung (articles of the students' representation at university level [5]).

It is generally agreed upon that the representation of the doctoral candidates cannot reasonably be done by only five people as given by law [4]. The five elected students' representatives (Markus Bajones, Alexander Fischl, Christoph Fröhlich, Alexander Grill and Martin Müller [3]) have decided to work and make decisions together with all committed predocs. Due to this decision, all activities of the Programme Representation of the Doctoral Candidates have taken place within the Fachschaft Doktorat, which consists of approximately 10 predocs, five of them the official students' representatives. The members of the Fachschaft Doktorat are working as volunteers and thus without payment for their work within the Fachschaft Doktorat. All decisions of the Programme Representation have been made during the Jours Fixes of the Fachschaft Doktorat, where every doctoral candidate at TU Wien can participate. Hence the term "Fachschaft Doktorat" is used in the following instead of "Programme Representation of the Doctoral Candidates".

2 Activities

This section is the summary of the activities of the Fachschaft Doktorat during the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

2.1 Counselling (Beratung)

One of the main activities of the Fachschaft Doktorat is counselling of persons who want to enrol on a doctoral programme and doctoral candidates at TU Wien. We offered opening hours, individual counselling and counselling via e-mail.

2.1.1 Opening Hours

The opening hours of the Fachschaft Doktorat were every second Tuesday at 5.30 p.m, where study-related counselling was offered. Approximately 30 doctoral candidates and 20 persons interested in enrolling on a doctoral programme made use of this offer.

2.1.2 Individual Counselling

Beside the opening hours the Fachschaft Doktorat offered individual counselling of doctoral candidates. Nearly 20 people made use of this offer.

2.1.3 E-mail

Most of the study-related counselling was offered via e-mail. On average there were around five e-mails per week sent to the e-mail address fsdr@fsdr.at. 95 % of the questions were from people from all over the world who wanted to enrol on a doctoral programme at TU Wien. The members of the Fachschaft Doktorat replied to all of them.

2.2 Meetings of the Fachschaft Doktorat and Doctoral Candidates

Every second Tuesday we organised either a Jour Fixe or a "Stammtisch".

2.2.1 Jour Fixe

Every four weeks on Tuesday the Fachschaft Doktorat had a Jour Fixe. This is an open meeting where all decisions are made. Every doctoral candidate at TU Wien was invited. The information regarding date, time and location of the Jour Fixe was published at the website www.fsdr.at and some of the Jours Fixes were also made public in the information e-mail (sent to all doctoral candidates).

2.2.2 Stammtisch

The Fachschaft Doktorat offered every four weeks on Tuesday a so-called Stammtisch in order to connect doctoral candidates from different research areas and faculties. A Stammtisch is a meeting in a restaurant or pub, where we get together and talk about issues related to doctoral studies. The information regarding date, time and location of the Jour Fixe was published at the website www.fsdr.at and some of the Jours Fixes were also made public in the information e-mail (sent to all doctoral candidates).

2.3 Activities in Self-Governing Bodies at TU Wien (Arbeit in Kollegialorganen der TU Wien)

The curricular committee for the doctoral programme had three meetings: 27 October 2015, 7 March 2016 and 13 June 2016. Besides the three meetings of the committee there were several meetings between members of the Fachschaf Doktorat and members of the curricular committee. The most important topics were the Guidelines for Cumulative Dissertations (Richtlinie für kumulative Dissertationen), the teaching assistance of doctoral candidates and a new guideline for the doctoral programmes at TU Wien. The Fachschaft Doktorat was involved in all discussions.

2.4 Providing Infrastructure for Doctoral Candidates

The Fachschaft Doktorat has a small office in Geniegebäude, Getreidemarkt 9 and one small storage room in Freihaus, Wiedner Hauptstraße 8-10. The office and the storage

room were used for counselling, meetings, organisation tasks, IT infrastructure and every day representation work.

2.5 Information and Service

One important task of the Fachschaft Doktorat is providing important information for doctoral candidates. Thus, our website was maintained, information mails were sent, our Facebook page and group were further developed.

2.5.1 Website Maintenance

The Fachschaft Doktorat has a website, www.fsd.r.at. Beside the revision of existing content we also have provided new information for all doctoral candidates.

2.5.2 Information via email

We sent two information e-mails to all enrolled doctoral candidates at TU Wien. We informed the candidates about news and upcoming events regarding the doctoral study at TU Wien. Furthermore we are currently preparing an additional information e-mail concerning recent changes in TU Wien's statutes (Satzung der TU Wien).

2.5.3 Social Media

The Fachschaft Doktorat also commenced activities on the social media platform Facebook. A Facebook page [2], as well as a Facebook group [1] were maintained to connect doctoral candidates at TU Wien, and provide them with up-to-date information.

2.6 Training of the Members of the Fachschaft Doktorat

One training for the members of the Fachschaft Doktorat took place from 8 to 10 January 2016. The goals were improving the knowledge of current legal norms, discussing the current situation of doctoral candidates and getting ideas for the further work as representatives of doctoral candidates. The discussed topics included possible improvements on the curriculum and guidelines, current employment situation of the doctoral candidates at TU Wien and further work in the curricular committee etc. Moreover, some time has been dedicated to improving the content of the L^AT_EX course offered by Fachschaft Doktorat (see below) and keeping our homepage up-to-date.

2.7 Projects

Besides the above mentioned every day work, the Fachschaft Doktorat organised and participated in projects like workshops for predocs, two orientation programmes and information events.

2.7.1 Information Events

Due to the fact that the Fachschaft Doktorat represents the interests of doctoral candidates all over TU Wien, it is very important to offer possibilities for meeting each other and talking about current problems and ideas to solve them. Two of these possibilities were the Winterfest on 6 December 2015 and the Sommerfestl on 29 April 2016, both

organised by Fachschaft Doktorat. These were small parties at the seminar room next to the office of the Fachschaft Doktorat (Geniegebäude, Getreidemarkt 9) and at the inner yard of Campus Gußhaus (Neues EI, Gußhausstraße 27-29). Approximately 250 doctoral candidates and professors attended the parties.

2.7.2 Orientation Programme

As mentioned in 2.7.1, meeting possibilities are very important for doctoral candidates. Therefore, the Fachschaft Doktorat organised two Orientation Programmes for doctoral candidates enrolling in winter term 2014 and in summer term 2014/2015 on 6 December 2015 and on 29 April 2016, respectively. This information event is a first introduction to university life for doctoral candidates at TU Wien.

2.7.3 Workshops for Predocs

The Fachschaft Doktorat offered workshops for predocs in the winter term 2015/2016. On the one hand, we wanted to extend the offer of continuing education for predocs and on the other hand we wanted to show that there is a need for courses and workshops specially dedicated to the needs of doctoral candidates.

- Introduction to Scientific Python
- L^AT_EX Beginners Course and Advanced Course

Compared to the previous year we refrained from offering additional scientific writing courses, at least partially due to their high costs. However, funding scientific writing courses in the following years is currently under debate.

3 Budget

All students (this includes doctoral candidates) are members of the ÖH (Österreichische Hochschülerinnen- und Hochschülerschaft - the official representation of students at the national level). Every student has to pay the students' union fee (ÖH-Beitrag). 15% of the fee remain at national level. The rest of the money goes back to the local representations, in our case the HTU Wien (Hochschülerinnen- und Hochschülerschaft an der TU Wien - the official students' representation at university level). The latter distributes the money according to its articles to the students' representations, the departments of the HTU, representations at faculty level, etc. [5] [4]

The budget of the Programme Representation of Doctoral Candidates at TU Wien (Fachschaft Doktorat) was approximately 14000 EUR of which approx. 2900 EUR were spent. Money was used for the following items: providing the food and the non alcoholic drinks served during counselling and at the information events (approx. 500 EUR), to train the members of the Fachschaft Doktorat (approx. 2300 EUR), for announcements regarding events of Fachschaft Doktorat (approx. 160 EUR). The rest is going back to the HTU Wien where it is used to set up reserves.

4 Conclusion and Outlook

At lot of work has been done during the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. Besides the every day work like counselling for doctoral candidates, writing statements,

participating in the curricular committee etc., the Fachschaft Doktorat also organised and participated in projects like, e.g., the workshops for predocs. One of Fachschaft Doktorat's main goal for the following term will be to attract new volunteers in order to retain the quality of our daily operation - the amount of work will not decrease for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

For further information about the work in the Fachschaft Doktorat, please contact us via email: fsdr@fsdr.at

Vorsitzender der Studienvertretung Doktorat

Christoph Fröhlich

A Workshops for Predocs

A.1 Introduction to Scientific Python

Scientists approach programming from a very different angle than conventional software developers: most codes written for scientific applications are quick'n'dirty solutions, either throw-away code designed to perform a specific analysis or glue code tying data processing steps together. Yet compiled languages like Fortran and C focus on speed and well-formedness, at the expense of being more verbose and more prone to subtle errors. This makes for a strong case for the Python programming language, combined with the SciPy (scientific python) package. Python is a simple yet highly expressive, interpreted language. It has a "batteries included" approach to computing: it ships a large standard library and provides easy bindings to Fortran or C code. SciPy amends Python with a powerful and fast matrix library in the spirit of MATLAB. It also comes with a huge toolbox for numerical and scientific computing. This makes writing scientific code incredibly fast and a pleasurable experience.

The topics were: python basics, The NumPy array, important parts of SciPy, plotting with Matplotlib, interfacing with C and Fortran code, performance considerations, things you need for your research.

This workshop was directed at doctoral candidates (Ph.D. students) at TU Wien, who write or plan to write scientific code for their research.

The workshop was held in English language by DI Dr. Markus Wallerberger.

Date: 11 and 14 November 2015

Time: each day 2 p.m. to approx. 6:30 p.m.

Place: Computer lab CA 04 26, 4. floor, Elektrotechnisches Institutsgebäude, Gußhausstraße 27-29

Number of participants: 25

A.2 L^AT_EX Beginners Course and Advanced Course

For the publication of scientific work, especially in the technical field, L^AT_EX is the first choice for professional typesetting and text formatting. This workshop will provide an introduction to L^AT_EX. At the beginning of the workshop, we offer to assist you with setting up a TeX distribution, including a suitable editor. Building on basic concepts and features of L^AT_EX (text structure and formatting, formulas, graphs, tables, etc.) are presented. Dealing with L^AT_EX will be practiced based on several small exercises. The aim of this workshop was to gain all necessary knowledge to compose scientific papers in L^AT_EX.

The workshop was held in English language by DI Alexander Grill, DI Martin Müller, DI Wolfgang Müller and DI Andreas Deutschmann.

Date: 15 and 16 January 2016

Time: each day 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Place: Computer lab CA 04 26, 4. floor, Elektrotechnisches Institutsgebäude, Gußhausstraße 27-29

Number of participants: 25

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