

Report

4th Meeting of the

Max Planck Ph.D. Student

Network

PhDnet

Nov. 24 - 26, 2005

Minutes: Sabine Schnabel and Hannes Böttcher

Appendix: List of participants

Statute

1 Thursday Nov. 24, 2005

Opening of the meeting by Ajaybabu Pobbati (Biophysical chemistry, Göttingen: Leader of the Meeting Group) who stressed the importance of the meeting for the spirit of the network.

1.1 *Talk of the Spokesperson Benno Quade*

The main title of Benno's talk was "An idea gets accepted". He recalled the structure and responsibilities inside the Max Planck Society (MPS) and the position of the PhDnet. Benno (Social Law, Munich) explained the activities during his year as a Spokesperson:

Oct./Nov. 2004	Transfer of functions, writing of protocol
Jan. 2005	Letter to the directors
Feb./Mar. 2005	First contact with the general administration of the MPS (Generalverwaltung GV), contact person: Frau Mellinghoff
April 2005	First draft of the statute
May 2005	Meeting of the Steering Group and the meeting group in Göttingen
June 2005	Concept of seminar series and "Offspring", second draft of the statute
Aug. 2005	Meeting of the Steering Group in Munich
July 2005	Start of dialogue about funding with the GV
Sep. 2005	Seminar web site/questionnaire/"Offspring"/meeting organization
Oct. 2005	3 soft skills seminars (Munich I/Mühlheim/Berlin)
Nov. 2005	2 soft skills seminars (Heidelberg/Munich II)
Dec. 2005	Soft skills seminar in Göttingen and Fresher's seminar in Freiburg

In terms of external activities the spokesperson reported about:

Sep. 2005	Article in Nature
Nov. 2005	Web site relaunch (in preparation)
Nov. 26, 2005	Scientific Day in Göttingen

Benno's summary of last year's activities was:

- (1) The Network needs a statute.
- (2) The Network has achieved all its goals in 2004-2005.
- (3) The Network has good chances to win a voice in the MPS.

Furthermore, Benno mentioned some ongoing discussions of the MPS with the Bund-Länder-Kommission (BLK) in order to achieve the permission to pay a bonus on new Ph.D. student

contracts under the TVöD 13 regime. A letter was sent by the president to the directors of the institutes in order to promote the activities of the PhDnet.

Benno closed this report by stating the future ideas of the Network:

- (1) Adoption of the statute
- (2) Reinforcing the network's PR and lobbying
- (3) "Offspring"/seminars/fund-raising and MPS internal lobbying
- (4) Fulfillment of our vision

1.2 The legal view

The statute of the PhDnet was introduced and presented. The statute is necessary in order to be able to acquire own funding, to strengthen the position of the PhDnet inside the MPS, to clarify responsibilities of elected officials and to work on the network's structure.

In the discussion the following points were raised (listed in random order):

- For discussions, the forum on the PhDnet web site should be used more often (www.phdnet.mpg.de/phpBB2/).
- Status of IMPRS inside the PhDnet, representatives at the General Meeting
- Is e-government a suitable approach for the PhDnet? E-voting facilities in the Forum can be used.
- The knowledge about the PhDnet has to be spread more widely among the Ph.D. students.
- Working groups are elected by simple majority. There is the possibility of establishing temporary working groups on smaller topics.
- The reason for electing the working groups is the money aspect. If you are elected, you have a legitimation to also deal with money issues.
- The acceptance of the PhDnet in one of the MPS statutes will take at least another 2-4 years (but the statute of the PhDnet is a prerequisite for that).
- A report about the spending of external funding has to be given by the Spokesperson during future meetings.
- The account of the PhDnet is administered by the MPS.
- Fundraising: a donation receipt ("Spendenquittung") can be handed out by the MPS (MPS is a registered society – "eingetragener Verein").
- The vote for the Spokesperson expresses the confidence into the person and gives her/him the opportunity/right to act for the network.
- It was mentioned that it might be a problem that the PhDnet is too close to the GV of the MPS (bank account etc.). Conflicts might also infect the administration of money. Reply:

the PhDnet also has some own money in terms of the participation fees from the Network Meetings and the remaining money from these events ("war chest"). In addition to this, the MPS is not allowed to spend the PhDnet's money since it is earmarked for the network's purposes. But one might search for another solution in terms of money administration and other administrative linkages with the MPS.

- The deputy of the Spokesperson can be anyone of the Section Representatives.
- The function of the General Assembly is to control the Spokesperson (in the sense of a "social steering"). She/He has to report about her/his work at the end of the term in front of the General Assembly.
- Change in the draft of the statute: one vote per person only.
- The General Meeting should be announced well in advance (at least six weeks before).

The vote about the statute included 67 valid votes out of 73 votes. It was accepted with a majority of 63 votes against 4 votes.

1.3 Preliminary results of the Questionnaire

Niels Syassen (MPQ Garching) reported some preliminary results of the online questionnaire conducted by the PhDnet. About 3900 Ph.D. students work in the MPS which is ca.37.5% of the non-permanent scientific staff. There were about 900 fully answered questionnaires as of the beginning of the meeting. Preliminary results for internal use only are available from Niels (niels.syassen@mpq.mpg.de).

Discussion:

- It is consensus that a working group should work on more detailed analysis of the survey.
- It is consensus that the raw data will not be given to the GV – only results after further analysis.
- One should discuss the possibility of a short alumni survey.
- The network should look for an international comparison with other Ph.D. students' initiatives (Thesis www.thesis.de, Eurodoc www.eurodoc.net etc.).
- President Gruss should be asked for the numbers and data on Ph.D. students from the GV of the MPS.
- The outcome of the question about payment provoked a discussion about appropriate payment.
- When meeting according to sections, a small survey will be conducted about the contract/stipends situation in the three sections.

- PhDnet link on institutes web page, MPS web page, leaflet for the institutes, link to the representatives.
- Collection of ideas where the working group should put its focus
- At least one person from every institute answered the questionnaire (917 fully answered questionnaires in total as of Nov. 23, 2005).
- Consensus: the results of the survey should be published.
- The PhDnet considers the questionnaire as a resource for future negotiations with the MPS.

1.4 Report of the Section Representatives

The activities of the Section Representatives were presented by Joscha Gussmann (MPI Infection biology, Berlin -BM) and Niels Syassen (MPQ, Garching - CPT). Soledad Saux (Criminal Law, Freiburg - HUM) could not participate in the meeting. The tasks of the Section Representatives is to keep the contact with their institutes, to update the address list (together with the Secretary), motivate the institutes to elect institute representatives, deal with section specific problems, form the Steering Committee together with the Spokesperson and offer support for the Spokesperson. They participated in the development of "Offspring". In the Biomedical (BM) section in March 2005 there was the "Horizons" symposium in Göttingen in March 2005. There are no specific problems of Ph.D. students in the section despite a discussion about payment of the students after finishing the experiments and writing up.

In the Chemical-Physical-Technical (CPT) section there was a seminar about Earth Sciences organized in Jena (March 2005). Payment while writing up the Ph.D. thesis is also a problem in the CPT section.

1.5 Results of a small meeting among the representatives in sections

HUM

The situation among the institutes is quite diverse in terms of the contract/stipend issue. There are problems with supervision in some institutes (sometimes too many Ph.D. students per director/professor). The possibilities of publishing during the Ph.D. period were discussed. The group thinks about organizing a Ph.D. student seminar for students in Humanities with the topic of "Conflict and Integration".

CPT

A lot of institutes have established PACs but there are different experiences with them. The duration of the Ph.D. was discussed and the necessity to have more data on the contract/stipend situation.

BM

Contracts and stipends are also an issue in this section. Furthermore there should be more transparency in terms of payment (different payment for the same work, different scholarships in one research group etc.). A guide for publishing is considered as helpful. Problems of foreign Ph.D. students in terms of visa and insurances should be dealt with. At about 1/3 of the institutes of the BM section represented at the meeting, writing up after the 3rd year is not paid.

The plenum decides to organize a MPS Ph.D. student conference on a topic to which each of the sections can contribute.

2 Friday, Nov. 25, 2005

2.1 Establishing working groups

Benno Quade as the PhDnet Spokesperson summarized briefly the open tasks for this year's General Assembly. Those are especially the elections of the new Spokesperson and the new Section Representatives and the formation of working groups. The latter was scheduled for the morning session. The established working groups are listed in Table 1. Four groups (Secretary, Meeting, Web and Seminar) were considered to be obligatory groups to ensure the basic work of the PhDnet.

Table 1

Group	Description	Contact person	E-mail
Secretary Group	Obligatory, administration and support of the network	Marc Schneider	Mschnei5@gwdg.de
Meeting Group	Obligatory, organization of the annual general meeting	Rainer Stollhoff	Rainer.Stollhoff@mis.mpg.de
Web Group	Obligatory, design and maintenance of the PhDnet website	Jochen Maydt	jmaydt@mpi-inf.mpg.de
Seminar Group	Obligatory, organization of soft skill and scientific seminars	Roland Graf	rgraf@gwdg.de
Questionnaire Group	Analysis of the recent survey, prepare a second survey	David Alich	alich@demogr.mpg.de
Alumni Group	Development of a system of communication and exchange for former PhD students	Andreas Bock	bock@mpi-magdeburg.mpg.de
Contract Group	Discuss situation of contracts at institutes and the MPS as a whole, compile information on alternative funding modi	Monica Leonte	leonte@cpfs.mpg.de
Event Group	Organization of an interdisciplinary MPS wide conference/ scientific event of student for students	Johanna Havemann	johanna.havemann@tuebingen.mpg.de

Some of the suggested groups were combined with the actually established groups:

- Booklet-for-starters Group → Secretary Group
- Fund-raising Group → Secretary Group

Other groups suggested did not get the simple majority of the meeting:

- IMPRS Group (how to integrate IMPRS students and non-German students)

At this point a discussion started on the procedure **how to establish a PhDnet working group**. We decided that working groups will be established by simple majority although there were votes against claiming that smaller groups should have the right to establish a working group with 'official' status to account for important topics that concern minorities mainly.

The working groups met separately after a coffee break (reports see Friday afternoon).

2.2 Talk and discussion on career trends

After lunch **Paul Smaglik** gave an unsubstantial talk on career trends in science. He is an editor of **naturejobs**, an international career magazine and internet platform for scientists. He highlighted the importance of accidents and coincidents in people's careers in presenting his own career. In a second part he drew a career matrix listing opportunities in science with an example of a student's plans. A discussion on career trends in Germany and other issues followed. <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs>

2.3 Elections

Candidates and votes (in parentheses):

Spokesperson: Franziska Korb (36), David Alich (10), Abstention (1)

Section Representative CPT: Konrad Tristram (10), Dominik Bauer (8), Abstention(1)

Section Representative BM: Verena Conrad (7), Kerstin Thein (6), Marc Schneider (4)

Section Representative HUM: David Alich (7), Saskia Freye (2)

Result:

Spokesperson: Franziska Korb (korb@cbs.mpg.de)

Section Representative of CPT: Konrad Tristram (tristram@mpia-hd.mpg.de)

Section Representative of BM: Verena Conrad (verena.conrad@tuebingen.mpg.de)

Section Representative of HUM: David Alich (alich@demogr.mpg.de)

The new Spokesperson Franziska Korb (Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig) took over the chair of the meeting.

2.4 Working group presentation (afternoon)

Seminar Group

Roland Graf (Biophysical chemistry, Göttingen) introduced the results of the Seminar Group meeting. Soft skill seminars were offered and held successfully in 2005. There was funding through the “Deutsche Bundesbank” (9500 EUR). Next year more seminars will be organized. Probably the Seminar Group will offer scientific presentation again, other suggestions are

- International (cross cultural) communication,
- Project management,
- Assessment center training
- Body language

The seminars will probably take place in Jena, Heidelberg, Mainz, München, Göttingen (2) and Magdeburg. Still the group is searching for funding possibilities and excellent trainers. Suggestions are welcome, please contact Roland.

There was a discussion on the procedure how the attendees are chosen from the list of applicants. The procedure will be made transparent on a ‘first come – first serve’ basis. The information for application will be published well in advance. Around one third of the places will be reserved for local students at the hosting institutes.

Secretary Group

Marc Schneider (Biophysical chemistry, Göttingen) presented ideas and decisions of the Secretary Group. The Secretary Group acts as a coordinating organ and helps the Spokesperson with the administration of the network. A major concern of the meeting participants is the way of communication within the network of representatives and from there to the broader network of Ph.D. students at the institutes. Establishing a mean to become active to participate in or even follow discussions is another goal of the Secretary Group. A PhDnet wide e-mail list would deliver information to many people in the network in very short time. The problem: students have become aware of the network and the mailing list first and in a second step subscribe themselves to the mailing list. The question was also raised how to establish such a list within the MPS mailing system. As a compromise for further communication it was suggested to keep two separate levels of communication: Ph.D. student representatives use the PhDnet with a small e-mail list for exchange among the representatives. Each institute should then have an internal e-mail list naming all Ph.D. students at the institute (many have established such a list, but some did not have). The keystone in the communication is still the representative at the institute and his/her connection

to the Secretary Group, Spokesperson or the PhDnet forum, respectively. The Secretary Group will establish an e-mail list of all Ph.D. student representatives. **The representatives should inform the Secretary Group in case of changes at the institutes (new representatives, e-mail change etc.).** Other tasks of the Secretary Group suggested by the working group will be:

- (1) To support the web group in finishing, launching and updating the new webpage of the PhDnet,
- (2) To prepare a booklet for new Ph.D. students (soon),
- (3) To prepare the Offspring issue 2006 (June),
- (4) To keep track of the PhDnet activities, meetings etc.,

Within the Secretary Group Dominik Bauer (MPQ, Garching) will search for funding opportunities and welcomes hints and comments.

Meeting Group

Rainer Stollhoff (Mathematics in Sciences, Leipzig) gave an overview of the plans of the next meeting in 2006. The meeting will take place in Leipzig, by coincidence the city where the new Spokesperson Franziska Korb is located. The date will be fixed soon (probably in November again) according to the calendar of the president Prof. Gruss to ensure his attendance. There was a debate and vote on whether or not to include again one day of the weekend in the meeting schedule. We opted for “Thursday to Saturday” with simple majority. However, the schedule will be more mixed than it was in former meetings: scientific talks and official sessions will alternate. The next meeting will include an excursion to Pongoland, an experimental zoo for primates in Leipzig. Suggestions for the scientific part (speakers, topics) are welcome, please contact Rainer.

Web Group

Jochen Maydt (Informatics, Saarbrücken) introduced ideas of the Web Group concerning the web page and the way of electronic communication within the PhDnet (see also Secretary Group). The former webpage of the PhDnet was updated and a new design and layout were established. The new pages will be launched soon (December 2005).

Questionnaire Group

Sabine Schnabel (Demographic Research, Rostock) represented the Questionnaire Group which plans a follow-up on the latest survey. The question was of special interest what kind

of data the network gives to the MPS, i.e. Prof. Gruss. The president is very interested in the results and we agreed that they should be published MPS internally soon. There was a big concern uttered by the representatives that the raw data could be traced back to individual students. The Questionnaire Group will aggregate the data in an appropriate way to exclude the risk of back tracing and write a report to be presented to MPS officials and Ph.D. students at the MPS.

Alumni Group

Andreas Bock (Dynamics of complex technical systems, Magdeburg) spoke on behalf the Alumni Group. The group plans to establish a database and forum of former Max-Planck PhD students. The alumni will have to contact the student representative of their former institute to get access. There will be an extra part of the new questionnaire for alumni with questions about their position and career.

Contract Group

Monica Leonte (Chemical Physics of Solids, Dresden) is the contact person of this group. The group discussed the situation of contracts and stipends at the institutes and the various ways how institutes pay their students. There are quite big differences within the MPS. Some institutes merely pay stipends to all their students (the MPS “Rundschreiben 93/2004” abolished the discrimination between foreign students and Germans; foreigners used to get stipends, Germans contracts), most institutes pay half of BAT IIa (in the TVöD it is E13 now), very few institutes pay full positions (for students from “Mangelfächer”).

The group will prepare a booklet comparing and evaluating the different ways of payment. The booklet will inform students applying for Ph.D. positions. Most often the student will not have the power to decide which kind of payment she/he will receive. But to be informed puts her/him into a much better position.

There was a discussion about how to reach applicants with this information. After having signed the contract, the information is not so important anymore. The job announcement should therefore not fix the kind of payment but the work interview should decide – on the basis of the individual situation – which payment is most appropriate for the student.

The group encourages all representatives to send information on individual cases and experience with this topic at the institutes of the MPS to the contract group.

Event Group

Johanna Havemann (Developmental Biology, Tübingen) is the speaker of the Event Group. She introduced a very first concept of an interdisciplinary conference to be held at a MPI in late 2006. The conference will invite experienced key note speakers who will contribute as well as selected Ph.D. students who apply with an abstract. The conference will last about two and a half days. More details will be worked out by the group later. The group presented five topics to choose from. The simple majority voted for **“Global Changes”**. Other suggestions were Equilibria, Symmetry, Methods of Science and Growth and Aging.

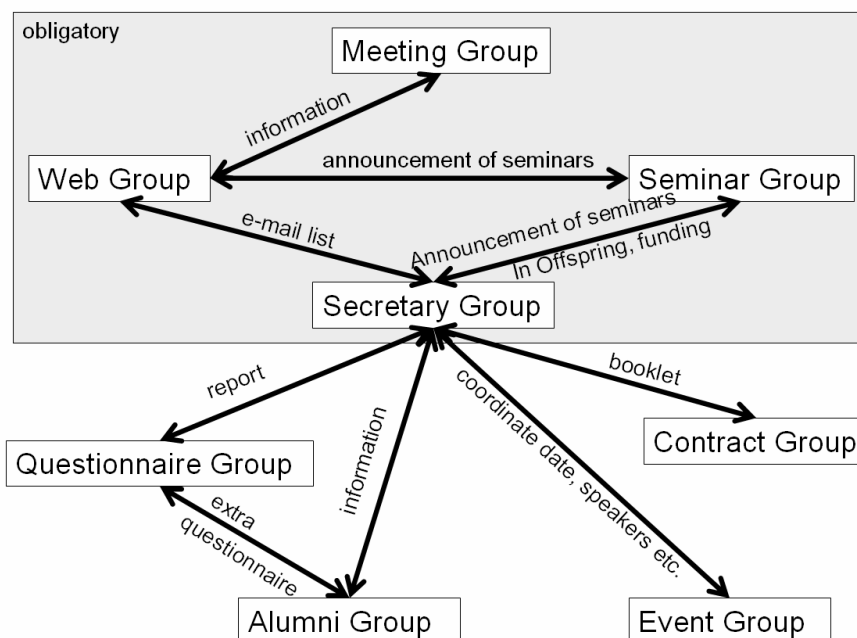


Figure 1: Overview of working groups.

2.5 Questions to the president

To prepare the short time of 60 minutes (probably 30 minutes of talk and 30 minutes for open discussion) with the president of the MPS, Prof. Gruss, on Saturday topics and questions were collected and discussed. There were quite long discussions and many topics were raised but the major results and questions were:

- Presentation of selected results of the Ph.D. student survey; duration of Ph.D. and appropriate payment; ask the president to comment on the fact that the average expected Ph.D. time is 3.6 years, funding only 3 years.

- What about payment for students who write up their thesis, some have to live on savings? What about more money in the third year?
- Ask whether or not there is a change in the policy of giving stipends and contracts; is there a raise to the bottom, i.e. all students receive lowest stipends only? The representatives figured out five institutes where this is the case!
- Will lower payment imply that excellent students will go elsewhere where payment is better?
- TVöD related questions: how to avoid that families will have less money?
- Cooperation between universities and MPIs: IMPRS concept successfully installed? What about the future “Exzellenz Cluster”?
- Problem of “Promotionsordnungen” at some universities that force Ph.D. students of MPIs to do teaching duties – unpaid and more than would be reasonable (MPI Ph.D. students do not refuse to teach! But it has to stay in a reasonable amount.)

2.6 Other issues (not ordered chronologically)

Before the meeting split up into the newly established working groups there was the **proposal to change the name** of the network “Max Planck PhDnet” into “Max Planck PhD alumni Net”. The proposal did not succeed. To the question of whether ‘PhD’ would sufficiently explain the members of this group for German speaking people, the answer was pointing to the suffix that is added to the German name of the network (“Max-Planck-Doktorandennetzwerk”).

Another topic was the degree of **participation of students** within the MPS. Benno Quade pointed out that there are some meetings students may attend like the “Münchner Runde“. Participation is also needed and should be encouraged on the institute level, although institute directors are not forced to allow such participation. Opportunities students have are:

- (1) *Betriebsrat*: It might be useful but they have a “bad” schedule of elections (elections are synchronized for all “Betriebsräte”, every 2 years) that makes it difficult for Ph.D. students to be elected during their Ph.D. and stay a whole period.
- (2) *Scientific Advisory Board (“Fachbeirat”)* meetings: There is a circular of the MPS that recommends having a time slot for discussion between Fachbeirat and students. This opportunity is an important one for students to express concerns and problems since the Fachbeirat will consider them in the report to the president.

- (3) *Science Executive Committee or similar boards*: These are institute boards consisting of directors other professors, senior researchers and student representative. Established at many institutes with different names, founded to increase information exchange between departments. Usually student representatives do not have a mandate but they are accepted without vote.

3 Saturday Nov. 26, 2005

3.1 Scientific Day - part I

9:00 - 10:00 am Presentation by Jean-Jacques Hublin from the MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig on "How fast did fossil hominids grow up?"

3.2 Visit of the President of the Max Planck Society Prof. Gruss

10:00 - 10:15 am Short greeting address by the director of the host institute MPI for Dynamics and Self-Organization - Prof. Geisel.

10:15-11:30 am Presentation and discussion with the president of the MPS Prof. Peter Gruss.

Prof. Gruss presented an overview of the activities of the MPS in terms of career development of the young scientists. He stressed the importance of the IMPRS and the relations with the universities as well as the initiatives taken by the German government like the "Exzellenz Cluster", "Pakt für Forschung". After his short presentation of 20 minutes David Alich (Demographic Research, Rostock) presented some preliminary results from the questionnaire. The Spokesperson Franziska Korb stated the concerns of the general assembly that some institutes use the regulations of the "Rundschreiben 93/2004" as an occasion of a "raise to the bottom" and assign scholarships to everybody. She informed the president of the network's plan to publish a booklet for the incoming Ph.D. students and about the concerns about the payment while writing up as well as about the heavy teaching loads of Ph.D. students at some institutes. Prof. Gruss was very interested in the results of the questionnaire and would like to receive the data. He said if the 3.6 years turn out to be the "real" duration of a Ph.D. thesis in the MPS, the society should bring forward these results to the BLK in order to initiate some changes. Gruss stressed that the institutes are independent of the society; therefore he cannot influence the directors in the contract/stipend issue. Mrs. Schiessler (from the GV) drew the attention to the MPS guidelines for young researchers where the teaching possibilities and loads are specified. Franziska informed Prof. Gruss about the interdisciplinary conference which is planned and he kindly offered the support of the Max Planck Society. After Prof. Gruss left Mrs. Schiessler made a few more remarks on the teaching regulations, the TVöD as a new contract for the Ph.D. students starting on a contract as of Oct. 1, 2005 and the fight of the MPS in order to be allowed to pay a bonus to the new contracts to bring TVöD back to the level of the old BAT.

3.3 *Scientific Day - part II*

- 12:00 - 12:45 Presentation about the Sun by Prof. Solanki from the MPI for Solar Systems research in Katlenburg-Lindau
- 2:00- 2:45 Presentation by Prof. Hoyningen-Huene from ZEWW University Hannover on the intrinsic limits of science
- 3:00 - 3:45 Presentation by Dr. Lenk from the University of Göttingen on patents in drug development

Discussion and closing of the meeting by the Section Representatives.

Appendix

List of Participants

Name	Institute	Place	Email
David Alich	Demographic Research	Rostock	alich@demogr.mpg.de
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Holger Hennig	Dynamics and self-organization	Göttingen	holgerh@chaos.gwdg.de
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Monica Elena Leonte	Chemical Physics of Solids	Dresden	leonte@cpfs.mpg.de
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Max Planck PhDnet (in German: Max-Planck-Doktorandennetzwerk)

Statute

negotiated by the preparing committee, on August 5, 2005
last modified and accepted on November 24, 2005

Preamble

The PhD students within the Max Planck Society (MPS) agree to establish a network in order to improve interdisciplinary cooperation, to optimize the PhD students education and scientific exchange and to strengthen team spirit.

1 Name

The name of the network is Max Planck PhDnet (in German: Max-Planck-Doktorandennetzwerk).

2 Language

The working language of the network is English.

3 Aims

The network aims to improve the qualification of all PhD students within the MPS by:

1. representing all PhD students to the MPS
2. organizing an annual meeting with a scientific program
3. publishing a PhD students journal ("Max Planck offspring"), at least once a year
4. organizing seminars to improve the PhD student's skills
5. bringing the queries of the PhD students before the President of the MPS

4 Legal form

The Max Planck PhDnet is an unincorporated association based on the personal responsibility of the elected Representatives.

5 The Organs

5.1 General assembly

The General Assembly shall determine the network's general strategic development. The members of the General Assembly are: the PhD Representatives of each Max Planck institute, the Spokesperson, the Section Representatives and the Working Group leaders. The General Assembly meets once a year during the General Meeting.

A protocol of the General Assembly's meeting has to be written and published on the PhDnet webpage not later than four weeks after the General Meeting.

5.1.1 Voting

Decisions of the General Assembly are made by simple majority; changes of this statute require a two third majority of the members of the General Assembly entitled to vote. Every institute present, the Spokesperson, the Section Representatives and the Working Group Leaders have one vote each, but only one vote per person.

5.2 Spokesperson

The Spokesperson (SP) represents and manages the PhDnet together with one of the Section Representatives. The Spokesperson is responsible for the internal and external communication of the PhDnet, especially the dialogue with the President of the MPS.

The Spokesperson is elected for one year by the General Assembly during the General Meeting and shall report about his work in front of the General Assembly during the General Meeting at the end of his term.

5.3 Section representatives

Section Representatives (SR) are responsible for the communication within the section and between the sections and the network. They promote the interdisciplinary scientific exchange and support the Spokesperson. One of the Section Representatives deputise the Spokesperson, when the Spokesperson is unable to act.

The General Assembly elects three Section Representatives (one for each section [CPT, BM and HUM]) during the General Meeting. Every Section Representative is elected by the PhD Representatives of the corresponding institutes of the respective section.

5.4 Working groups

The Working Groups discuss PhD student specific problems, work on solutions thereof and help to fulfil the aims of the PhD network. The following four Working Groups are permanently established:

1. Meeting Working Group (organisation of the annual General Meeting)
2. Secretary Working Group (administration and support of the network)
3. Seminar Working Group (organisation of soft skills and scientific seminars)
4. Web Working Group (design and maintenance of the PhDnet websites)

In addition the General Assembly can establish further Temporary Working Groups by simple majority. Every working group determines a Working Group Leader, who is responsible to the Spokesperson.

6 Entry into force

This statute enters into force the day after the General Assembly has accepted it by simple majority of the PhD Representatives present, the under this statute elected Spokesperson and the Section Representatives have signed it and it is published on the PhDnet website (www.phdnet.mpg.de).

The statute was accepted by the General Assembly during the General Meeting 2005 in Goettingen on November 24, 2005, (63 Yea [94 percent], 3 Nay [6 percent]).

Goettingen, November 25, 2005

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