



KTH Fysik

Department of Physics

Management Group meeting

Monday 23rd November 2020, 13.00-15.00. Zoom

Participants: Pär O, Mats W, Mats D, Bengt L-J, Bo C, Yulia M, Torbjörn B, Josefin L, Sevostian B, Nina K, Sefora D, Pavel K

Apologies: Mattias B

Agenda

KTH / SCI / AlbaNova

- **Corona**
 - New guidelines from rektor are out in response to the government declarations. No real change to how we work now. Keep distance, no crowding, immediate manager resolves office usage.
 - Teaching most strongly affected (all should be online except labs, even for VT21 – in brief – more on this by Torbjörn).
- **New director of AlbaNova**
 - We welcome the nomination (not yet formalized) of the new AlbaNova director!
- **Support staff at Albanova**
 - The support staff that works as AlbaNova employees will be transferred to SCI admin (instead of general GVS, as proposed first).
 - The implications are essentially that we approach a minimal perturbation solution.
- **Mechanical workshop**
 - Renewal of workshop agreement with SU underway. The likely solution is that the workshop remains with KTH at least for the coming 12 months, during which we will discuss if there is any benefit of a new or different organisation. SU Fysikum (tekn. avd.) would like to take over *huvudmannaskap* for the workshop. From Physics we do not want to change that which works.



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- **Rooms and premises**
 - A few processes are underway regarding office changes.
 - Complex issue involving SU, KTH and Akademiska Hus.
 - Rent costs will go up but we still (!) do not know by how much.
- **RAE 2021**
 - Process restarted. Negotiation (so to speak) of format. RAE as a central point next MGM.
 - Muhammet Toprak of Aphys will help Bengt as vice-coord. Problem med publication, adressd by phys and aphys

Department

- **Discussion points:**
 - **MK model for bokslut**
 - For GRU, the department-central model already fulfills the requirements from the president. No change needed.
 - All FoFU MK from 2019 or earlier remains at division level in separate accounts until they are used. They will not be filled by any incoming funds. Departure from this should only be enacted if the department has a total MK build-up in excess of 10% of the yearly budget, in which case special actions will be demanded from that division.
 - At future bokslut, all MK built up over the year from each division is transferred to one account at Department level, excepting Starting Grants and special Satsningar. We keep track of the amounts. When faculty funds are distributed from KTH->school->department, those funds are added to the distribution according to the following:
 - Negative balance is fully reversed
 - Positive balance is reversed in full up to 1 MSEK
 - Positive balance in excess of 1 MSEK is reversed at 90% level.
 - This model respects the president decision while maintaining a pragmatical and non-intrusive change with respect to before. A similar model will most probably be enacted at Aphys and EngMech as well.



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The management group lifted that the savings at the FoFU account are much needed as a filter for fluctuating external funding to compensate possible negative balance.

One comment regarding the suggested equal threshold of 1MSEK for all divisions is that: “It may work against equality because it can add advantages for divisions having a smaller external budget (due to smaller size or larger fraction of internal KTH funding) in favour of other divisions. The threshold and the fraction of removed savings can be numerically connected with the external part of the division budget, if we want to set equal conditions for different divisions.”

PO argues that applying other than an equal threshold will make the model almost useless and will not work in agreement with the President decision.

The Division Heads approved the proposal for the Physics Department. The model will, later on, be discussed further.

◦ **Faculty renewal**

- Potential paths for faculty renewal:
 - retirement replacement
 - external long/mid term significant support
 - called professors

- Support of *external* KAW/ERC fellows:
 - Internal and permanent is no issue, we will always support good candidates.
 - For external, or internal temporary, we need to be careful.
 - **Outcome of this year:** 4 applications (3 int male, 1 ext female). Only ext female passed: Andrea Sand of Helsinki University.

- Recruitment of new faculty should always be discussed at department level.

- We have a serious gender balance issue at leadership and faculty level and we need to do something to positively affect this

- If we do not allow for KAW or ERC recruitment channels, we may miss out on really good opportunities that



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work in favour of gender balance while respecting our central criteria of excellence (KAW has an in-built balancing system).

- **Proposals:**

- 1) Faculty-wide workshop/meeting to discuss long-term options and strategy.
- 2) My proposal: We support external (and internal non-permanent) female candidates, if deemed truly promising by division and department.

Chances of obtaining central support and even achieving an increase in base funding for such recruitments is *much higher* than for anything else (excepting called professors)

- **SCI-supported double recruitment**

- If, during a standard recruitment process to assistant professor, we end up with a second-ranked, but still clearly eligible and committee-supported female candidate, then we can ask SCI for support of 1.5 MSEK over 5 years for a double recruitment.
- To consider in such case for the long term:
 - work to achieve base funding extension
 - halt one upcoming retirement replacement

- **Information**

- **VR outcome**

- No grants to Physics.

- **Skyddsround 2020**

- Physical visit cancelled/postponed at last minute due to covid development

- Good discussion with Skyddsombud regarding the general state with no serious remarks. Waiting for protocol to come back.



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A survey will be distributed to staff regarding home-work during covid-19.

- **Outreach** (Josefin)

Outreach committee ready:

- Josefin Larsson (chair)
- Christian Ohm
- Mats Persson
- Jack Lidmar
- Dmitry Grishchenko
- Chong Wi
- Hongdi Wang

During Covid-regulations, few, if any, physical activities will be maintained. We could instead enhance remote activities (open lectures, broadcast public lectures, etc) to e.g. high schools.

- **Undergraduate education** (Torbjörn)

The SCI school acted quickly upon KTH new guidelines. Gunnar Tibert and Sandra Di Rocco held a meeting for all teachers November 20th informing the situation and KTH's new rules.

The rest of the semester will be held online, except for necessary labs.

The re-exams in December and exams in January will be online as well.

- **Ph.D. programme** (Mattias)

- Nominate to Oseenmedaljen – email sent out by Mattias to all supervisors of theses defended during 2020

- **Ph.D. student representative** (Yulia)

There is now a Ph.D representative from each division:

- Linda Eliasson (Nuclear Physics)

- Christel Sundberg (Medical Imaging)
- Andrea Ludovico Benfenati (Condensed Matter Theory)
- Yangli Chen (Nuclear Power Safety)
- Marcus Pernow (Particle and Astroparticle Physics)
- Yulia Mishchenko (Nuclear Engineering)



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The Group had a meeting recently discussing the subject of scholarship students extensions.

- **Physics administration** (Nina)

NP and NPS will have Sandra Stenmark as their division financial officer from January 1st 2021.

- **News from Divisions**

Nothing to report.

- **Personnel news**

- Postdoc, space research with UV-detector Mini-EUSO on space station (Christer F). S-2020-0302. Karl Bolman starting.
- Researcher, high-energy astro physics (Felix R) S-2020-0302. Zeynep Acuner starting?
- Postdoc (2 positions), experimental nuclear physics (Bo C). S-2020-0866. Aysegül starting 2020-10-01, Arshiya starting?
- Ph.D students (3 positions), nuclear engineering, thermal hydraulics and risk analysis (Pavel K & Dmitry G) S-2020-0527. Xicheng, Alireza starting? 3rd position status?
- Postdoc (2 positions), nuclear power safety (Walter V). S-2020-0814. Interviews.
- Ph.D student (2 positions), nuclear power safety and thermo hydraulic (Weimin M). S-2020-0800. Interviews
- Research assistant, commissioned development for X-ray astrophysics (Nirmal) S-2020-1571. Deadline: 2020-11-17. Interviews underway.
- Research assistant, development of Zeeman-effect simulator with Python (Chong Qi) S-2020-1560. Deadline: 2020-11-27

- Research assistant, development of Dirac equation solver (Chong Qi) S-2020-1561. Deadline: 2020-11-27



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- Ph.D, machine learning in nuclear technology (Dufek) S-2020-1554. Deadline: 2020-11-20. Interviews underway.
- Ph.D, nuclear physics (Denise & Pär) S-2020-1545. Deadline: 2020-11-18. Interviews underway.
- Research assistant, medical imaging (Mats P) S-2020-1545. Deadline: 2020-11-19. Interviews underway.

- **AOB**