



Minutes

Date
2025-02-27

Biology doctoral student council BDR

BDR meeting 2025-02-27

Present council members

Ashish Ashish, Rae Engert, Robin Pranter, Vivian Schmitt, Lydwin Freija Wagenaar

- 1 Start of the meeting
- 2 Choosing chair, secretary and minutes approving person
Chair: Ashish Ashish
Secretary: Rae Engert
Minutes verifier: Vivian Schmitt
Other attendees: Lydwin Freija Wagenaar, Robin Pranter
- 3 Approval of agenda
Rae read out the agenda of the day and the board approved.
Rae will prepare the next agenda and send to everyone before the next meeting
- 4 Minutes from the last meeting
In the previous meeting, suggestions for new courses on mental health, safety, social security for PhD students were made.
- 5 Announcements
New announcements from different boards:

FUN:

- We discuss the requirement for PhD students to report what you learned at a conference in a 2-page reflection. This will be brought up at the next FUN meeting. The need for only having to fill out one form instead of multiple individual forms found on different websites was emphasised.
- Preliminary results of PhD studies evaluation were discussed. Points discussed will be published once FUN committee published results. BDR members will urge FUN committee to take every point made into consideration, even when just a small number of PhD students were affected.
- BDR discussed that the role of the IR in ISP meeting should be more clear and IRs should act more unanimously. This will be brought up at the next FUN meeting.

6 People are leaving BDR, and new and returning members should learn how to conduct the meetings

- Someone in BDR is supposed to attend at least 1 NDR meeting per semester.
- BDR serves PhD interests and not doing work for the university, so we have a right to have representation in FUN, GUN, HMS, library, and DB (Department Board) but shouldn't be required to do this.
- Meeting minutes will be sent to minute verifier. After minutes are verified, minutes are sent to Inger.
- During the meeting, the person to prepare the next agenda is decided on. The agenda is sent to all biology PhD students and invites them to the next meeting

7 Need to recruit more people into BDR, especially new students

8 Guest lecturer 2025

We cannot invite someone from outside of Europe, and the most popular one has declined, so it is postponed if Ashish doesn't get a positive response from the only other person

9 Permanent reminders

- Late autumn - call for nominations of guest lecturer
- Early spring - check with current PhD-representatives in the various organs if they want to keep their positions, and if not call for new representatives and nominate these for election through NDR. Elections take place in April/May with a changeover in positions in July.
- January and September - after scheduling the coming semester's meetings invite the prefect and the vice prefect to join one of the meetings. Remove this permanent reminder. We can ask for a meeting with the prefect (Jessica) when needed. Rae can join the department board (email NDR).

10 Intro PhD event and other events organised by BDR

- BDR intro: info and meet & greet (once per year: rename?)
- BDR invited speaker (once per year): PhD students can nominate researcher to give the Thursday seminar by department board?
- Last year: BDR and FUN joint event/invited speaker (once per year if we ask)
- BDR writing retreat? (self paid)

11 Other issues

12 Next meeting

TBD, we will meet every 2-3 months. Next meeting in late April/early May

Secretary

Rae Engert

Minutes approving person

Chair of meeting

Vivan Smitt

Ashish Ashish