

Minutes of the WAPS meeting of Tuesday 1st of December 2009, 15.30 h

Present: Ane-Marie Closter, Krista Engelsma (chair), Marije Oostindjer, Anouk Schurink, Anne Wientjes, Irene Walstra (minutes), Nazir Khan, Sonja de Vries and Harma Berends

Absent: Myrthe Maurice-Van Eijndhoven

1. Opening

Krista opens the meeting at 16.30 h and welcomes everybody

2. Minutes last meeting

No comments

3. WIAS Education Committee meeting

- WIAS courses are announced very late, which causes problems for PhD's (especially sandwich) to plan and follow courses. Marianne Bruining will ask chair groups to give an overview of courses given each 1 year. Sonja suggests whether it is a good idea to give a list of previous courses given in the past 3 years or so, so that could give an indication which courses are given each year and when. This is what's done at other graduate schools as well. This will be an **action point** to mention to the EC.
- There is a discussion about the connection and integration of the Research master within WIAS. Marije explains that the main points in this discussion are about giving waivers to PhD's that did the RMC. Also the discussion is about involving PhD students in the RMC. This year PhD students reviewed research proposals written by RMC students, and afterwards they got feedback on it. Next year a course will probably be organized about proposal writing during the RMC which is useful for both PhD's and MSc's.
- Krista asks about the Ethics course. Marije explains that the committee has just set the learning goals for this course and all they need for now is a teacher to give the course.

4. WIAS board meeting

- One of the remarks of PhD students in the peer review was about their supervision. Perhaps it is interesting to talk to PhD's what they think about their supervision.
- The introduction and discussion in the PhD thesis should be of good quality and be independent pieces of work. The WAPS thinks that before PhD's are able to do this, the board should come up with regulations about the content etc. of the intro and discussion, because what they say now is just too vague.

5. Wageningen PhD council meeting

- Marianne Bruining and Ane will go and talk about the TSP uniformity discussion.
- The ethics course was discussed. Some graduate schools don't see the need of an Ethics course and therefore the new course should be useful for PhD students of different graduate schools.
- PhD supervision. There is a discussion about the quality of supervision and also about the supervision load of supervisors. There are now 60 supervisors

and 140 PhD students. The WAPS agreed that it could be useful to make a survey to send to the PhD students. Ane will discuss this idea with Marianne Bruining.

- The PhD party will be held at the 12th of March, 3 das after the WUR Science day. The WAPS is still concerned about the content of the WUR Science day but we will wait and see.

6. Accie

Anne says the dinner and pool night was nice and 10 PhD student attended. Ideas for a next activity during an introduction course were lasergaming, bowling or another nice lunch, like the American Lunch earlier this year.

7. WAPS internet site

No comments

8. PhD retreat

It is not going well. Kor is very busy and Irene doesn't see anything happening in the near future. Also she does not want to be the one organizing everything anyway. It was discussed whether it would be a good idea to have a retreat within the graduate school, in the Netherlands. We could talk to Bas Kemp whether there is money for this.

9. WIAS science day

All is going well, registration will probably open in two weeks from now.

10. WUR Science day

Already discussed

11. Important dates

No important dates

12. Miscellaneous

Krista want to know about the composition of the WAPS for next year.

Krista: stops as chair but will still be a WAPS member

Myrthe: Will hopefully be chair and will stay in the EC

Ane: Will leave the WAPS mid February

Marije: Will quit the EC and be in the WPC

Irene: Will quit the EC and stay general member

Nazir: will be leaving the WAPS

Anouk: remains website host and is considering another task

Sonja de Vries: will consider WAPS participation, but will probably wait for 1 year

Harma Berends will join the WAPS and be an EC member.

That leaves the function of secretary open for the moment. All members will ask around for people wanting to join the WAPS council.

The date of the next meeting is **february 2nd 2010 at 15.30 h**