April 16, 2018: minutes of the meeting

Present: Cécile Hébert, Olivier Lévêque, Carlotta Guiducci, Giovanni Boero, Jamila Sam, Robert West, Daniel Gatica-Perez, Christopher Plummer, Irène Vogel Chevroulet, Silvia Hostettler, Simone Deparis.


Agenda of the meeting:

1- approval of the agenda
2- approval of last meeting’s minutes
3- position statement on the new teaching regulations for PhD students
4- visit of the KdL on April 27th
5- special accommodations for students (Simone Deparis)
6- regulations on exams’ consultations (Simone Deparis)
7- MAN (Simone Deparis & CH)
8- proposition to use the Forum Rolex as a teaching auditorium (O. Lévêque)
9- varia

Due to lack of time, points 6 and 7 are reported to the next meeting.

Minutes:

The meeting is opened by Cécile Hebert at 12:15 PM.

1- The agenda is approved.

2- The minutes of the meeting of March 1, 2018 are approved.

3- Multiple viewpoints are expressed on the question. Three main conclusions are drawn from the discussion, which are reported in the corresponding position statement:

- Sections should be able to decide independently on the teaching load of a PhD student, according to their needs.
- Correspondingly, a uniform rule of 25 ECTS for all PhD students EPFL is not appropriate.
- ECTS are not the best way to measure teaching load; alternative measures could be envisioned.
4- Cecile Hebert reminds the list of participants to the meeting as well as the schedule of the meeting.

5- Simone Deparis exposes the current situation and recent modifications made with the special accommodations for the students:

- Some procedures will be simplified (e.g., a single email will be sent to the teachers, with the list of all students involved).
- Medical certificates should come from specialists and not generalists.
- It will be suggested to teachers to group these students in a single room during exams, in order to simplify the logistics.

Jamila Sam and other members mention that some of these accommodations are really difficult to implement in practice:

- Having a scribe for a project: how to be sure that the scribe does not do a fair amount of the project in place of the student?
- Students who need someone to read the problem sets during exams.

It is suggested that in some situations, organizing a separated oral exam can be easier to implement than the proposed accommodations. The teacher should be allowed to decide what he/she judges best for the exam, in agreement with the student.

6- skipped

7- skipped

8- Olivier Leveque proposes to write a letter to the VPE with the above mentioned proposition. The members present agree. [A letter has been sent to the VPE on May 8, 2018]

9- none

**The meeting is closed at 13:45**

OL / 8.5.2018