

Board meeting

Monday, April 25, 2005, at 13.00
DataCity A, 2nd floor, TY Neuvotteluhuone 3

Items of the agenda

1. Validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum
2. Additional items
3. Study reports (Gustafsson)
4. Permission to conduct remote work (Donner)
5. Beginning of studies postponed for Hongxiu Li (Gustafsson)
6. High quality education units (Aspnäs)
7. New director for TUCS (Järvi)
8. The premises for an IT-faculty or the concentration of information technology to the faculty of KTF (Järvi)
9. Announcements
 - 9.1 Minutes of TUCS board meeting of March 14, 2005
 - 9.2 Fulbright grants for universities and polytechnics
 - 9.3 Evaluation of doctoral education
 - 9.4 The ICT achievement award

Board meeting

Monday, April 25, 2005, at 13.00
DataCity A, 2nd floor, TY Neuvotteluhuone 3

Present:

Members of the board:

Ralph-Johan Back, Prof., Chair
Christer Carlsson, Prof.
Juhani Karhumäki, Prof. (left during item 7)
Markku Nurminen, Prof.
Reima Suomi, Prof., Vice-Chair
Eugen Czeizler, Ph.D. Student
Henry Lönnbäck, M.Sc. Student

TUCS staff:

Timo Järvi, Prof., Director, Presenting Officer
Mats Aspnäs, Coordinator, Presenting Officer
Christel Donner, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer, Secretary of the meeting
Ulrika Gustafsson, Administrative Officer, Presenting Officer
Venja Lehtikari, Administrative Officer

1. Validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum

The notice of a board meeting has to be sent three weekdays before the meeting takes place. The meeting must be valid and the members present have to constitute a quorum. The meeting constitutes a quorum when the chairman and at least five members of the board are present.

The notice of this board meeting was sent on April 20, 2005.

Proposal: The validity of the meeting and presence of a quorum will be recorded.

Decision: According to proposal.

2. Additional items

The agenda of possible additional items will be handed out in the beginning of the meeting.

Proposal: Possible additional items will be presented.

Decision: The announcement items 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 were added to the agenda.

3. Study reports (Gustafsson)

TUCS Graduate School Committee proposes the continuation or termination of TUCS status and financing for TUCS Ph.D. students according to appendix 1/03/05. Appendix 2/03/05 includes additional information about eight students, for whom the Graduate

School Committee didn't make any proposals. Proposals concerning these students are made by Gustafsson in appendix 1/03/05.

The Graduate School Committee observed that the evaluation scale (1-5) had been applied in different ways by different supervisors. In many cases the Graduate School Committee thought that the supervisor had given too high marks. The committee also pointed out that the starting phase generally takes too much time.

The students will be informed about the continuation or termination of their financing/student status by e-mail. The decisions will take effect on September 1, 2005.

Appendices: 1/03/05 Study reports summary
2/03/05 Additional information about eight students
3/03/05 Salary/grant positions
4/03/05 Financing statistics

Proposal: TUCS board approves the proposal of the TUCS Graduate School Committee and Gustafsson for continuation or termination of TUCS status and financing for the TUCS Ph.D. students according to the appendix 1/03/05.

Decision: The Board approved the proposal found in appendix 1/03/05 with some additional clarifications, which are included in appendix 1a/03/05.

Ph.D. student Eugen Czeizler was not present during the handling of his and Elena Czeizlers study reports.

4. Permission to conduct remote work (Donner)

Ph.D. student Anu Nikkanen has sent an application to TUCS Board and she is asking for permission to conduct remote work. Nikkanen started in TUCS Graduate School in January 2002 and she has been on TUCS salary since the start.

Since September 2004, Nikkanen has worked part-time on her research. She has worked 3 days a week on her research with TUCS salary (60%) and the rest of the week she has worked as a teacher in Pori. This arrangement will come to an end 29.4.2005.

On the board meeting held March 14th, 2005 the Board emphasized, that the basic principle is that the students should work in the premises of TUCS; thereby they are also contributing to the TUCS research environment. A student strengthens a research group best if he/she works in close co-operation with other members of the group. Permission to work at a distance has to be applied for and can, in some cases, be admitted for a limited time.

Appendices: 5/03/05 Anu Nikkanen's application
6/03/05 The statement of supervisor Matti Jutila

Proposal: The Board will give its permission to Anu Nikkanen to conduct remote work for three days a week during the time period of May 1st, 2005 until September 30th, 2005. During this time period Nikkanen has to work in the premises of TUCS for two days a week. After this time period a new decision has to be made.

Decision: The Chair of the Board, Ralph-Johan Back, made a motion that the Board will not approve the application. Christer Carlsson seconded the motion.

The Board voted on the issue and three members (Czeizler, Karhumäki and Lönnbäck) seconded the original proposal. Four members (Back, Carlsson, Nurminen and Suomi) voted for the motion made by Back.

Based on the result of the voting, the Board decided not to approve the application. The permission to conduct remote work was not given.

5. Beginning of studies postponed for Hongxiu Li (Gustafsson)

At the board meeting on June 16th, 2004 Hongxiu Li (Chinese citizen) was accepted to TUCS Graduate School (with TUCS Status). The original plan was that she would start her studies in September 2004. Due to personal matters (appendix 7/03/05) she wasn't able to start her studies in the autumn but she would now be able to start in July 2005.

The basic rule is that a new student should start his/her studies within six months of the expected starting date, but since Li has a good reason for not being able to start her studies earlier, an exception could be made.

Appendix: 7/03/05 The certificate

Proposal: Hongxiu Li has to arrive in Finland and start her studies before September 1st, 2005.

Decision: According to proposal.

6. High quality education units (Aspnäs)

The Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (Korkeakoulujen arviointineuvosto) will appoint at most 20 high quality educational units for the period 2007-2009. Units that are interested in applying should inform the university administration thereof and appoint a contact person for the application by 13.5.2005. The letter from the Evaluation Council to the universities can be found in appendix 8/03/05.

TUCS applied for status as a high quality educational unit for the period 2004-2006 in October 2002. The decision from the Evaluation Council was negative.

Since the application in 2002, TUCS has not shown any clear improvement in the criteria that are used to select the high quality educational units (listed in the appendix).

Appendix: 8/03/05 The letter from the Evaluation Council

Proposal: TUCS will not, this time, apply for the status as a high quality educational unit.

Decision: According to proposal.

7. New director for TUCS (Järvi)

As known, I shall retire from September 1st 2005. TUCS' direction and department heads discussed the future of TUCS and different administration models for it.

A first conclusion was that the scientific profile of TUCS should be improved. The administrative structure of TUCS could better reflect this goal. Also changes in Åbo

Akademi University's organization indicate needs for reorganization of TUCS. Two departments in three faculties will probably be united into either a single department or faculty.

The possible changes motivate a need for good director. We are mainly interested of a full-time director with active research career and leadership experience. In this case we could do away with the part-time coordinator office in summer 2006 when the ICT building will be ready. On the other hand, if only a part-time director is available, the present structure with a part-time coordinator can be preserved.

In any case, TUCS should ask Åbo Akademi University to announce for the open position of the director of TUCS. According to the statutes of TUCS Åbo Akademi University appoints the director for at most five years period after having got statements from the University of Turku and Turku School of Economics and Business Administration. No specific competence requirement is stated.

Appendix: The Statutes of TUCS ([in Finnish](#) and [in Swedish](#))

Proposal: The board presents the opening of a director office for a 5 years period September 1st 2005 – August 31st 2010 to Åbo Akademi University.

Decision: According to proposal.

8. The premises for an IT-faculty or the concentration of information technology to the faculty of KTF (Järvi)

A working group at Åbo Akademi proposes an administrative change in the faculty in relation to the information technology. This change concerns the re-organisation of three IT-subjects into a new entity. Two different organizational models have been proposed and Åbo Akademi has asked for a statement.

Appendices: [9/03/05](#) The report given by a work group in Åbo Akademi University
[10/03/05](#) A proposal for TUCS statement

Proposal: The board gives a statement according to the appendix [10/03/05](#).

Decision: Minor changes were made to the statement and the final statement can be found in appendix [10a/03/05](#). Henry Lönnbäck supported the technical faculty model, but his motion was not seconded. Lönnbäck made a dissenting opinion, which can be found in appendix [11/03/05](#).

9. Announcements

9.1 [Minutes of TUCS board meeting of March 14, 2005](#)

9.2 [Fulbright grants for universities and polytechnics](#)

Fulbright Center awards grants for universities and polytechnics to host American lecturers and specialists. The grant periods available range from a few days up to a full academic year. The grants are awarded for all fields except Medicine. More information can be found at <http://www.fulbright.fi/>

The department of Mathematics at University of Turku is applying for a grant.

9.3 Evaluation of doctoral education

Åbo Akademi University has chosen TUCS Graduate School to be part of a national evaluation of the doctoral education. The evaluation will be done by The Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council.

9.4 The ICT achievement award

The ICT achievement award was honoured to Timo Järvi by Turku Chamber of Commerce ICT committee and The New Technology Foundation at the seminar "Teema 2005" held April 15th 2005.

Turku, May 2nd, 2005

Ralph-Johan Back
Chairman of the Board

Timo Järvi
Director

Christel Donner
Administrative Officer

Ulrika Gustafsson
Administrative Officer

Mats Aspnäs
Coordinator