

## Minutes VLAG PhD Council June 23rd, 2005 ( Canteen of Biotechnion, 16h-17h)

Present: Jeroen Knol, Eline Klaassens, Nathalie Creusot, Hilde Ruis, Rinke Stienstra

### 1. Minutes from last meeting

No comment.

### 2. News/Announcements

#### News from VLAG

- An email has been sent by Yvonne Smolders to inform all the VLAG-PhDs about new courses that are available.
- After the successful first Intermediar PhD Career Event in June 2005, the second event will take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of may 2006. Early registration is necessary since the last event was attended by more then 600 people.

#### 3. News from WPC

- The new rules for contract extension have still not been approved. However, the union supports the initial proposal that has been made.
- It has become clear that there is a difference in financial reward for PhD research. These differences in salary are between 800 euro per month to a normal PhD salary. Our conclusion is that it will be difficult to do something about it since different universities and organizations are involved.
- It would be interesting to organize an information day about printing your dissertation. Several companies can be invited and present their possibilities, prices and more.

### 4. VLAG PhD council meetings

We decided to meet only once every three months instead of once every two months. Important things can be sent by email.

### 5. Duration of PhD research

In documents released by PNN (Promovendi Netwerk Nederland) it was reported that the duration of a PhD is getting much longer. We conclude that their information is unclear and it is difficult to find out how they came up with these numbers. Jeroen will also ask Fre about the average duration of a PhD at VLAG.

### 6. VLAG PhD Party

The VLAG PhD party was a success. Although less people came to the party then the year before (50 people instead of 70), everything went well. The budget that was available for the party was not exceeded.

It is suggested that it might be a good idea to organize a party next year together with the other graduate schools. By doing this, more people will be attending the party.

At the next WPC meeting, we can ask the other graduate schools if they are interested and if they have some budget available to organize a party.

## 7. Questions/remarks

At the next WPC meeting, Eline or Hilde will replace Jeroen.

Next meeting: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 16.00, Canteen of biotechnion.

Rinke