

To PhD utvalg & MatNat Faculty, UiO

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Application for changes to PhD procedures

In the past 15 years, I have had quite a few PhD students successfully defending their theses. In addition, I served as administrator approximately once a year (or more). During these years, I experienced good communication with the administration. However, the procedures themselves are not optimal in at least 2 aspects, therefore I would be happy to see them revised:

- 1) To speed up the process and relieve some of the stress, I suggest that should become officially allowed to apply for a committee before the PhD thesis is handed in. If all other documents are handed in beforehand, the process could start immediately when the thesis is delivered, guarding us from unpleasant surprises and speeding up the process.
- 2) *Trial lecture*: If I correctly understand the rules, candidates who fail the trial lecture are currently not allowed to defend their thesis. This is problematic since it puts a lot of stress on the candidate, and undue pressure on the committee to approve the trial lecture. In my view, it would be better to allow for a make-up trial lecture judged by a local committee in case the first trial lecture is failed. Alternatively, one could already take the trial lecture much earlier, judged by a local committee, such that the thesis defense concentrates on the main point: that the candidate has performed high-quality research and can defend it.

I would be happy to discuss these suggestions with you.

Sincerely yours,



(Prof. Ute Kregel)



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