Instructions for the chair of a licentiate seminar

A chairperson is appointed for each individual licentiate seminar. The chair for the public defence of a licentiate thesis must have a doctoral degree and must be an academically qualified university teacher/researcher at Umeå University, but not one of the supervisors. The doctoral student’s examiner may be appointed as the chairperson. The faculty’s Director of Studies for third cycle courses and programmes appoints the chairperson.

Licentiate seminar

The licentiate seminar can be conducted in either Swedish or English, and generally conforms to the following format:

1) The chair welcomes the audience and introduces the author of the thesis, the licentiate thesis itself, the external reviewer, and the members of the examining committee, and briefly describes what will happen.
2) The author of the thesis is given the opportunity to inform the audience of any corrections made to the thesis.
3) The external reviewer provides a brief overview of the scientific area and places the student’s results in a wider context.
4) The author of the thesis presents his/her thesis.
5) The external reviewer and the author of the thesis carry on a scientific debate on the various parts of the thesis.
6) The examining committee discusses the thesis with its author.
7) Before the seminar ends, the audience is offered the opportunity to put questions to the author of the thesis.

Should any member of the examining committee fail to appear at the beginning of the licentiate seminar, the chairperson is entitled to appoint a suitable replacement from among the representatives of academia in the audience.

Should the external reviewer fail to appear at the beginning of the seminar, the chairperson is entitled to appoint a member of the examining committee as his/her replacement. A suitable replacement for this member of the examining committee will then be appointed from among the representatives of academia in the audience.

After the external reviewer’s presentation of the licentiate thesis, the chair gives the floor to the members of the examining committee. After the questions from the examining committee have been dealt with, the audience is given the opportunity to ask questions. When there are no further questions from the external reviewer, examining committee, or the audience, the chairperson concludes the seminar.

Examining committee meeting

The examining committee convenes directly after the end of the seminar. The chair of the seminar and supervisor(s) are entitled to attend and participate in the deliberations of the examining committee, but not to participate in its decision.