

First of all, I would like to thank the members of this year's PVC, Nick Bezhanishvili, Raquel Fernández (chair), Christian Schaffner, and Daniel Wiechmann, for the time and energy they have invested in the committee, and Tanja Kassenaar for the support from the ILLC office.

Second, concerning the concrete recommendations of the PVC 2016, here is the response of the ILLC management:

1. We are very supportive of the first recommendation which asks the PhD Programme director to organize regular staff meetings where the general rights and duties of PhD supervisors can be discussed and best practices can be shared. A first meeting took place in May 2016 and was overall considered successful. Such staff meetings can indeed take place on a more regular basis.
2. The encouragement of PhD candidates to signal any supervision problem is fully in line with the encouragement of open dialogues that the ILLC management supports. When problems are signaled early on, one can still take action in time.
3. All expectations regarding the time investment and published research output should indeed be clear at the start of a PhD track. This is an example of an item that can be discussed at a future staff meeting in order to raise the awareness about this issue among the supervisors.
4. Both PhD candidates and supervisors need to be fully aware of the importance and the goal of the 'pilot study' and the procedures surrounding the first-year assessment meeting. The ILLC asks the PhD programme director to think of ways that can help clarify the procedural steps. In the meantime the PhD programme director has already designed a new portal for supervisors and candidates in which all the administrative steps are presented in a new clear schematic overview. In addition, more information about the goal of the first-year evaluation meeting has been provided on the PhD programme website and this can further be communicated to the PhD council and the supervisors during staff meetings, see <https://www.illc.uva.nl/PhDProgramme/current-candidates/procedures/year1.html#assessment>
5. The ILLC management agrees that the old OBP form has been in need of revision. The old OBP form didn't serve the purpose of providing a full plan that is kept up-to-date during a candidate's PhD track. New online forms have been designed in the meantime and are in test-phase. The goal is to have a useful tool that supports both the candidate and the supervisors during a candidate's PhD track.
6. The ILLC management agrees that the opportunity of foreign research visits should be fully on the radar of both the supervisors and candidates, as such visits bring in very valuable experience which is crucial for a candidate's possible future career (both inside and outside academia). However, there is no additional budget available from ILLC for research visits, other than the regular annual travel budget provided by project funding or direct funding, depending on how the PhDs position is funded. Possible sources for extra funding should be explored, e.g. UvA375 grants or suchlike. In the meantime the PhD programme director has added information about this on website of the ILLC PhD programme: <https://www.illc.uva.nl/PhDProgramme/current-candidates/training/academic.html>
7. New rules for industrial internships are now in place.
8. The ILLC management agrees with the fact that the PhD Programme needs to continue to improve the quality of the skill courses. What type of methods are to be adopted to evaluate the courses and to gain feedback is a matter of practical organization/implementation and is left to the PhD programme director to decide. In

the past we have taken informal feedback as well as official written evaluations into account. The ILLC management is aware that announcing the timetable for all the skill courses a long time in advance is difficult because the teaching constraints are not known in a very early stage, yet we work on improving the planning so that it can all be announced as early as possible.

9. We will follow this recommendation and make sure that the communication with all PhD candidates runs a bit smoother. The PhD programme director has organized an information meeting to inform all candidates about the quantification system of the teaching tasks. The current regulations on teaching are now available online:: <https://www.illc.uva.nl/PhDProgramme/current-candidates/training/teaching.html>. This TA-quantification system will be evaluated after it has been in place for at least one year. Indeed the procedure of this evaluation as well as the effects of its outcome will be communicated in advance to the ILLC PhD community.
10. In line with the new regulations of funding agencies and the procedures at UvA, the ILLC is in the process of designing a research data management plan. The needs of the computing infrastructure of the research teams to which a PhD candidate belongs, are taken into account in this plan.
11. The website of the PhD programme is one of the main sources of information for new PhD candidates. If information is lacking or unclear then we will see to it that the website gets updated.
12. The management team will indeed take the remarks about the need for more meeting rooms, the size of the kitchen, the number of power plugs, food options at Science Park, the sound system in the seminar room etc. into account. However, our ability to influence or alter (some of) these facilities is limited.
13. The ILLC management will ask for an evaluation of the PVC process after the next edition takes place in May 2017. Now that the questionnaire is in place and the new system has been designed, we'll ask the next PVC committee to run it one more time in this new format so we have a solid ground to conduct a full evaluation of the new PVC procedure.