PhD Union report for the HTU university assembly meeting on 20.10.2026

Follow-up activities concerning the PhD Union's position paper: "Sexual harassment and sexualised violence at Graz University of Technology", October 2025:

- Meeting with awaKado at HTU Graz on 2nd of July: Status quo of awareness-work at HTU, targets, next steps, responsibilities, schedule
- Meeting with AKGleich at Uni Graz on 4th of August: project Luis*a, implementation, experience exchange, impact and outcomes
- Meeting with awaKado at HTU Graz on 4th of September: J. Harden reported on past meetings, outlook to next steps to implement awareness measures throughout the entire organisation of HTU, how to establish inter-university cooperation
- Next concrete steps are planned to create a inter-university self-help-group but also to find allies in society and politics to strengthen the power of that initiative.
- Position paper, english version: https://htugraz.at/fileadmin/STV_DOKTORAT/Documents/positionpaper_phd_union_march_2026_translation_en.pdf
- Position paper, german version: https://htugraz.at/fileadmin/STV_DOKTORAT/Documents/positionspapier_phd_union_oktober_2025.pdf

Trophy for the prize for outstanding PhD supervision

- Draft created by J. Harden in May and June 2026 was finally approved by the rectorate. The trophy's sculpture will probably be 3D printed using direct metal laser sintering. The pedestal will be made of marble.
- The jury met on 30th of September and awarded one PhD supervisor to be the first winner of that prize. Two more persons will receive a recognition award.
- The awarding ceremony takes place on 17th of November in the course with the awarding ceremony for the prize for excellent teaching in the Aula at Old Campus.
- All materials related to the prize for outstanding PhD supervision will be published by J. Harden on 17th of November under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license at the repository of TU Graz.

Regular Boards

- Taskforce Doktorat: The working group "Abschlußquote Doktoratsstudien" presented a estimation/calculation scheme to estimate the statistical numbers needed. A few refinements need still to be made and will be incorporated until the next taskforce meeting. First results will

hopefully be presented in the the next taskforce meeting scheduled for 23rd of November but also in a subsequent senate meeting.

- Participation in working group "AG LV-Evaluierung - evasys" (J. Harden). Strange things are happening, much to the detriment of the students and the taxpayer.
- Active membership in the IT-Strategy-Board (J. Harden), next meeting on 3rd of November 2026
- Curricula commission member nomination: R. Schwarzl, full member of the commission, has successfully finished his PhD (congratulations from the PhD Union). Furthermore, M. Reichelt, deputy member of the commission, also finished his PhD successfully (congratulations from the PhD Union). The PhD Union recommends that the Chair of the HTU nominate the following full members: Anna Paulik, Eva Kogler. Furthermore, the PhD Union recommends to nominate the following deputy members: Jakob Harden.

Past events

- PhD Union summer seminar: organisation and preparation for the last part of term of service until the student's union elections in May 2027. We had few participants, fruitful discussions, excellent ideas, but made little decisions. These are made during the upcoming regular PhD Union meetings.

Upcoming events

- Crafting Workshop on 21st of October 2026 at 5pm, HTU meeting room, hosted by A. Paulik and J. Harden, sign up: https://cloud.htugraz.at/apps/forms/s/D6rmfi2nedWNngi8xaNxBdwz
- Bouldering event on 10th of November 2026, Bloc house, hosted by B. Kantz, sign up: https://cloud.htugraz.at/apps/forms/s/oEbjbL4R9DMa4QXPzXN26QaS
- Vineyard rally planned, date not set yet.
- Vibrant Spa exploration (corporate event with other student representations), date not set yet.
- DocTales (Presentations, discussion, networking) planned for January 2027. Preparation will start in mid of November. Speakers are welcome to apply to giving a short talk. Contact: jakob.harden@htugraz.at

Any other business

- BiPol networking meeting on 29th of June: participants J. Harden, R. Schwarzl
- XIV Unite! Dialogue Days: KTH Stockholm, 12th to 15th October 2026. J. Harden represented the doctoral students at TU Graz in his role as member of Unite! SURE. The local student's union right to have a say withing the student representation of Unite! is a topic to be further discussed within the HTU. Anther student union (ULisboa) made a claim for more power within the Unite! Alliance and Unite! SURE.