PhD disputation - Department of Mathematics (MI)

There are general guidelines for the work of the PhD adjudication committee, and the disputation (public defense). This information is sent to all committee members initially, see also https://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/phd/thesis-adjudication/trial-public-defense.html

In addition we have the following short guidelines at MI; there is some flexibility in these guidelines:

- The trial lecture of the candidate lasts 45 min., and normally there are no questions/comments.
- The disputation usually lasts about 1.5–2 hours, and the structure is:
  1. The moderator reads an opening speech (5 min), and also announces the next speaker throughout the event.
  2. The candidate presents her/his work: 30 min.
  3. The first opponent talks about the work and the area (“puts the work into an international context”) and gives her/his evaluation of the work; 10–15 min. Then the first opponent presents questions to the candidate based on the different parts of the thesis: this questions/answers/discussion typically lasts 20–30 min.
  4. Then the second opponent gives an evaluation/general comments on the work and then presents questions, so again questions/answers/discussion. Typically this lasts 20–30 min.
  5. The moderator asks if there are question ex auditorio, and the committee leaves the room to decide if the defense was satisfactory (so, yes or no). Then the committee returns and the moderator announces the (usually positive) result, and says some concluding words.

Finally, the committee concludes some paper work (report on the disputation).

Erlend Wold, Head of PhD committee
Geir Dahl, Head of Department