

# DION board meeting – minutes

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*Time: Tuesday 12 June 2012 from 10:00 to 12:00*

*Place: Sentralbygg II, 5<sup>th</sup> floor*

*Present: Julien Bourrelle, Magnus Steigedal, Espen Wefring, Lars Bungum, Lise Randeberg, Åsa Hoem, Kirsti Jensen (chair and minutes)*

## 1 NTNU board meeting Wednesday 13 June

Julien and Magnus raised the following issues for discussion:

### **S-sak 22/12 NTNUs system for kvalitetssikring av utdanning**

The documents say that the PhDs education is to be integrated in the quality insurance processes, meaning that the PhDs should be involved in the continuous quality work. However, DION's members have little to no experience with this being the case, apart from the annual reporting from supervisors and candidates. We thus have some expectations about the implementation on the more aggregate level, including the selection and quality of courses.

### **S-sak 23/12 Melding om kvaliteten på utdanningsvirksomheten ved NTNU i 2011 og**

### **S-sak 24/12 Studieprogramportefølje-endringer 2013/2014**

International master degrees constitute a challenge, because the background of the students is quite varied and hard to assess in advance. DION also has some concerns about the motivation for establishing some of the international programs; they represent a splendid opportunity of realizing NTNU's ambition to become internationally outstanding, but only if the quality of the courses are a real priority.

### **S-sak 25/12 Veiledning om bedømmelse av norske doktorgrader**

As interesting as it is, the suggested changes are in line with the regulations that were passed by the Board earlier this year, and we still agree. We are also looking forward to seeing the English version ☺

### **S-sak 26/12 Universitetsavisa**

Universitetsavisa should perhaps consider using English from time to time?

### **O-sak 6/12 Nasjonale fagevalueringer**

The usefulness of these evaluations are experienced as quite varied, and they do not necessarily provide a good basis for improvement. Often, they are too superfluous and based on a somewhat more extended counting of publications. DION is thus skeptical towards using these evaluations as an indicator.

## 2 DION's annual meeting 2012

DION's annual meeting will have to be arranged in fall; the two pertinent points on the agenda are presentation of the annual report for 2011 and election of members to the DION Board. As discussed earlier, the annual meeting should try to team up with some

## Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU

other event in order to increase the turnout. Kirsti has been talking to the Info Department at NTNU and to Tekna, and has identified four events we could “piggyback on:”

- NTNU and Forskningsdagene are arranging Forsker Grand Prix at Studentersamfundet, Wednesday 26 September – we could probably have our annual meeting in an adjoining room before the event.
- NTNU is planning a new NTNU Party at Dragvoll in October – we could e.g. arrange a PhD Pre-Party with annual meeting in advance.
- Tekna is planning an event/conference on research policy, challenging major actors in politics and industry on what they need all these new PhDs for, i.e. what our careers will look like, and how that corresponds to the education as it is set up now. Date is not set yet, but this would be an interesting event for DION in any case. We could arrange our annual meeting before or after the conference.
- Tekna is also planning a meeting more on the internal workings of the PhD and how we can be better at recruiting the best candidates; why people quit, why they stay, and how it could be improved.

The annual meeting should be in conjunction with the big Tekna meeting, since this is a political event. However, we should use the Forsker Grand Prix to arrange a “have a beer with DION pre-party.”

### 3 Pedagogical training for PhDs and temporary employees

NTNU’s deans meeting treated an ambition about pedagogical training for all employees yesterday; hopefully, they have decided to go for it and we will be contacted by Kirsti Rye Ramberg for further comments.

### 4 A.o.b

- Julien has been to the SiN annual meeting and is now a member of the Board.
- Lars raised an issue from the Forskningsutvalg: should the defense be held uniquely at NTNU, or should candidates that have their employment at other places be allowed to have their defense at their own workplace? Given the ceremonial reasons for the public defense, it should be in the academic environment. Which environment is the most proper one for a given thesis, might however vary somewhat.
- There was ceremonial eating of cake, celebrating the end of the academic year and the end of Julien’s service on the NTNU Board.