

Minutes of DION board meeting.

Time: Wednesday, 16 January 2013 1400 hours

Place: Meeting room E4-128 Fjell

Present: Julien S. Bourrelle (left during item 6/13), Kirsti Jensen (left during item 6/13), Philipp Spenhoff, Torbjørn Pedersen, Ahmet Oguz Tezel and Magnus Steigedal (left during item 6/13)

Minutes secretary: Inger Selven Watts

Item 1/13 Review and Approval Minutes December Meeting

The DION board had no objections, and we thank Cecilie Christensen Baar work well done.

Item 2/13 NTNU Board Meeting and Leader Seminar 21-22 January 2013

Magnus made a general introduction and raised some selected items for debate.

S-sak 2/13 Praksisforskrift for sivilingeniørutdanningen ved NTNU (Regulations of internship for master science at NTNU)

It has become increasingly difficult for master students of technology to obtain relevant apprenticeship during their study period. It is thus proposed that the regulation be changed from "studenter skal ha" to "studenter bør ha" a relevant experience of 12 week before graduation. Student will still need to do apprenticeship, but these do not "need" to be relevant to their field.

O-sak 01/13 Tildelingsbrev fra Kunnskapsdepartementet for 2013 – Orientering (Allotment letter from the Ministry of Education and Research for 2013 – Orientation)

The Ministry of Education and Research concludes that the number of temporary employees should decrease. NTNU has made a large contribution to decrease its number of temporary staff, but even so, the number is still too high.

DION stresses that it is the real number of temporary staff that must decrease and not just the figures in the statistics. PhDs and Post Docs should not be accounted for in the category temporary employees.

The Ministry of Education and Research writes that the research in professions like science, technology, medicine and psychology should increase.

It is argued during the meeting that it is important to increase the security of temporary academic staff and provide them with better opportunities to apply for permanent positions. A common problem is that the department cannot give teaching duties to temporary academic employees due to regulation of temporary employment. However, permanent academic positions require teaching experience.

Furthermore, the regulations currently in place which are supposed to help temporary employees to get permanent positions is counterproductive. It prevent them to get involved into long term projects and it prevents them from teaching or taking part into other relevant activities that are considered "permanent" (thus not allowed to be done by temporary employees) but which are pre-requirements for a permanent position.

Item 3/13 University Research Committee (Det Sentrale Forskningsutvalg) by Torbjørn

The Academic Administration (Studieavdelingen) is planning an offensive strategy to attract PhD Candidates to the NTNU. As a part of its campaign it has made a questionnaire for students. No more than 40 % of technology master students believed they would be more attractive to the job marked if they had been awarded a PhD.

Most replied that better wages would encourage him or her to start on a PhD.

DION would be interested to know how the survey was sent to the students and how many who replied.

Item 4/13 SiN Board Meeting

DION sponsors Tezel's fares with kr. 2000,-

Item 5/13 Discussions of Cases

❖ **Medvirkningsnotat (Partition note) by Kirsti**

DION stresses that temporary employees must have proper representation, and this is regardless of departments are led by a board or solely by a head of the department.

❖ **Letter: Foreign PhD Candidates Prevented to take Norwegian Language Courses at NTNU by Julien**

- Many PhDs are denied by their supervisor or department to attend Norwegian classes. Learning Norwegian is an important part of the integration into Norwegian society and encourages more researchers to remain. Julien presented a letter where he highlights the consequences of denying PhD Candidates the opportunity to learn Norwegian. The letter encourages faculties, departments and individual professors to change their attitude towards Norwegian learning for foreigners.

- Additional comments sent by members of the DION board must have been received by Julien within Sunday.

- The letter will be sent to Deans and the central administration.

❖ **Follow up on case on Stay Abroad deemed inadmissible by supervisor by Julien**

- ❖ Complainant dropped the case. Case closed

❖ **English Courses by Philipp**

DION knows that Stewart Clark runs courses for administrative staff and would like to make the university aware of the PhD Candidates need for access to English classes.

Item 6/13 DION Organizational Discussions

• **Letter of Intent STi-DION (Julien)**

Presidents of DION and Studenttinget have signed a letter of intent that will be signed by all future leaders.

• **Last Wednesdays: NTNU event for PhDs (Julien)**

A new event for PhD Candidates at Dokkhuset, Solsiden. It will be arranged every last Wednesday of the month.

• **DION Previous Status and contact with NTNU leadership (Kirsti, Julien)**

DION would like these meetings to reappear when new rector is employed. Kirsti has found minutes from past meetings.

• **Website Update Proposal (Torbjørn)**

Torbjørn is given access to the DION email list. Inger and Torbjørn meet at her office to learn more of DION achieve and website. Julien asks Studenttinget for access code to DION modules.

Torbjørn continues his work on the DION web site. FAQ site is not up to date. Torbjørn will ask Kirsti for help. We should have something on our web site that attracts new readers, but at the same time we have to be careful of what we publish.

Facebook and web site are important for our work. We have also reserved our name on Twitter and LinkedIN.

Inger reminds everyone at the meeting of or schedule via the Outlook calendar system.

Emails: Are there any sufficient alternative for communication among the DION board members?

- **Guideline Twitter-Facebook-LinkedIN (Torbjørn)**
- **Career day (Torbjørn, Tezel, Philipp)**
- **PhD Forum (Inger)**
- **Briefing on email list (Julien)**
- **Seminar: Hvordan oppnår universiteter forskningskvalitet? (Julien)**

Meeting ended: 1735 hours.

Julien S. Bourrelle/s/
President DION

Inger Selven Watts/s/
Minutes Secretary