

DION Board Meeting Minutes

Time: Thursday 14th March 2013 from 14:00 to 17:00

Place: SB1 Room 866

Present: Julien S. Bourrelle ,Philipp Spenhoff, Torbjørn Pedersen, Kristopher Langlie (until 16h), Karl Olssen (until 14h30)

1 Review Minutes February Meeting

2 Last Wednesday (kl14-kl1420)

Karl Olssen from NTNU's information department updated the board on the Last Wednesday (LW) events. The Last Wednesday are a series of event aimed at creating a recognise meeting point for PhD candidates at NTNU. It should be informative and a platform for socialisation. For the year 2013, the event is organised at Dokkhuset where 2-3 speakers are invited to speak about themes that are relevant for all PhD candidates at NTNU. Example of such themes includes academic writing, career path, the labour markets, union, inter-cultural understanding, etc. The event has already drawn interest from the media and other universities. The budget for the first year is XX NOK. It was discussed if one should sell stand for companies to reach out to PhD candidates during the socialising part of the event. This was welcome as a way to better finance the Last Wednesdays.

It is desirable that a formal collaboration between the information department and DION be set up where DION takes the following responsibilities:

1. Host the event (provide a host on stage for every LW)
2. Assist in finding relevant themes and speakers
3. Assist in reaching out to the PhDs candidates (Website, facebook, twitter)

The board agreed that DIONs takes upon itself these tasks. Karl will send a letter to DION to formalise the collaboration. NTNU is to take care of the event administration, finance and logistic (booking room, contact point for speakers, invitation for speakers, etc.).

Dion also indicated that publicity for the event will be done at the upcoming AGM and that it will be included in the strategy document currently being developed for DION.

3 NTNU board meeting (kl1420-kl15)

Magnus could not attend the meeting. The only cases of interest were about "medvirkning". DION already sent an opinion letter on the matter. The board cases were not discussed further , and most were not public.

4 Update from Committees and Seminar (kl1500-kl1530)

- **Central Research Committee (Torbjørn) [10 min]**

The primary agenda of the meeting was the PhD Quality Assurance System. The main focus was the quality assurance process itself, including reporting, information sharing and gathering, placement of responsibility, how to close the loops (make improvements), etc.

A secondary agenda was a minor revision of the PhD regulation. DMF has reported that there are some unbeneficial consequences of the role of the new host faculties of cross-faculty PhD programs. It is the host faculty making most of the decisions related to for example hiring and program approval of PhD students, even though the student might belong to another faculty. DMF has proposed that the main responsibility for such tasks lie with the home faculty.

- **UHR Research Committee (Julien) [10 min]**

The UHR research committee had an important case on phd education in Norway (Sak 03/13). The implementation of a national initiative to include strengthen the study planning of phd candidate was discuss, Julien took up the importance of including transferable skills in such plan and to made the plan non-binding. The attempt to remove the trial lecture from the mandatory part of the phd evaluation has been unanimously reject by SFU, SiN, DION agrees with the importance of the trial lecture.

- **NIFU Seminar “Internationalisation PhD Education” (Julien) [5 min]**

See summary in the « Internationalisation » folder on the Dropbox.

- **Meeting of the Deans 04.03 [5 min]**

Julien was invited as an observer for the case on PhD survey. Same as SFU from Torbjørn.

5 DION Organizational Discussions (kl1530-kl1630)

- **DION Status: Summary Meeting with Kari Melby and Ragnhild Lofthus (Julien)**

DION (Julien) met with NTNU leadership. Minutes from the meeting are available in the February 2013 folder. The meeting was hold to exchange information on different area and to discuss DION status. NTNU would like to receive a better description of what DION stand for, how it can be useful for the university and its financial needs. Julien is taking the lead in writing this document with inputs from the DION board.

- **Discussion about DION structure and way forward (Julien)**

The need for a document stating DION’s mandate and what the organisation stands for is needed. A general document including guidelines, statues, election processes and regulations is to be created. A workshop will take place on 19th March. Kristopher, Philipp, Torbjørn and Julien are attending.

- **DION AGM and Debate for candidate to NTNU Board Elections**

DION is to organise a debate for the candidate to NTNU Board election. This may or not take place at the AGM. To be discussed further.

- **Situation Update Administrative Support DION (*Confidential* - Julien)**
Julien updated the board.

6 Discussion of Cases (kl1630-kl1700)

- **Norwegian language learning & associated costs (Julien)**

It appears that the research budget may be forcedly used to pay for Norwegian course fees and computer. Torbjørn and others are looking into more details on the cost for Norwegian learning and computer.

- **Medvirkningsnotat (Julien)**

The Medvirkningsnotat was sent and Magnus informed about the discrepancies between the note and the board case.

- **English Learning**

Comment on structure and content for English learning should be provided by the board members that which to do so by 1st May.

7 Discussion upcoming events

- DION AGM 9th April 15h-17h (Julien)

8 A.o.b

The meeting is open to everyone.

Julien S. Bourrelle
President, DION