

DION board meeting – minutes

Time: 2013.08.26 10.00-12.00

Place: Trondheim, Hovedbygget H414, Gløshaugen

Present: Torbjørn Pederson, Kristoffer Langlie, Clara Good (minutes), Magnus Steigedal (temporary staff representative in NTNU board), Merete Falck (student representative in NTNU board)

1 NTNU board cases

- Magnus Steigedal presented relevant points from the NTNU board meeting
 - *Financial report:* The last budget orientation showed a quite large budget deficit (20 million NOK). To alleviate this, some planned activities (such as renovations) were postponed, and the numbers are now looking better. The board expects the finances to be on budget by the end of the year.
 - *Externally financed economic activities:* The external financing is at about the same level as last year. This seems a bit odd since the level of activities seem to have increased. An explanation to this is expected to come at a later NTNU board meeting.
 - *Campus development:* There was an update about the process so far. Note: the deadline for participation in the process (medvirkning) will be in September-October.
 - *Letter from KD (The Ministry of Education and Research):* The requirements from KD have changed from being specific to more overarching objectives for education in Norway (Note from Torbjørn: This happened a while ago). This means that the universities can set their own goals, and it has done the documents more readable.
 - KD is positive to the number of PhD candidates at NTNU, but concerned about the decreasing number of new PhD candidates. They suggest that NTNU finance PhD candidates with internal funding.
 - Temporary employment rate is low at NTNU, which is positive.
 - *Oral orientation about NOKUT:* The report to NOKUT is to be sent in by the end of September. Feedback is expected in January.

2 Last Wednesday

- September's Last Wednesday will be already on 18 September (so it is not really last Wednesday this time). The topic this time is "The art of networking". There will also hopefully be a PhD quiz with Dougie from Three Lions English Pub as quizmaster. Torbjørn, Margrethe, and possibly Kristoffer will attend the event.

- The next Last Wednesday is already in the planning phase, so there is a good chance to make an announcement early. The location this time will be Bær&Bar, which is smaller than Dokkhuset.

3 Changes to the University and University College Laws

- The proposal for changes related to the PhD education was discussed. None of the changes was considered to be very controversial.

4 Statement about “koking”

- A hearing about the attitudes towards “koking” has been sent out by Studenttinget.
 - “Koking” was defined as copying other students work (or a previous solution) in a course assignment. However, it was suggested that there may be some variation in the definition, and that this should have been included in the hearing.
 - Torbjørn Pedersen and Kristoffer Langlie have prepared an answer to the request for comments by Studenttinget. In general, DION’s view is that “koking” is problematic, since it will impair the learning of the students. In the long term, it may also damage the reputation of NTNU. The responsibility to prevent “koking” lies on each student, but the total load of courses over one semester could be better coordinated between teachers.

5 English Courseinteresseorganisasjon ved NTNU

- At the time of the meeting, there was no reply to the application for funding of an English oral course for PhDs.

6 Enquiries to DION

- DION got two enquiries from PhD candidates: one about the regulations for voluntary termination of the PhD contract, and one about lacking PhD supervision/guidance.
 - Torbjørn has replied to both enquiries, and has also gotten some input from former DION board member Kjersti.
 - There are some guidelines for what the PhD guidance should include.

7 DION administrative cases

- Representative in SFU
 - SFU will probably meet by the end of September. DION has one representative in SFU. The representative should be appointed on the internal workshop on 12 September. Kristoffer is interested to be the representative, and Torbjørn volunteered to be deputy representative.

DION

Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU

- Workshop
 - An internal workshop will be held in 12 September to finalize DION's organizational structure and statutes, as well as to determine the roles and responsibilities of the board members.

8 A. o. B.

- Nothing to discuss.

