

DION board meeting - minutes

Time: 3. December 2013, 08:30 – 11:00.

Place: H429b

Present: Torbjørn Pedersen (TB), Evert Bouman (EB), Ahmet Tezel (AT), Marthe Emelie Melandsø Buan (MB), Clara Good (CG) (notes), Magnus Steigedal (MS), Merete Falch (MF) (for item 1), Haakon Utby (HU) (for item 1)

Absent: Philipp Spenhoff (PS), Margrethe Nergard (MN)

1 NTNU Board Meeting

MS presented some of the cases for the NTNU board meeting 5 December 2013.

Some points from the budget and strategy (S-sak 63/13) were discussed:

- A proposal for a career development program. It was a bit unclear what the program included and how it is related to NTNU's "Stjerneprogram" ("Star Programme") for promising researchers. This will probably be clarified by the board next year.
- The development of a mandatory course on popular communication and publishing for PhD candidates. The importance of this type of publishing was discussed and the views of the benefits and drawbacks seemed to vary between disciplines.
- Instability in the number of PhD candidates – is this a problem or just natural fluctuation? TP raised the point that NTNU could stabilize the number if they put effort and money into it.
- Norwegian language courses. It is unclear if everyone who wants to get a place in the courses. There were discussions about how Norwegian courses should be organized. AT mentioned that there is an intensive summer course for Erasmus students, but others can join if there is space.

The point about temporary employees (S-sak 65/13) has been on the agenda since 2007.

Temporary employees in the context does not include PhDs and Post Docs (who are temporary by definition).

- This point has been on the agenda since 2007.
- Government and unions push for lowering the number of involuntary temporary contracts. At NTNU the fraction of temporary employees has gone down and NTNU is thereby doing better than other universities.
- Temporary employment causes an insecure situation for individuals.
- Forskerforbundet has suggested a policy for how to define the title of Post Doc so that it is reserved to prioritized areas for the faculties, and can thereby lead to a permanent position. If you are just hired for a temporary project, you should be called a researcher. The advantages and drawbacks of "Innstegsstillinger" (similar to tenure track) were discussed.

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- MS called for statistics from the faculties, instead of only averages. This could reveal differences in planning. MS also pointed out that it is important that temporary employees are allowed to qualify themselves for permanent positions. In some departments this is not allowed, since it will force the department to hire you. NTNU and unions should work together to counter this. Some actions are suggested, such as opening for teaching and guidance related to your project.

NTNU quality assurance system (O-sak 29/13)

- The PhD education is now included in the quality assurance program. PhD candidates can report issues at avvik.ntnu.no

2 Status updates

- Research Committee (formerly Central Research Committee)
 - Clara attended a meeting in the research committee on Monday 3 December. Minutes from this meeting will be available. Dion was invited since “Challenges of the PhD education” was one of the points on the agenda.
 - Some of the points that were discussed were.
 - Challenges and benefits of the rising number of foreign PhD candidates. Norwegian language education was discussed, as well as the need to include the foreign PhD candidates in university life.
 - How to increase the interest in PhD education from Norwegian students. The importance of a demand from industry and early stage outreach was stressed.
 - The number of PhD programs may be too large, and the faculties are looking into this.
 - The PhD handbook was considered important, but under-used. It should be revised and DION is invited to participate in the revision process.
 - The publication strategy of NTNU was also discussed. One general comment was that there is a difference between quality and quantity in publishing. To develop individual publication plan for each employee was also discussed. It was also pointed out that NTNU can fund open access publishing. More information can be found under “Publication” at Innsida.
- Tezel: outreach activities
 - Not discussed
- Prestasjonskonferansen
 - TP attended the conference in Oslo and will write and distribute minutes.
- SiN (MB)
 - SiN is working hard to be more visible
 - SiN has made a statement about “instegsstillinger”. They are a bit skeptical because it is undefined and there should be more strict rules for evaluation etc.
 - It is a problem for SiN that they don’t have people (or money) to send to participants to UHR working groups in Oslo (Working groups on career development, and internationalization) They have applied for funding by KD.
 - Local SiN groups have elections during the year. This makes it difficult to get consistency in the working groups.
 - AT is responsible for the SiN webpage

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- MB says that DION could learn much from TODOS and UiOdoc. TP points out that TODOS have 150 000 NOK annual funding, while DION has 15 000 NOK.
- LOP (All)
 - Remember to move already finished tasks to the tab for finished tasks.
 - AT has been answering some of the e-mails with questions from prospective PhD candidates. Everyone who answers emails addressed to “DION post” e-mail list should send a copy to the list when replying.
- Organizational Document
 - TP will update with the comments probably next week.
- Statement
 - TP has written a statement about the employee appraisal interview (medarbeidersamtale). It will be circulated again for final review
 - Forskerforbundet recommends using the employee appraisal interview to settle any unclear issues regarding the employment
- DION “Christmas” Party
 - The DION Christmas party will take place on Sunday 8th December at 19.00 at a restaurant in the city center.

3 Last Wednesday

TP and EB have had a meeting with Karl Olssen (KO) about the continuation of Last Wednesday. It was decided that the event will be continued, but it will require funding. DION has asked KO for a budget of 50 000-60 000 NOK for speakers and food/drinks
Possible localities: Samfundet, Bær & Bar, Suhmhuset.

4 Cooperation with student organization (ESN)

AT presented an idea for a possible cooperation with the three student organizations for international students: ESN – Exchange student network, ISU - International student union, ICOT – International Club of Trondheim (open to both international and Norwegian students). The organizations have a quite large combined budget. Funding is for all students – not specifically defined for foreign students. The organizations have previously competed against each other, but have now started to collaborate and divide activities between them.

Since many of the international students want to pursue a PhD the organizations want to collaborate with DION. AT pointed out that there are several benefits, as the students are already in Norway, they know NTNU, and can be interviewed “on site”.

AT suggested that the organizations can open activities to PhDs – e.g. advertise activities on DIONs webpage and vice versa. AT also suggested that DION could co-host events.

TP answered that DION is positive to sharing information about events, but it must be clearly stated that PhD candidates are invited (as PhD candidates are not students). DION can also co-host some events, for example PhD information seminars. However, since DION is mainly a political organization, it may not co-host purely social activities.

It was decided that AT will share information with CG, who will put it on DIONs facebook page.

5 Compensation for duty work

DION has been contacted by a PhD candidate who is going to be a “Village leader” (“landsbyleder”) for the Experts in Teamwork course. The PhD candidate was worried that the number of hours assigned for the task was too low. This task was not considered to be a “new” topic, and therefore only assigned a lower number of hours for preparation.

There was some discussion about how EiT work should be rewarded. It was decided that DION could ask for a clarifying statement about this.

It was also noted that the duty work is in general not well regulated and that the practice differs significantly between faculties and individual supervisors.

6 A.o.b

CG asked everyone to consider how DION can arrange regular meetings with the faculties’ representatives for temporary employees. A discussion about this will be taken up after Christmas.

