

# DION board meeting - minutes

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*Time: 20. January 2014, 09:00 – 11:30.*

*Place: H429b*

*Present: Torbjørn Pedersen (TB), Evert Bouman (EB), Ahmet Tezel (AT), Philipp Spenhoff (PS), Clara Good (CG), Kristoffer Lund Langlie (KL) (notes), Magnus Steigedal (MS), Merete Falch (MF) (for item 1), Haakon Utby (HU) (for item 1)*

*Absent: Marthe Emelie Melandsø Buan (MB), Margrethe Nergard (MN)*

## 1 NTNU Board Meeting

MS presented some of the cases for the NTNU board meeting 21/22 January 2014.

There were not that many cases up for the board this time. The following cases were discussed:

- The most important case for the NTNU board is the change of the board leader. Per-Kristian Foss has been replaced by the CEI of Hydro, Svein Richard Brandtzæg. The reason for Foss's departure is his due to his election to the appointment of Auditors General by the Storting.
- There are two items on the board's agenda. The first is regarding a change in the power of attorney for the general assembly of NTNU Samfunnsforskning AS og Senter for økonomisk styring AS (S-sak 1/14).
- The second item on the agenda is regarding revisions in the regulation for the degree *doctor philosophiae* at NTNU (S-sak 2/14).
- There were three orientation items on the agenda, where two were discussed by the DION board.
  - (O-sak 2/14): Of interest is "tildelingsbrevet" from the Ministry of Education and Research (KD), which will stipulate exactly how much funding NTNU will get in the coming year. NTNU sees more money in the revised budget, due to the change in government. These funds are mostly allocated to mathematics, the natural sciences, and the technology-oriented fields: both in education and in research. In terms of the government's priorities, we might see a further specialization in the future. We might also see a reduction in the amount of study programs and fields. KD expects that higher education institutions make sure the increased use of open access-solutions.
  - (O-sak 3/14): The last orientation item of note addresses the PHD education, the financing of new positions, and issues regarding foreign candidates. There are large fluctuations on the number of PHD candidates at NTNU. External

financing to NTNU from the Norwegian Research Council is stable. However, the cost of a PHD-degree has gone up, and some funds have been allocated to post.doc-positions. The number of other externally financed positions has also gone down dramatically. How big of a problem is this? TP raised the point that the numbers of PHD candidates fluctuates largely from year to year, and that too large numbers of new candidates also present a strain on the organization.

- A concern is the increasing number of foreign candidates, where NTNU has no knowledge on if these candidates stay in Norway after a completed degree. Some faculties have problems in recruiting the best Norwegian candidates. Fast track options and integrated PHDs were examples of measures taken to get the best candidates before they are recruited by industry actors. TP underlined that there still is a majority of Norwegian candidates, at least for completed degrees in 2012.
- Related: Recent statistics show that PHD candidates from the humanities faculty have less trouble getting a relevant job after a completed degree than earlier feared.

## 2 Status updates

- A) Last Wednesday:
  - There has not been made any decisions on budget for the coming year. There is talk about an amount between 40.000 and 60.000. TP added that if we get the funding, we should try to get 6-10 events per year. We should also allow for some more flexibility than last year. If so, we need a new name. EB stated that we should try to label the events more as a DION-event. Location, regular event times, the ideal target group (approx. 25% of the PHDs have children) were also discussed.
  - **Action Point:** As soon as the matter of funding is clear, we will hold a workshop on the future of DION's events. EB, TP, CG, and KL will participate.
- B) Forum for Faculty Representatives:
  - DION would appreciate more input from the representatives for the temporary academic employees in the faculty boards at NTNU. The faculty representatives themselves have indicated interest. DION will therefore work to formalize contact.
  - TP suggested that DION might hold a short seminar two times per semester. Possible topics include revisions of the PHD handbook, or election procedures to different boards at NTNU. CG added that faculty representatives may receive the agenda for every DION board meeting.
- C) Webpage:

- There is a need for revisions of DION's webpage. One option is to replace the whole system, but this is a big job, and we are unsure if we have the resources to do it now.
- D) LOP-updates:
  - Several items on the LOP are now in need of upgrading with regards to urgency levels. The creation of a DION Strategy plan is a priority.
  - Update information on DION webpage will be done in relation to the updating of the PhD handbook.
  - We need to create an information folder about DION in English, as well as work on the new graphical profile. In addition, CG and KL will collect department PHD mailing lists.

### 3 Activities coming up

- There are a number of activities coming up in 2014 that needs attention by the board of DION. Of note are the following:
  - The Annual General Meeting will be held in late April/early May.
  - Revisions of PhD handbook is also on the agenda.
  - NTNU elections: Elections to the NTNU board, as well as NTNU's respective faculty boards, and department boards will all be held during 2014. With substitute members, the total amount of representatives for the temporary academic employees totals at approximately 110 people? What role does DION have to play in these proceedings? NTNU is more interested that DION works to getting enough candidates in advance of the elections, rather than promoting candidates through debate during the elections.
  - TP/DION has been asked to represent the temporary academic employees in the Election Committee for the election of new candidates to the NTNU board.

### 4 PHD cases

- Updates to on-going PHD cases were discussed internally in the board. One issue that was discussed was on the compensation for lawful absence: How you calculate the length of leave after sick leave/pregnancy, etc., and the mandatory use of holidays? There is a chance that actual research time might be lost as a consequence. CG noted that it should be a matter of principle that one should not lose net research time. PS suggested that DION might formulate something to Tekna and Forskerforbundet. A matter of forced termination was also discussed by the board.

## 5 AoB

- Margrethe Nergaard is not with Tekna anymore. Invitation to attend board meetings has been sent to the new member, but he has not joined yet. TP will find out what kind of relation we will have with him in time.
- A new PHD-case was followed up in a closed meeting after the regular board meeting was finished. TP, KL, and CG attended.