

DION board meeting – minutes

Time: 20 may 2015 – 15:00

Place: Realfagsbygget R-E3-128

Present: Øyvind Storesund Hetland, Fernanda Acre Pacheco, Morten Stornes, Clara Good, Philipp Spenhoff, Elli Verhulst, Kam Sripada, Vegard Hagen, Hammad Majeed, Mohammad Saud Afzal, Alexander Busch, Shareq Mohd Nazir

Absent: Marthe Emilie Melandsø Buan

First 45 minutes: social dinner. Starting at approx. 16:15: Øyvind welcomed everyone and informed about the meeting objectives.

1. Presentation all around – Who are you? What is your strongest political passion at/for NTNU?

Everyone around the table made a short presentation of themselves:

Philipp: Has been a DION board member for three terms. Philipp worked on three different projects in the previous board term. Philipp wants the new board to continue these projects, but he will assist in a transitional period.

Fernanda: Faculty of architecture. Has been a DION board member for one year. “DION work is interesting because I experienced how lost we (PhD candidates) were when we started. A lot of things related to the position are obscure and unclear. Have experience with duty work problems myself. See this happening every year with the same problems. DION cannot solve everything, but we can do a little bit. Have mostly been involved with the revision of the PhD handbook with Morten. The goal of the revision was to make the information in the handbook clearer and more useful. The handbook revision is finished and the handbook will be released soon, but the website revision is not done. I hope the next board will continue to follow up the website revision. Wish you all good luck.”

Elli: Postdoc at the department of product design. “Happy to be a member of DION, and hope to better understand how the university works and know what is happening at the different levels at NTNU. My political “thing” is to represent the postdocs. One of the first things to do is to find out what the postdocs need and what we should do for them. I would like to help connecting people and connecting departments. Connecting research with the students. Interested in a lot of other areas. The merger is a huge case that we probably have to work a lot on. I have previous experience with a merger. Also interested in joint degrees, what are the rules. The rules at NTNU is very strict.”

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Shareq: Come from India. "My goal has been to end up at NTNU since 2008 and I love this place, and I love the department. Want to contribute as much as I can on whatever level I can. Want to focus on time spent to finish a PhD. What goes wrong when candidates use a long time to finish their PhD? Locate the issues and make them public. Jobs for people with a PhD. Want to create a forum for PhD candidates to upload CVs and present themselves."

Alex: From Germany. "Started the PhD in December last year. Have my office in the SINTEF building off campus. Was offended by the apparent level of chaos in certain fields. One example is the HR organisation of NTNU. In the beginning my case was handled by 5 people, and neither them nor me knew who was in charge of what. Want to contribute to order in the PhD teaching situation. Want to contribute to bettering working conditions for candidates with a family."

Has there been a poll amongst the PhD candidates to figure out what the interests of the PhD candidates are?

Clara: There was one survey amongst PhDs a few years ago.

Clara: Former president. PhD candidate at AB, engineer. Leaving the board after two years. Will be here at least until Christmas. I am here if you need any support on previous work. Looks like the new board will be really great. Language/soft skills may be a problem with the PhD contract. Are they supposed to give credit points or to be counted as duty work?

Morten: Has been at NTNU since 2007. PhD in physics. Joined DION one year ago. Was sent to SiN AGM and ended up as the president of SiN. Leaving both SiN and DION now, as his supervisor is moving to another university. This will be a challenge, and has to be prioritized. Will continue as an advisor to SiN.

Vegard: Masters in physics at NTNU. PhD at IVT. History with the student organisations. Some of them have very good connections with the industry, we should collaborate more with them. PhD budget. Wanted to join DION to keep informed.

Mohammad: Has been at NTNU since 2011, came here the first time as an exchange student. Some issues with the duty hours. My contract was three years, but could be extended to four years. Need to have clearer clauses on the possibility for duty work. PhD candidates do not have equal rights as the students ie. access to software, libraries etc.. I also want to look into issues regarding parental leave for PhDs.

Hammad: PhD in chemical engineering. Also did my masters at NTNU. Many good points mentioned earlier, but an addition is the lack of interdepartment communication which may lead to unnecessary work. Still have not seen the PhD handbook.

Kam: PhD in neuro science. "Many good points that has been brought up. One issue that I care about is that not all of the faculties are represented. It might help if we alternated on where to hold events. Finding jobs after the PhD may be an even bigger problem for people from Dragvoll."

Andreas: Is the administrative support for DION. I can help with administrative tasks, so that the board members can focus their time and energy on the politics.

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Øyvind: Looking forward to this year. Great that we have a Postdoc, and that we have two women. Great that we have people with kids and that we have a mix of Norwegians and foreigners. The work environment survey brought up problems for temporary scientific staff with kids in kindergarten, as they are somewhere in between students and employees. The DION board can work on anything we want as long as we feel that it represents all or most of the temporary scientific staff.

2. Introduction to the positions in the DION board (Øyvind)

The positions and the requirements are open to discussion.

The DION president should do approximately double the amount of the work the rest of the board does. The vice president has no such requirement. Regular board members (including the VP are compensated with one month, whereas the President is compensated with two months)

Suggestions:

- Technology/communications platform officer
- Event managers
- Outreach officer (SiN, Tekna, Forskerforbundet, The student parliament)
- Legislation officer.

Maybe we should have some kind of collaboration tool to not forget our ideas, and to keep continuity in our work.

The positions have not been emphasized in the previous board, people have mostly worked on the things they are interested in.

Øyvind will talk to the rectorate to “warn them” that the board now has eight members and there will be a lot of compensation at the end of the term.

Kam: there may be a problem with extending the residence permits. We should check with the UDI.

3. Introduction to DION (Øyvind)

Øyvind held a presentation similar to the one for new PhD candidates informing roughly what the purpose of DION is.

4. Open Points/Summary of last board term/Future work (Clara)

Clara presented the list of open points together with a short summary of what the previous board has done. Please see appendix.

- 10 min break -

5. Introduction to SiN

SiN president Morten Stormes gave a short presentation on what SiN is. SiN AGM is on May 28th from 10:00 until 17:00. Open to everyone. We need people to fill the new SiN board. It does not have to be someone from the DION board.

6. SiN AGM in Trondheim – Who, What, Where

Vegard Hagen and Hammad Majeed will be DIONs delegates at the AGM on Thursday. Øyvind and Clara will go to the seminar on Friday.

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7. Summary of the KD case that led to article in UA (Øyvind)

Øyvind quickly summarized the case and informed about the hearing.

8. Events - Funding, plan for the future, scope, goal (Øyvind/Marthe/all)

Fernanda: NTNU offer some courses in ie. English, academic writing etc. We could try to organize these as DION events. DION should try to find some speakers that are interesting to all PhDs no matter what subject they study. Lunch meetings could also be a good idea, because a lot of people have problems attending at nights.

Events were discussed for some time, and it was decided to focus on a “welcome”-event in August instead of a summer party.

9. Allocation of tasks to be done prior to next meeting & A.o.b (Any Other Business)

It was decided that DION should not organize an event until the fall.

The vice president and any other positions will be elected/appointed on the next board meeting

10. Next board meeting

To be decided via email and Doodle.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:40.

