

DION board meeting minutes

Time	Thursday, February 12, 13.15-15.30
Place	Gamle fysikk, room 217.
Present	Øyvind S. Hetland, Kam Sripada, Vegard Hagen Hammad Majeed, Mohammad Saud Afzal, Shareq Mohd Nazir
Absent	Elli Verhulst, , Alexander Busch,
Observers	Kim Allgot(NTNU Board), Britta Hale
Secretary	Kine Sørli

Agenda:

09/16 Welcome/ Øyvind

Øyvind wished the meeting participants welcome, and summarizes the agenda of today's meeting.

10/16 News from NTNU Board

Kim orients about the cases that the board are going to process on Monday 15th of February. The biggest case is the new organization of the faculties which is going to restructure NTNU.

- One of the biggest topics is how to structure the social sciences (SVT). What will the faculty of social sciences consist of? The debate in media is mainly about whether the economy environment should be a separate faculty and also whether the educational studies should be alone.
- What point of view does DION have on this topic? It's difficult to say how this will affect the PhD candidates, and especially the PhD candidates at large.
- How will the new structure affect working conditions for the PhD candidates? For example with regards to teaching, could it be a demand to teach outside the discipline?
- The department structure will be decided in August, but the faculty structure will give some directions on how it is going to be.
- Will the names of faculties and departments be an issue for the PhD candidates or postdocs?

The "conclusion" is that DION doesn't have any clear opinion on this topic, since it is difficult seeing how one faculty structure model will affect the overall interests for PhDs at large. There have not been anyone contacting DION regarding this topic on a local level, meaning that DION's best course of action might be to stay "neutral" on the matter.

The NTNU board is also going to decide on parts of the administrative structure for the new institution. A part of this theme is also how the leadership is going to be: how many pro rectors and vice rectors are there going to be? Rector has come with his recommendation on

this. There is a demand to cut in the administration from the Ministry of Education and Research due in 2019, and this will also affect the administration. How is NTNU going to structure the administrative support for the researchers, teachers?

11/16 Current issues in SiN

Vegard summarizes the current activities within SiN.

There has been a seminar with The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) where they discussed several topics, e.g. mobility among the PhD Candidates. Internal applications should be prioritized for postdocs. It should be more competitions to travel abroad.

- It was suggested to offer 2-year postdoc-positions, with the opportunity to extend the period. They want to standardize it more than it is now. The only reasons to get extend the period is it of you travel abroad.
- UHR wants to focus more on the status of education: dosen/lectors. Many get employed to do research and there is often less focus on the teaching part of the job.

There will be a SiN workshop next week. Hammad and Mohammad are going to participate as representatives from DION. "SiN workshop on cooperation and promotion, 18-19 Feb. @ NIH, Oslo"

12/16 Update on the Duty work and PhD Budget

Øyvind orients on behalf of Alex, who is absent but has communicated via email:

Project delayed, but progressing. Summaries expected in late Feb/early March.

Budget - Alex have covered 50 % of the budget analysis, Shareq has covered the other half, Alex will create a final summary/conclusion for that part until the end of February.

Duty work - Kine has agreed to support on the Duty Work analysis and has so far covered 50% of that.

Both summaries/conclusions will then be open for comments/discussion in the board. If we can agree on these summaries/conclusion we might present some findings for the NTNU Research Committee at the end of March and also update the FAQ section of the website accordingly.

13/16 Events

Kam orients about the "Love your research"-event that was arranged last night at DIGS.

It was a successful event and people gave positive feedback about the event. The speed dating is something we should develop and arrange something similar later. Approx. 35 people attended the event. Two speakers gave presentation on their research of love, and food was served in between the two main parts of the event. Most participants had actively signed up for the event by email.

There was a discussion about whether Digs are suitable for other events. It's perfect for events with approx. 40 people, and has a good atmosphere. The cost for rent is negotiable.

Future events:

- One event before Easter? We do not think that it is feasible to arrange a big event before Easter, but maybe a smaller event or similar.
- Is it possible to have the AGM back to back with a bigger event? Many different solutions were discussed, including having the AGM both before or after another social/informative/educational event.
- The purpose of the AGM is briefly summarized. It is currently scheduled for some time in the week of April 25th.

This will be followed up on next board meeting.

Next meet up:

It's suggested to have it on March 2nd or 3rd. The place might be Café Nim.

14/16 Dion's archive systems and economy

Kine orients about the "adventure of the accounting". There is still no solution on the case, but we are working with it, and temporary solutions are in place. In short, the formalities regarding k-sted and Kines fullmakt are a bit complicated.

Regarding archive systems, all the files are uploaded to the DION-network drive on "felles". All the more recent files are in the folder "Back-up". We should investigate new systems, and it is suggested to look closely at Sharepoint since NTNU is already using this system.

15/16 Dion active projects

Øyvind orients about ongoing projects.

The FAQ's on the website should be updated regularly by anyone involved with a project/correspondence/similar.

Unemployment for PhD's- Letter to NAV

Øyvind orients about the case according to questions about unemployment-money from NAV. The period after submitting the thesis can quickly turn into a grey zone: The question is how NAV is defining work on the follow-up of submitted articles/papers as paid work. Øyvind and Vegard will collaborate about this, since it is also of national interest, and write a letter to NAV. A local PhD at NTNU ended up having to deduct the number of hours he worked on a conference abstract and a paper re-submission from the "dagpenger" he got from NAV.

More details:

It would seem that the current regulations and practice is changing fairly rapidly, with several changes since 2011. PhD candidates waiting for their defense now have a right to be "evaluated individually" for dagpenger, but no work whatsoever can be done on the defense or thesis while dagpenger is being received. Dagpenger will automatically stop two weeks before the trial lecture, and will continue after the defense. This requires a statement from the candidates' supervisor, stating that the candidate is "not currently being supervised or working on the thesis".

In a recent case, we in DION learned that the local office of NAV in Trondheim first said that working on the review of some papers and preparations for a conference would be "ok", but after some investigation found that it would have to count as education, which is limited to

studies with 50% reduction in progression. Finally he was told that any work related to his PhD, anything, should be reported as work, with a specification of the number of hours used on such. This is reported every 14th day. He was then deducted that amount of hours from his payment of dagpenger (Unemployment benefits).

Semester card and registration

Øyvind has been in contact with Student service. The question is about however it is “ok” that PhD candidates get a semester card and pay the semester fee. All PhD candidates who take PhD courses can pay the semester fee and get the semester card, and then get the student discounts.

What policy should be valid? The international section doesn't want the PhD candidates to obtain student rights, apparently.

Some more information:

Student service informs us that any person registered with a PhD “right to study” can ask them personally to “create an invoice” which, if paid, will register the PhD Candidate as a “Student” and will generate a semester card. Access card with picture: NTNU Drift says that they, as of 2015, will generate a “split employee/student card” if, and only if, the person who asks for a new card is registered in “Paga” (the payroll system ++) as both a student and an employee. They don't know the details of whom is registered in such a way, neither does Student service.

The question is however the PhD candidates are defined as students or not. Øyvind will follow up on this case.

Language courses

Øyvind orients about an inquiry from the chief of international affairs in Studenttinget about language courses for PhD candidates and international students. Vegard and Shareq will proceed on this work.

PhD candidates in Gjøvik and earlier HiST.

There are some PhD candidates from Gjøvik that are going to Trondheim in march and they want to meet Dion. Øyvind and Hammad are going to collaborate on that.

Academic regalia

Britta orients.

Britta want to initiate a project about academic regalia where we look on academic dress code for formal events. NTNU has no formal rules about how to dress at ceremonies, with the exception of deans and similar. Around the world it's usual to have an academic regalia that shows what university you are from or what degree you got. There are some situations where it's demanded to dress in academic dress and this might pose a problem for NTNU alumni and similar who does not have such an attire available. Is it possible that NTNU can produce some examples that scientific employees can borrow for those purposes? Or will it be possible to make an official NTNU academic regalia, an official design?

Britta will follow up on this and take contact with NTNU alumni or similar – if we are to proceed with this case we need stronger arguments for its need and purpose.

The PhD ring

Øyvind orients. He hasn't got any answers from the company that makes the rings (AVS design). The company is the official supplier and it's not fortunate that the company is out of reach. Øyvind will continue with the case.

Øyvind: I have talked to Studentservice, and this has been a problem for several years. I have promised to let them know as soon as we find new information on the matter. An email was sent to AVS-design on the 31th of December 2015, but no answer has been received as of 11.02.2016. Tried to call on 11.02.2016, but could only reach an answering machine (Confirming that the number is for AVS Design). I sent a new email asking AVS to contact me on the 11.02.2016.

The graduation ceremony for PhDs

Øyvind and Shareq will participate.

Moving the website

Vegard and Øyvind will collaborate on moving the database of the website to an org.ntnu.no host. We will keep our current web address, however.

16/16 PhD cases

There haven't been any new cases reported to DION that are closed off for the public since the last DION meetings. Any further collaboration on ongoing cases will be done by email.

17/16 AoB

Next meeting will be before the next board meeting in March. Øyvind will send out a doodle.