Statutes for DION – Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU

1. Introduction

1.1. Scope of document
This document contains the statues of Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU (DION). See also DION - Purpose, Goals and Structure¹ for more information about DION.

1.2. Document version
This document was created during 2013 by the DION board of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 in preparation for the annual general meeting of 2014. The statues were approved at the DION annual general meeting 2014-04-23, pending some minor changes. The statues were revised again for the AGM 2017-05-10 and were approved with these changes at the AGM 2017.

1.3. Old statutes
The first version of the statues was approved by the DION annual general meeting in 2000, and can be found in the DION archives.

2. Statutes

2.1. Name
The name of the organization is “Doktorgradskandidatenes interesseorganisasjon ved NTNU”, usually abbreviated (DION). The English translation of the name is the “The Interest Organization for Doctoral Candidates at NTNU”. The organization was founded on 29 February 1996. The current logo(s) of DION may be retrieved from: org.ntnu.no/dion/logo/

2.2. Goal
DION shall be a resource and driving force for the joint interest of doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows (postdocs) and other temporary scientific employees (i.e., employees with temporary research contracts) at NTNU. In addition, DION should aim to promote the interests of other temporarily employed scientific staff.

The organization has the following main working areas:

1. Working conditions.
2. Quality of the doctoral education.
3. Economic issues.
4. Social benefits and integration.
5. Internationalization.

DION is free to prioritize other important issues for doctoral candidates, postdocs and other temporarily scientific employees.

2.3. Membership
DION has no official membership, but represents all registered doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows (postdocs) and other temporary scientific employees (i.e., employees with temporary research contracts) at NTNU. Any member can notify DION that they do not wish to be represented by the organization.

2.4. Annual general meeting (AGM)
A general meeting is held annually, normally during spring. All registered doctoral candidates, postdocs and other temporary scientific employees (i.e., employees with temporary research contracts) at NTNU have the right to attend the AGM. The AGM shall be announced on the DION web page, by email, and through NTNU’s official interactive channel ”Innsida” at least two weeks before the meeting is held. The meeting documents should be made available at least one week before the meeting.

The annual general meeting is the highest organ of DION. The meeting shall:

- Approve the board’s annual report.
- Approve the board’s annual financial statement.
- Elect a new leader.
- Elect a new board.

DION is an organization for the whole of NTNU. The elected board should ideally consist of members from most of the faculties and campuses at NTNU. It is also a goal of the organization to achieve a good gender balance between the members of the board if possible.

Board members (including the president) are elected for one (1) year at the time.

All doctoral candidates, postdocs or other temporary scientific employees (i.e., employees with temporary research contracts) at NTNU who have at least one (1) year remaining of their employment can be elected to positions in the board. Candidates who have reserved themselves from being represented by DION may not be elected to the board. There is a language requirement (advanced Norwegian proficiency) to sit in the positions of president and vice president, since the official meeting language of NTNU is Norwegian.

2.5. The election procedure
The president and board members are elected at the annual general meeting. The election is announced together with the annual general meeting. Ideally, candidates are announced before
the general meeting, but candidates can be nominated during the meeting itself. Candidates running for election must state which position they are running for (president or board member), and in which faculty and campus they are employed.

A president and a minimum of four (4) and maximum of seven (7) board members must be elected. The president is elected first, and a separate election is held for the remainder of the board. One of the board members shall be elected as the vice president by the board at the first DION board meeting after the AGM.

Considerations can be made if necessary to ensure diversity in the board. The results of the elections in the form of a list of all candidates and the corresponding number/percentage of votes should be made publicly available within 4 weeks after the AGM for transparency of the election process.

If the annual general meeting is unable to fill these positions the election is declared invalid, and a new election should be held within one (1) month.

2.6. Extraordinary general meeting
An extraordinary general meeting can be held if three (3) board members, or the smaller number of 100 representatives or 5 percent of the doctoral candidates, postdocs and other temporary scientific employees (i.e., employees with temporary research contracts) request this. The announcements should be made according to the normal procedures for the annual general meeting. Such a meeting should not treat any other cases than those part of the announced agenda.

2.7. Board
The DION board is responsible for the daily management of DION between the annual general meetings, as well as for preparing the required documents for the annual general meeting. These documents shall consist of:

- An annual report of DION’s activities.
- The current financial state, budget and proposed budget.
- An activity plan proposal for the coming board period.
- Election procedures

The board is entitled to replace board members between the annual general meetings if this is necessary. In case of large changes to the board, an extraordinary general meeting shall be held. A large change constitutes replacing more than one member during a time period of one month. A majority vote, more than half the board, is required to remove a board member. The DION board will nominate candidates to sit in the different committees, councils, and meetings where DION is represented.

2.8. Board meetings
DION board meetings should be announced no later than one (1) week before the meeting is held, including the agenda. Board meetings in DION are open to all doctoral candidates, postdocs, and other temporary academic employees at NTNU, union representatives and student representatives. Some parts of the meeting might only be open for the board and
explicitly invited representatives, for example in relation to personnel matters. The board meetings are announced at the website, in social channels, at Innsida (DION-channel), and to the DION’s newsletter.

In case board members are located at different campuses, DION will financially support travelling, according to the budget available. Attending the board meetings remotely should be an alternative to include board members that cannot be physically present at the meetings.

Minutes of the meeting shall be published no later than three (3) weeks after a meeting is held. A minimum of three (3) board members, including either the president or the vice president, must be present during any board meeting to make valid decisions.

2.9. **Sub-chapters of DION**

Sub-chapters of DION can be established at the different faculties if this is expedient. Any sub-chapter of DION should work with specific local agendas, for example:

- ☐ Issues on teaching and subjects.
- ☐ Representation in faculty or department committees.
- ☐ Social environment and integration strategies.

Sub-chapters are free to decide how they want to organize themselves and their activities.

2.10. **Change in statutes**

Changes in the statutes must be approved during the annual general meeting. Approval requires that a 2/3 majority of the attending representatives at the AGM supports the proposed change.