

DION Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 4th, 12:00 – 15:00

Place: Zoom and Kjemi 3.2 Møterom 240

Meeting chaired by: Idd Andrea

Attending: Idd Andrea, Elodie, Lisa, Masab, Faiga, Aida, Irina, and Ingvill (Staff representative at the NTNU Board)

Agenda

Welcome/ Meet and Greet

The meeting starts with a quick greeting and then Idd went through the agenda of the meeting.

1. Talk with Ingvill

Her goals as a representative at the NTNU Board

- To reinforce the democratic structures at the University
- Issues on diversity need to be raised
- Look into the situation regarding Temporary Positions

The board discussed the necessity of finding a list of representatives for the temporary staff at each department and faculty. From the NTNU Board, Ingvill informed the items being discussed were about the Campus Project, and future pathways for NTNU. Discussion about the DION board's general activities and concerns for this year was also carried out.

The topic of Norwegian language courses was brought up for consideration. Considering that the courses are structured for students, it is quite difficult for employees to take those along with doing full time research. Meanwhile, Gjøvik campus does not even have good facilities for their employees to take such a course.

The board invited Ingvill to come to future DION meetings for more discussions.

2. Brief from last meeting with the research council

PhD candidates in their last year were to apply for any extensions by 1st September, since the applications were now sent to the Ministry of Education. Maximum extension is 2 months, and it only applies if you had to be out of the lab for minimum two weeks. Postdocs are also allowed to apply. Discussion on this topic was carried out.

Idd will inform if the deadline has passed or not. If it has not, then DION can advertise about it.

Board members should reach out to people in their own department to see if they were aware about this deadline.

3. Survey update

Idd briefed the board about the survey creation, circulation and response. The survey has received 700+ responses so far. Unfortunately, not a lot of responses from Bergen still. Results will be looked at next week

4. Forskernatt in Trondheim

Academy for Young Researchers is conducting an event on 25th of September. They would like DION to have some contribution, and they also need a photographer. Lisa has a contact who can take up the photography assignment, and DION can compensate her via a gift card (Midtbyen Kort).

DION can also advertise about the event on our channels. The event is both physical and online.

5. Trondheim Pride

NTNU is planning an exhibition in Gløshaugen. Masab will contact the communications department to inquire if DION can be a part of it.

If that is not possible, DION can have a virtual campaign: change profile picture, post the hashtags, upload pics and statuses about pride.

6. Future social events

Past events:

- BBQ event: only one person in attendance
- Semester Kickoff: 6 people attended

Masab will contact Nina Kotte from Communications to inquire if it is allowed for DION to conduct some events with all infection control measures.

If allowed, the events that we can do are:

- Happy Hour Shuffleboard at Work-work
- Minigolf at Trondheim Habitat
- Bowling at Gjøvik and Trondheim (Sentrum Bowling)
- Movie Nights

Aida brought up communication and informing people about the reasons why DION isn't doing events. Post last year's pics as throwback and say we are looking forward to do more, once we can.

During the presentations in the faculties, we can mention that we will be doing mental health week.

Aida also recommended events such as photography competitions. A photography treasure hunt is a good idea. The board members can come up with a list of weird things. People can upload it with a particular hashtag, or send it to DION so we can make an album for it. The event will last for a month.

7. Mental Health Week

Elodie introduced the idea of Mental Health Week to the rest of the board, to ask if this board is willing to take up this idea too.

We could organize the event in small groups, with bigger budgets for Gjøvik and Ålesund that originally allocated. This could be done in November, when winter is starting, and the exam stress also starts.

For now, we can reach out to the different organizations (like OHS) and see where they stand on organizing this event. Elodie will reach out the ones in Trondheim. Irina will contact the person in Gjøvik who can give a workshop.

On innsida, For Gjøvik, it mentions that Stamina Helse can be contacted for the mental health services.

If Sit deems it safe, then the Pet therapy session could also be part of this mental health week. Sit can be asked if they can collaborate with DION for this.