

# DION Board Meeting Minutes (30.09.2021)

Date: September 30, 2021

Time: 1500 – 1700

Place: Vannkraftslaboratoriet 41 Gløshaugen and Teams

Invited: DION board members 2021/2022 and

*Forskerforbundet*, Present: Tord Mjøsund Talmo

*Tekna*, Present: Øystein Moen, Rune Sætre

*Tekna*, Digital: Lise Lyngsnes Randeberg, Idd Andrea Christensen

Attended: Martin, Regina, Siamak, Aida, Amanda, Ludwig, Olga and Payel (partly)

Meeting chair: Martin

Minutes by: Regina

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## 1) Opening and discussions with Tekna

### **Tekna's point of view:**

- a lot of emails from PhDs regarding e.g. how to be a PhD in Norway
- presumably due to the bad communication between different institutions
- Tekna becomes sort of a “Welcome to Norway organization” and it is not the purpose
- question to us, how do DION experiences this, which kind of questions do we get

### **Siamak (responsible for requests):**

- duty works
- teaching,
- follow up of master student if changing the status from PhD to researcher
- moving the office somewhere else
- we need some references to be able to reply properly, we don't have any authority to judge, we can only readdress

### **Ludwig:**

- increased visibility of DION as a first contact point

### **Regina:**

- has a feeling that now people know better about the existence of DION

### **Tekna's opinion:**

- NTNU is not good at providing enough information for permanent stuff and then especially not good enough for temporary stuff

### **Martin:**

- a kind of organizations map would be good, in order to know whom to address

**Tekna's question:**

- whether DION has meetings on a regular basis with NTNU's administration

**Martin:**

- not, we do not set the agenda of the meetings, we only reacting

**Tekna's question:**

- whether we get emails about conflicts and whom are PhDs are contacting in case they have some issues

**Regina:**

- we only know about whom is contacting us, but we try to tell people that they should contact us

**Tekna:**

- DION is close to PhDs, it is easier to contact us,
- however, Unions has the knowledge about how to solve different situations,
- better if we could work together, because we are much stronger if we are coordinated, if there are specific issues which we want to address
- in case we decide to have a closer contact with each other, we need to offering some training for the DION board since DION board is changing every year

**Ludwig** supports the idea

**Tekna:**

- example of the discussion about the possibilities to extend PhD period due to the COVID-19
- DION posted on Facebook the petition
- Tekna saw it
- however, we could have contacted them earlier, since Tekna worked for a year on this statement and we could have put our forces together
- so it could be avoided if we had collaboration
- other issues too e.g. research rights

**Martin:**

- conversation with a journalist about the extensions of the PhDs contracts due to COVID-19
- not that much people asking for it
- according to a survey in Oslo: approximately 80% of researchers had delay in their research and approximately only 300 got an extension
- DION is are trying to address the mental health issue and raise mental health awareness
- feeling that NTNU tries to make it less of a problem than it is
- NTNU says that they are worried too, but they don't take any steps

**Tekna's question:**

- what would be the real steps?

**DION members:**

- we do not have plan for now

**Regina:**

- we do not know about the offered services
- we do not get any notifications on NTNU

**Tekna:**

- Bedriftsheletjeneste, advertise for them,
- not everybody is a member of Tekna

**Regina:**

- advertise how to become a member of Tekna

**Martin:**

- now only we advertise for it in inquiries, but it is only a very small number of people becoming aware of it

**Tekna's solution/suggestion:**

- working closer together

**Martin:**

- on the first day of the Mental Health Week 2021 there are seminars
- possibility for Tekna to come and present themselves

**Tekna:**

- further issue of temporary positions
- some of them are very short period and especially confusing e.g. at the Medical Faculty

**Amanda:**

- how many internationals are in Tekna?

**Tekna:**

- do not have an exact number
- a lot of students were at the last meeting
- a lot of PostDocs haven't known that they can negotiate their salary

**Tekna:**

- tracking by how many people are signed up for the English language
- more young people, PhDs or temporary stuff
- network effect, everyone who is a member sees the advantages and tell the friends
- that it is the best way of recruiting
- Union is in contact with Prime minister and Union is important

**Tekna:**

- 2000 PhDs and half of them are members
- a lot of people think why to be a member if it only costs money
- it is definitely worth it
- if you are a student you are get a discount, so almost free and only advantages
- another issue: people come only if they get a problem and they suddenly want to become a member, but it is not how it should work

- people who are not members, they can come to DION but DION is on a different level, it is not directly meeting with Dean etc., but Tekna has a lot of power, it meets with people on a higher level and Tekna has even layers if needed
- publication fund was removed and no open access anymore, but it is very important for the researchers to be able to publish open access
- Campus Project issue: bad working conditions, 10 people are in the same office but it is not the optimal environment, tiny places, the meeting rooms being restructured to be offices

## 2) Previous protocol

ok

## 3) Previous events and work

### **Regina:**

- hike and mushroom hunt were a great success, people enjoying going to the events
- currently unequal distribution of the workload in the context of the event organization
- some board members haven't been involved in the event organization at all or only very little (for example, Ludwig, Martin)
- that is not okay and something needs to be done about it

### **Ludwig and Martin:**

- would like to contribute to the event organization, however, a lot things to do

### **Regina:**

- it is understandable, but everybody of us has a lot things to do
- by deciding to be a board member of DION, we all committed to put some effort and time into it

### **Aida:**

- experience from the previous board
- someone of us should be responsible for the whole months for example
- somebody is present in Norway and can be physically present at the event
- the other ones who do not have time to be physically present during the event or are not in Norway at that time, have to make the work behind the scenes

### **Suggestion:**

- Make the excel sheet, where we document the work that was done by whom, e.g. communication, being present, document the hours

So, Martin makes an excel sheet and communication!

### **Ludwig:**

- no responses about the refund for meditation and yoga workshops

### **Regina:**

- mushroom event refund, talk to Kine in teams

#### 4) Mental Health Week

##### **Martin:**

- Monday issue: no physiologist wants to talk in English since all the lectures are in Norwegian
- Intro Breakfast 8.45 – 9.00
- Imposter in room: 9.00 – 9.15
- Break
- Work environment 9.15 – 9.30
- Bedriftehelsetjeneste 9.30 – 10.00
- Room in Dragvoll 10.15 – 11.30
- Budget: 3000 + food (4000) + flowers (1000) = 8000

##### **Regina:**

- Tuesday : Yoga Meditation, evening 17.30
- Budget: 2000 + (1000)

##### **Aida and Olga:**

- Gjøvik: Yoga and some other events in planning

How to promote the event? Make a poster ?

##### **Payel:**

- Wednesday: Tai Chai? Zumba? Payel

##### **Ludwig:**

- Thursday: Food Science Group Ludwig, Biblio Therapy
- Eventually a hike?

##### **Amanda:**

- will contact Stress Management, movie

##### **Siamak:**

- will contact Improv Group for Friday (Gibberish Improv theater)

#### 4) Other upcoming events and work

No time left anymore, Martin will talk to Aida and Olga later about the upcoming events in Gjøvik  
Siamak and Regina will be present for DION's 25. Birthday in Trondheim, Amanda organized the cakes and booked the room at WorkWork

#### 4) Adjournment

Meeting digital 12.10, 15.00 for one hour before next meeting to be sure that everything is set for the Mental Health Week