

DION Board Meeting Minutes (28.10.2021)

Date: October 28, 2021

Time: 1600 – 1800

Place: Teams

Invited: DION board members 2021/2022

Attended: Martin, Siamak, Payel, Aida, Olga and Amanda.

Meeting chair: Martin

Minutes by: Siamak

1. Opening

The first minutes of the meeting spent mostly on the previous meeting with the unions.

2. Previous protocol

Olga uploaded the protocols from the last meeting.

3. Previous events

In this section, the previous events were explained and reviewed.

- Olga mentioned about the Game night at Gjøvik in which 30 people attended and played boardgames for four hours at the Kommune library.
- Siamak talked about the 25th birthday event at Work-Work with around 50 attendees. Cakes were served and people were playing boardgames and shuffleboard.
- Aida reported the Museum event at Gjøvik with 20 participants.
- Ludwig presented at IV faculty and IKP (Institute of chemical process) forum for all the Ph.D. students.
- Martin also presented at humanities department. He received supports and appreciation from the faculty dean.

4. Upcoming events

In this part of the meeting, the plans for the Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) were discussed and summarized.

- Amanda mentioned that around 30 people signed up for the movie night.

- Aida mentioned that the number of participants signed up are less than the last year.
- Olga added that in Gjøvik, most of the Ph.D. are attending a conference at the same time, so that can be a reason for dropped number of registrations.
- Payel stated that 19 registered for Zumba and tai chi.
- Siamak suggested that it might help to create facebook events in addition to the posts and stories. Payel agreed on making facebook events per day.
- Martin reported that 15 attendees will attend the Monday seminar, and the maximum number of participants for this seminar is 30 people.
- Olga was wondering about the gifts to the speakers. It is suggested that 400 to 500 kr gift cards, Chocolates or cinema tickets could be appropriate.
- Payel asked if someone can attend taichi and Zumba on behalf of her. It is about the Unpacking and showing the trainers the room. The event is at Realfagbygget D1-185 on Wed, 15. Amanda accepted to attend at 16:30 and she might be able to show up a bit earlier. Payel will ask others if in teams.
- Aida, it is good to ask if the participants are happy with the events and some relevant polls and questions (phd or post doc?).

At the end, all the members agreed on the discussed plans.

5. Trip Ålesund

As discussed before, we would like to send three delegates to the Ålesund. Aida suggested that this trip to late January. This trip will aim in motivating people for participating in AGM. The discussion around this topic will be postponed to the December board meeting.

Board meeting in December will be decided in November board meeting.

6. Language politics

In this part, Ludwig talked about the task force he is attending on behalf of DION. He adds that NTNU is willing to update language policy since 2009. The details and necessity of having Norwegian in university regarding the research and teaching as opposed to English is one of the topics to be discussed in this committee. They are also wondering if any new measures in hiring international candidates should be taken by considering the compensations in the contracts. The first meeting of this committee will be held in two weeks. Ludwig asks others for brainstorming if it should be mandatory for temporary employees to master in Norwegian.

- Aida mentioned about language tandem, as an alliance between the universities in Europe. They considering the issues around being English as the main language even though England is not part of EU anymore. She added that it is not easy to learn a new language so it needs to be justified in the contract by extending the contracts, for example. Further, the supervisors do not often support that the Ph.D. students want to spend time on learning Norwegian.

- Ludwig said that it is helpful to know the statistics about the number of internationals among temporary staff at NTNU.
- Amanda mentioned that currently the gap between the internationals and Norwegians can be felt, and language could be a barrier.
- Martin stated that the new government wants more Norwegian in higher education. Amanda said that it is challenging in use Norwegian for science even for Norwegians, since the science resources are usually in English.
- Siamak was worried about the permission from the supervisor and the funding for taking NTNU Norwegian courses. Apparently there are different regulations in different departments.
- Martin stated that currently these decisions are handled by departments rather than by a higher-level authority. NTNU must provide the resources for this.
- Amanda said that choosing between a Norwegian or English name for a institute or building have been challenging.

Ludwig said that the second meeting will be in the beginning of December. Apparently UiB and UiO revised their language policy.

7. SiN AGM

They pay 3000 kr for the expenses of travel. Extra expenses are supported by DION budget. Siamak and Martin will attend as the delegates on behalf of DION. Ludwig showed interest as a back-up. Planning the trip and applying for positions in SiN will be discussed later.

8. Other questions

In this section, the topics that had not planned in the agenda were discussed.

- Ludwig was corresponding to a request for a promotion event by a company related to Life sciences, biotec, food tech. He said that it is easy for us to book a room and advertise and they provide food and insights. Amanda supported the idea because there is a challenge between the life science Ph.D.s to get into the industry.
- There is a possibility to have bigger events for all the disciplines in Spring. It would be a whole Ph.D. career day supported by Tekna at Gløshaugen by Inviting industries, former Ph.D.s working in industry to advertise non-academic careers. It can result in good collaborations.
- Martin was contacted by forskerforbundet to promote “free to think” report in December. It will be about the reports in countries cannot express their academic freedom.
- The board members voted for the autumn picture contest thanks to Ludwig who made a summary out of the participants.
- Amanda suggested for a Christmas movie night.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was closed at 18.