

## **DION board meeting minutes**

Date: 20.01.2022

Time: 16:00-18:00

Place: MS Teams

Attendees: Aida, Martin, Amanda, Payel, Siamak, Olga, Ludwig, Regina

Meeting chair: Martin

Minutes by: Aida

### **1.Opening 16:00**

- Meet and greet, catch up after Christmas holiday

### **2.Previous protocol:**

- Approved

### **3.Previous events and work:**

- DION website: Olga talked with IT as the website was hacked. The problem is solved and now the website is up and running. Olga also kept a backup on her laptop just to be on the safe side. Amanda suggested that we can back up regularly, for example, each month.
- Secret Santa (Gjovik): More than 15 participants attended this cosy event. People were happy, and DION only paid 70 Nok for this event.
- Ludwig reported that they had good progress related to language revision, the balance between the Norsk and English at work. They are planning to organize an event regarding that. Regina and Payel might be able to attend the event.
- Martin explained that each faculty followed a different approach regarding the Covid extension. They will check the result of the PhD survey and see whether the delays reported by PhD candidates has been increased since last year or not. They will use the result of PhD progress survey.
- Amanda said that their meetings with the council are always announced on short notice. Martin suggested that she can bring it up and explain preparing for the meetings at the very last moment is challenging.

## 4.Upcoming work:

Ski course at Ski club Trondheim on 29<sup>th</sup> of January:

- Choosing the best date for the event was a bit challenging at first. To ensure that all who had registered for the event will be present on the day, Regina asked participants to pay their share in advance (around 263 NOK). DION will provide the equipment, and the event will cost 5000 NOK in total.

Dance class:

- Regina contacted the dance instructor, but they have not replied yet. So, Regina will contact them again. Besides, as Regina cannot attend the event, we need someone who can attend the dance class and be in charge of it. This event will cost 2000 Nok.

Tai chi:

- Payel is organizing the Tai Chi and it will be a free workshop.

Career day:

- The initial plan is to organize a three-day event with three different speakers for each day. It will be an online event, and Martin is in the academic group. It will be in English. Ludwig will contact a speaker, and Martin suggested the Nobel prize winner as well as a politician like the minister of higher education as speakers to highlight the importance of doing a PhD. Payel shared the LinkedIn profile of a potential speaker as well.

DION AGM:

We had a short discussion regarding the next DION board, and who is interested and can run for that from the current board. Considering the covid situation, we plan for a hybrid event and book a room at each campus (Gjovik, Ålesund and Trondheim). We should find someone to help to organize the event at Ålesund. AGM will be held on the 7th of April at 16:00. Martin suggested inviting a speaker to entertain participants. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

Trip to Ålesund:

Aida, Payel and Amanda will visit Ålesund before the AGM (if it is possible due to the Covid situation). Amanda also suggested looking for the possibility of organizing an online event.

## 5.Other questions:

Utviklingsplan: Martin talked about ethnicity; he believed that there is a lack of awareness about ethnicity inside Norway. Siamak also pointed out that not all the international PhDs and PostDocs are aware of their rights. He also mentioned the necessity of proposing some courses regarding managing diversity.

Regina had a question regarding her supervisor that is now on maternal leave. She wanted to know how the university addresses this kind of situation and who is the right contact person in such cases. Martin checked out the PhD handbook and mentioned that “ Hovedveileder skal vurdere og eventuelt initiere endring i sammensetning av veiledningsressursene dersom det er nødvendig”.

DION newsletter: Aida reminded the board to provide a summary of previous events they organized and related information they want to share in the next newsletter.

The next meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> of February at 16:00-18:00.