

# Report from SiN Annual Meeting 2007

UMB Ås, 18.01.07

Present delegates: Jon K Nilsen (UiO), Karin Zimmer (DIOV), Einar Lilleeng (DIOV), Chhatra Sharma (FODOS), Anne Katrine Ree Rosnes (FODOS), Per Anders Eidem (DION), Ola Edvin Vie (DION), Jan Øystein Haavig Bakke (DION).

Chairman: Per A Eidem

Secretary: Karin Zimmer

Witnesses: Einar Lilleeng, Chhatra Sharma

## 1. Status of the different organisations

Stipendiatane-Volda

Delegates not present, but had sent a presentation with their activities and opinion in the “survival of SiN”-case.

UiO –DOK

Work on re-establishing the organisation and develop it further.

DIOV

Encouraged PhD students to make a demand in the local wage negotiations; minimum wage scale 42+ length of service, as the new basic wage scale for PhD students is 42. Made school administration aware of this change. Demand was met for PhD students employed after a certain time before the date of change 01.05.2005

Social events and one thematic seminar

Working on getting more visible to new PhD students to help them get started; info leaflet

FODOS

Have been working on the new plans for the doctoral education: Start, mid, and end seminars, courses in scientific writing and scientific applications.

Organised social events

Get people engaged and active

DION

Organised a “survival course” for PhD students with tips on how to get started and where to go next.

Represented in the NOKUT-evaluation of NTNU.

Meeting every second month with the director of the university

Have employed a secretary in a 20% position whose main task is to organise all the contact with the PhD students.

Hearings, as they possess the SiN leadership

Tried to recruit people from other institutes to the board.

Organised one seminar; life as a PhD candidate, where 20 people showed up

They recruit people to the board all year around and all meetings are open to everyone

Duty work; what is accepted?

## 2. Future of SiN

There was a discussion on the need for SiN. A key question was whether it is necessary to have a PhD student organisation at the national level as well as at the local level. There was agreement on that SiN is needed, but that no one wants the leadership because it is too time consuming. In addition, the fact that people are not too engaged makes communication difficult. The UiO representative stated that they depend on SiN to keep their local organisation going. Factors that would make the leadership more attractive were discussed.

- 1) The possibility of getting the right to extend the PhD period
  - According to "Forskrift om ansettelsesvilkår for stillinger som postdoktor, stipendiat [...]" we have the right to get leave without pay due to leadership in a national organisation such as SiN. This is, however, not very lucrative since there is no funding involved.
- 2) Leadership could count as duty work
  - As some people do not get duty work or has used their duty work, it may not be a practical solution.
- 3) Get the institutions to pay an annual fee that can cover the payment of a leader.
  - This will take time to organise and how much should each institution contribute?
  - What about the institutions with the less active PhD organisations?
- 4) Buy a secretary for a 20% position either from NSU or on our own?
  - Too expensive for the local organisations, institutions; same problem as above.
- 5) Apply for money from the ministry?
  - In the past it has been difficult to get support for running expenses.

Leader of NSU, Jens Maseng, was invited to discuss cooperation between SiN and NSU/Stl. He recommended employing a secretary/coordinator, though it would be difficult to share their secretary with SiN without a bigger process.

There was an election of the following options

- 1) Close down SiN
- 2) Keep it going at the same low activity level as now
  - requires an election of leader and board
- 3) Apply for money for a secretary and a leader

It was decided to keep SiN at the current activity level.

## 3. Elections

UiO-dok was elected to hold the leadership. Jon Nilsen (UiO) was elected as the functioning leader until UiO board has decided who from their board should function as the official leader. One representative from each local organisation constitutes the SiN board. Unless anyone else is elected as the SiN representative of the local organisation, the leader of the local organisation is the board member.

## 4. Work plan for 2007

- 1) Get more people to the annual meeting 2008
- 2) Invite all PhD representatives of the institution boards.
- 3) Look closer at the opportunities for employing a secretary and financing related to this.
- 4) Better communication with NSU and Stl since they are represented in e.g. Universitets og høyskolerådet.
- 5) Hearings

- 6) Exchange information and experiences about duty work at the different institutions
- 7) Attend Eurodoc conference

**5. Annual fee**

The annual fee was set to NOK 2000, -for 2007.

Oslo, 30.01.07

Jon K Nilsen,  
Leader

Karin Zimmer,  
Secretary

Einar Lilleeng,  
Witness

Chhatra Sharma,  
Witness