

### **Minutes of SIN annual meeting, 22 May 2008, Trondheim.**

Present: Jon (UiODOC), Sverre, Andreas, Nelia, Olav, Hanne, Angela (DION)

Minutes by Angela De Leebeeck (angela.de.leebeeck@ntnu.no)

The annual meeting began at 13:15 after Jon gave an introduction to SIN.

#### Item 1: Calling the meeting.

The call for the meeting was sent out 4 weeks ago. There was no objection.

Everyone was for the agenda, sent out with the call for meeting.

Sverre and Olav will sign the reports.

#### Item 2: Leader's report.

UiO has the leadership of SIN. SIN has had minimum activity this year and no functioning board. There has been representation from SIN to the government and Eurodoc (organization of European PhD students). SIN has attended two Eurodoc conferences this year. The first one was about career paths. The Scandinavian representatives found the election process undemocratic. The second conference was about recruitment of scientists. At this conference, the Scandinavian representatives took over the election process and set up basic voting rules with ballots.

SIN attended three hearings from the government.

There was a seminar on researcher's education that SIN was invited to, it had no attendees. A seminar on recruitment and education had poor attendance and did not leave a very good impression of SIN as an organization.

#### Item 3: reports from the local organizations

Reports from the local organizations were asked for, one was received from DIOV.

##### Report from DION:

Meetings were held with the principal. The next one is in June.

Cases were presented on regulations for duty work, lack of information available in English for international PhDs, interdisciplinary PhDs, and welfare questions. Emails with questions from the PhD candidates were taken on research project money used for financing maternity leave.

Monthly meetings were held where issues for university board meetings were discussed. DION will be presenting documents on duty work. DION is recognized as a formal body at the university.

After the DION annual meeting, Hanne was elected as temporary leader. The new leader will take over when he comes back from Italy. He is a member of a labor organization and he was able to raise the starting salary of PhDs by 20 000 NOK. A vice-leader is needed.

A Christmas party was held as well as a meeting in a restaurant outside the university.

##### Report from UiO:

UiODOC is nonfunctioning. There has been no leader since 2003. An attempt was made in 2007 to re-establish the organization but failed. UiODOC will restart again in 2008 under the influence of a new university board member. The next UIODOC meeting is planned

for June. One goal of UIODOC is to have 6 board members. It was mentioned that local organizations must have an elected board to be part of SIN.

DIOV report:

This organization has one leader who wants to be a SIN member. There are 3 other members. They have held 7 board meetings and held social arrangements. DIOV organized two seminars: one on PhDs and supervisors, the other on time abroad. There were 30 attendees at the seminars.

#### Item 4: the future of SIN

The future of SIN was in question. Last year the question was posed if SIN should remain alive because there was lack of engagement from the PhDs and lack of leadership. It was decided SIN should remain alive but have minimum activity.

This year there were 3 volunteers to sit on the board, an improvement over last year.

Suggestions for improving SIN were taken:

- Establish a functioning board
- Find out which local organizations are still participating or alive
- Get the board member representing temporary employees to participate in SIN meetings if the local organization is dead.
- Encourage dead organizations to come back to life by informing PhD students about their local organizations.

The question was posed why SIN should exist? SIN should exist because it is a prerequisite to be a member of Eurodoc and it is a good idea to have Eurodoc backing. It was mentioned that there are many international PhDs in science and engineering and approximately the same number of international PhDs at NTNU and UiO.

Rules for electing board members were discussed. It is not allowed to add new board members after the annual meeting but observers are allowed. DION allows board members to join at any time.

#### Item 5: Election of leader and board members.

One candidate was proposed as SIN leader: Jan Frode Hatlen from DION. He was elected.

SIN needs to have between 3 and 6 board members including the leader.

Five candidates were suggested as board members: Jon K Nilsen from UIODOC, Ane Santrø from DIOV, Andreas Asheim from DION, Sverre Lundemo from DION, Angela De Leebeeck from DION. All candidates were all elected.

There are a total of 6 board members elected, including the leader.

The meeting was adjourned at 14:00.