

Minutes from SiN (Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge) annual meeting

Place and time: Gløshaugen, Trondheim. 13:00-15:00, 7. May 2009.

Present: Andreas Asheim (DION), Jan Frode Hatlen (DION), Angela de Leebeck (DION), Sverre Lundemo (DION), Jon Kerr Nilsen (UiODOC), Paul Okullo (FODOS), Leonora Onarheim (UiODOC), Ane Sandtrø (DIOV), Yngve Sommervoll (DION), Ola Edvin Vie (DION), Georgi Yordanov (UiA).

The meeting began at 1 am, and Jan Frode bid everybody welcome. First item on the agenda was approval of right to vote. As only DION, DIOV and FODOS have paid the membership fee for 2009, these organisations had the right to vote. Jon suggested that these could vote over if the other organisations should still have the right of vote at this annual meeting. It was an unanimous vote for UiODOC and UiA to have the right to vote as well for the rest of the meeting.

Sverre was appointed as secretary of minutes.

Ane and Jon volunteered to sign the minutes.

Annual report from SiN

The SiN board 2008/2009 has consisted of Jan Frode Hatlen (president), Andreas Asheim, Angela de Leebeck, Sverre Lundemo, Jon K Nilsen and Ane Sandtrø.

Jan Frode gave a short report on SiN's history, status and actions the previous year. The board has held no regular meetings, and there has been lower activity than desired. Communication has been through email. Ane and Jon from the board have been engaged in "Lausungeaksjonen", a protest movement against the increasing use of temporary positions in academia. Sverre and Ane were appointed national delegates of Eurodoc and attended the general annual meeting of Eurodoc in Banská Bystrica in March 2009. Sverre also attended a conference in Rennes in November 2009, while Angela attended a conference on mobility in Europe in Prague in April 2009. SiN has also participated in several seminars, and responded to a hearing to the recently released white paper on research.

Annual reports from the local organisations

UiA:

The organisation was started in fall 2008. The central board is residing in the Kristiansand campus. It has hosted several meetings, but hasn't been able to organise itself properly yet. The organisation gets some funding from its university and wants to become a member of SiN. The temporary employees have a member in the university board. The organization will work to get more people active and interested in participating.

UiODOC:

Originally started in 2003, but entered a period of low activity and had to be restarted in fall 2008. At this time they simplified regulations to include fewer aims. The representative for temporary employees in the university board is automatically a

member of the UiODOC board. UiODOC helped organise “Lausungeaksjonen”, in which a 2-week petition got about 3,000 signatures and “white paper” (Grasrotmelding) were the results. UiODOC has gotten a new web page on the university’s web, and has a board of 4 (5 including the representative in the university board). They are currently trying to obtain funding from UiO. Arrange seminars.

FODOS:

Organise about 100 PhDs at UMB, but is also open for post docs. They focus on the reception of new PhDs, have taken part in the revision of the duty work regulation, arranged seminar on PhD/supervisor conflict, other meetings and trips. They will continue working on rules of duty work by arranging a seminar on this topic. FODOS is represented in the UMB board. Participation in the FODOS board is compensated as duty work.

DIOV:

Organise about 70 PhD candidates. It has been discussed whether they should include post docs as well. They don’t have a representative in NVH’s board, although temporary employees have one representative there. DIOV have contact with all PhD candidates at the institution, and has arranged events together with UiODOC and FODOS. They have arranged introduction course for new PhD candidates, lunch meetings, and answered hearings.

DION:

DION represent temporary employed staff at NTNU, of which PhDs constitute about 1100 persons. The board has answered questions from temporary employees, had monthly meetings with the representative for temporary staff in the NTNU board, and been represented in different committees. DION has e.g. had representative in each of three subcommittees evaluating the PhD education at NTNU. One problem for DION is that it’s not enough known among the group it represents, and this will be one priority for the coming year.

Eurodoc:

As a newly elected board member, Sverre had a short presentation about Eurodoc. Eurodoc (the European Council of doctoral candidates and young researchers) is a Europe-wide interest organisation, in which SiN is a member together with organisations from 31 other countries. SiN appoints each year two delegates, which attend the general annual meeting of Eurodoc. The work of Eurodoc is centred on its board, as well as 6 working groups (communication, funding, gender equality, mobility, survey and career development). Participation on Eurodoc’s main email list (consultation) and in the various WGs is open for all that are interested, regardless whether they are members of the organisations affiliated with Eurodoc.

Plans for SiN’s work for the coming year:

Initiate board meetings. This can be done through e.g. Skype meetings, video conferences or personal meetings.

SiN might be able to get funding for a part-time position. Forskerforbundet (FF) is interested in supporting us. This can be done by using the acquired funds to pay for a board member (which should then reduce his/hers position at the institution he/she is working at accordingly).

For the last point, there was some discussion as how to proceed with this. To ensure independency, we shouldn't rely on funding from FF alone, but instead focus on associations of labour unions such as Unio (to which FF is affiliated) and Akademikerne. In addition, we should apply for funding from the Ministry of Education and Research, and the Norwegian Research Council. But such an application should not be made without SiN having clear goals as to what we want to focus on and what the content of this position would be. Such a person could e.g. be a coordinator for hearings from the Ministry, be our representative in committees, visit the different institutions and talk to the local organisations etc. The work with planning and writing an application should be taken in the time from now until October.

As there will be election for the Norwegian Parliament this fall, SiN should try to influence the new representatives, a plan for how to do this should be made.

Ideally, the local organisations should have a representative in the board at their respective institutions. This seems to be the case at all institutions represented at the annual meeting except NVH.

The following priorities was decided by the annual meeting:

SiN will work with developing clearer goals for the organisation – deadline in October (this will be interconnected with the application to raise funds for a part-time position).

SiN will continue its work of getting representatives from all universities included.

Election of new leader and board:

Ane Sandtrø was suggested as new leader of SiN, and subsequently elected by acclamation.

SiN's board for 2009/2010:

Ane Sandtrø – President

Sverre Lundemo

Jon Kerr Nilsen

Paul Okullo

Leonora Onarheim

Ola Edvin Vie

Vivian Kjelland*

*Vivian Kjelland was suggested, but as she is finishing her thesis soon, another person from UiA has to be appointed.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:00

Sverre Lundemo/
Secretary of minutes

(Signatures)

Ane Sandtrø

Jon K. Nilsen