

# SiN Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 2012-02-09, 16:30

Place: On-line, through Skype

Present: Ricardo Rosado (DIOV), Melania Borit (TODOS), Stine Huseby (FODOS), Meng-Hsuan Chou

Notice of absence: Ralph Kube (TODOS), Jon Kerr Nilsen (UiODoc)

Referent: Stine Huseby (FODOS)

## **1. Approval of the last board minutes and agenda**

Minutes and agenda approved. We will start to distribute the minutes to all member organizations from now on.

## **2. Finalize Eurodoc questionnaire**

Some numbers are lacking, but the questionnaire will now be finalized and sent back to EURODOC.

## **3. EURSA update**

The relationship between EURSA (European Research Staff Association) and EURODOC is not at its best at the moment. There are uncertainties regarding EURSA's agenda and goals, EURODOC is not given clear answers to their questions concerning these issues. EURODOC risks losing members to EURSA if the relationship between the organizations is not clarified.

The board thinks it is important for EURODOC not to ignore EURSA and to take a clear stand in the matter. The two organizations should clarify agendas and goals between them and cooperate rather than ending up competing for the same members.

Decision: SiN (by Ricardo) will express our concerns to EURODOC. SiN will also

make it clear to EURSA that we are a member of EURODOC and will handle this matter through them.

#### **4. Charter and Code involvement (UHR workgroup)**

The UHR's Research committee (UHR=Universitets- og høyskolerådet) has a workgroup on the implementation of "Charter and Code" (The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers). Ricardo will contact Ragnar Lie (UHR) about having a representative from SiN in this workgroup.

Decision: Melania and Stine will represent SiN.

#### **5. Quota PhD Students (Stine)**

PhD students on Quota scholarships or foreign project funding are given 8-9000 NOK a month. They sometimes struggle to find accommodation and settling in. This leads to a huge gap between PhD students and PhD candidates, both financial and social considerations may influence the quality of their research. FODOS is especially interested in this issue because UMB hosts a high percentage of the PhD students coming on quota scholarship. Decision: Stine will collect data from other institutions in Norway and compare practices before the next board meeting; further strategy will be discussed there.

#### **6. Innspill til ny forskningsmelding (frist 28.mars)**

Decision: SiN will send a separate comment to the forskningsmelding in addition to our involvement in the one being sent from UHR. Melania will make a draft and put it in the Dropbox for everyone to contribute. Stine will look into how FODOS did this procedure last year.

#### **7. Continue work on goals / activities 2012**

- Ricardo has started to work on a new website.
- Funding

- o Ricardo will contact KD and see what possibilities for funding we have there. We should also contact other organizations/institutions to see if funding is available.
- o Problem: we have few member organizations, but still represent all PhDs in national committees. Funding may be easier to get if we have more members, but for many institutions our annual fee is a problem. We will however approach all institutions during the spring and encourage them to start an organization (see 09/12)
- o Fundraising was proposed to raise money for SiN.

### **8. Continue work on budget proposal**

This was also discussed under 07/12.

Decision: Ricardo will contact KD first and when we know more about the possibilities for funding we will make a more detailed budget proposal.

### **9. Contact new associations**

There are 18 institutions giving out doctoral degrees in Norway and SiN would like to have members from all of them. All university and college boards should have one representative from the temporary staff. Although they may not be PhD candidates anymore it should be a good place to start to get in touch with possible members.

Decision: The board will find the contact details for the representatives in each board. Stine will write a letter (in Norwegian) and send it to all these contacts explaining about SiN and what we can offer.

#### **a. Contact Stipendprogrammet for kunstnerisk utviklingsarbeid**

Decision: Stine will write the contacts we have here and invite them to join SiN.

### **10. Seminar / AGM planning**

TODOS was asked to host this year's AGM. Melania will discuss it with their new board and get back to us with the decision.

Week 19 was suggested as a good time.

The board would like it to be both a seminar and AGM (a one-day seminar for PhD's at UiT and one day AGM). A topic suggested for the seminar was "Quality of

supervision”. When time and place is decided we will start to invite people who can have talks about that topic, or other topics that will interest PhD candidates. TODOS will apply for funding on the organizing side. SiN will apply for funding for travelling, especially for invited guests and (possible) new members of SiN.

### **11. Other issues**

SiN received an invitation from the Lithuanian Society of Young Researchers to join them in an application for funding from The Nordic Council of Ministers. The documents did not specify how much money is involved, what activities we can apply for and a deadline.

Decision: Ricardo will write them back expressing our interest to collaborate with them, but that we need more information before committing to anything.

ORPHEUS meeting in Bergen: SiN would like to send a person there because important issues regarding PhD training will be discussed, and important people are present.

Decision: If SiN can pay for travel costs Stine will attend the meeting.

EURODOC AGM: Sverre and Ricardo will attend the meeting on behalf of SiN.