

Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Board meeting

Date: 26.01.2021

Time: 17:00

Place: Zoom

Agenda

1. Presentation of new website
2. Financial reporting of 2020
3. Date for quarterly meeting
4. Eurodoc communication
5. Swedish doctoral organisation invitation for a meeting on corona delays
6. Plans for Spring semester
7. Career development in Academia report
8. Request to collaborate from Pint of Science
9. Hearing on European framework programme
10. Contact conference for research and higher education
11. Høgskolen i Østfolds's new doctoral organisation
12. Membership of organisations that are not affiliated with a university or higher education institution

Attendees

- SiN board: Yannik, Camilla, Miroslav, Enrico, Margret, Hui, Grace, Ingvild (left early)

Minutes

Meeting start: 17:00

1. Presentation of new website

Camilla and Hui present the new design of the website. There are now stock photos for different pages, and each page will have a tag cloud. They ask for advice on the lay-out of the homepage and the structure of the information. The content will stay mostly the same. Since it is still very much work in progress, they also sent around a document by email that details more or less how they envision the structure to be versus what it was like in the past. There is a brief discussion about the size and alignment of the pictures on the board page. Enrico says it's important to say who we are in terms of member organisations. Camilla says this is on the front page. Right now there is still a placeholder text, but this will be changed to the text about SiN copied from the statutes. It is also mentioned that documents might be more accessible if they are not placed under 'About us', but in a separate documents tab. Margret suggests that the working group pages could mention the names of its members and links to any reports or other output. 'Recent posts' will be included on the right and link to updates, news and blog posts. The name could stay as is, or be changed into 'News' or 'Updates'. Yannik thinks 'News' is the simplest and most descriptive title. Camilla and Hui will use this feedback to finalise their website improvements.

2. Financial reporting of 2020

The reimbursements for the AGM last September are a bit delayed due to illness of Grace, but will be paid soon. The auditor who checked the accounts last year has finally been paid. The final report for 2020 is due in February. While Grace tries to log into internet banking to show our financial situation, we address points 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 on the agenda, which are purely informational and don't require lengthy discussion. Afterwards, Grace shows the accounts. Our current balance is roughly 300,000 NOK. Last week, Grace sent out the invoices to member organisations, but only two of them have paid so far. She will send out reminders to the ones that have not paid yet. Margret asks where the invoices were sent to, because she hasn't seen one for UiODoc. Grace says it should end up in the inbox of the board. Yannik checked the email list of member organisations and there are two organisations that do not appear to have a general email address for the board. We should contact those organisations and encourage them to implement it. Camilla says it should be possible for them to do so, because every university has a mailing list system that allows employees to create a mailing list with a unique address. This could also be emphasised at the next quarterly meeting, which is to be held in February.

3. Date for quarterly meeting

Yannik proposed a date in mid-February. It is agreed that we won't send round a doodle again, but will simply set a date. Because the 16th is a Tuesday and will be reserved for the regular SiN meeting, the quarterly meeting will be scheduled on Thursday the 18th of February. Yannik will send the invitation to the local organisations.

4. Eurodoc communication

Requests from Eurodoc to national doctoral organizations will from now on be forwarded to styret@stipendiat.no, so everyone should receive this information.

5. Swedish doctoral organisation invitation for a meeting on corona delays

SiN has been invited to attend a meeting on the tangible and intangible delays experienced by PhD students in Sweden. The meeting will be held on February 2nd at 9:30 AM and is organised by the Sveriges förenade studentkårer (SFS). There will be two sessions and the aim is to obtain recommendations on how to help the situation for PhD students and how to push for contract prolongation (in Sweden). We are invited presumably because we released a report on the delays due to the pandemic and they would value our perspective. The Swedish situation seems to be very similar to ours. Camilla says that based on tweets from the Danish doctoral organisation, the situation in Denmark also appears identical. Miro would like to participate in the meeting, and Yannik is very curious so will also join. Margret asks whether someone from the mental health working group should attend, since they released the survey. Ingvild is available that day, so she will attend on behalf of the working group.

6. Plans for Spring semester

Camilla raised this point, because she is wondering what will be the focus of SiN in the coming semester. Yannik suggests creating a planning document that details the activities of the various working groups and that is continually updated. The working groups could be graphically indicated (in different colours for example), and while there are tools for this, we could also just use Excel. Regarding the plans themselves, Yannik gives an update on the workshop on stealing research ideas, for which he is aiming to set up a first meeting in the coming weeks.

He has already confirmed some co-organisers from Tromsø, and is waiting for confirmation from more members from UiODoc. The working group on mental health and wellbeing is planning a follow-up survey on the covid-19 conditions. Other plans include a PhD day and a dialogue meeting with the Young Academy of Norway and/or the unions. Camilla is in favour of a dialogue meeting with both, and would specifically like to discuss the issue that has been raised in the media the last couple of weeks in relation to a survey conducted by Forskerforbundet, about career prospects for postdocs. The pandemic is another issue we could bring to the table. Margret proposes to first decide whether we want a dialogue with them together or separately (or at all), and if so, who should go to the meeting and when. Yannik asks who is interested in participating; Camilla and Margret volunteer. Margret will write a short introductory email to approach the organisations we would like to discuss these topics with. Camilla suggests asking for a meeting in February jointly with the organisations that have been most vocal in this debate, which would be the Young Academy and Forskerforbundet. Margret asks who is the national representative of Forskerforbundet; Camilla explains they have a communication team, and that the email address can be found on their website.

7. Career development in Academia report

Enrico would like the results of the survey to be distributed as widely as possible, and would like to contact the local organisations to do this. He proposes to give a short presentation to the local organisations at the next quarterly meeting. The report is already online and openly accessible on Zenodo, alongside an additional document with peer-to-peer tips.

8. Request to collaborate from Pint of Science

Pint of Science is an international science festival where PhD students get to present their research to the public in bars/pubs. The Norwegian organising team have reached out to us for support in organising their next edition, to be held 19-21 May across multiple cities in Norway. While the issue of sponsorship is briefly mentioned, it is decided we can best support them by relaying information about the festival to the local member organisations. Margret mentions that the organising team is probably already in touch with some of them, especially in the cities where they have organised it before, including UiODoc. Yannik will reply, telling them that the SiN communication team will help them to disseminate their information.

9. Hearing on European framework programme

We have been asked to provide input on the strategy for Norwegian participation in the new EU framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe. The deadline is February 10th, and the response should be short and in Norwegian. Our input should connect to our mission, which is to promote the interests of PhDs and postdocs. There are various issues related to temporary staff, such as the institutional support in applying for grants, the short time frame and limited career development opportunities of an externally funded PhD, and the Norwegian rule that people can only do one postdoc. Yannik will create a document on Google drive and draft a response with these points, and pass it on to Margret for expanding. Camilla will edit and proofread the Norwegian version.

10. Kontaktkonferanse for forskning og høyere utdanning

The contact conference for research and higher education took place on 12 January and Idd and Yannik registered on behalf of SiN. Since Yannik was not able to join the conference due to

technical difficulties, and Idd is not present at this board meeting, this point will be postponed to the next board meeting in February.

11. Høgskolen i Østfolds's new doctoral organisation

Yannik has asked the new doctoral organisation at the Høgskolen i Østfold whether they wish to become a member of SiN. They haven't replied yet, so we hope to an answer by the next board meeting in February.

12. Membership of organisation that are not affiliated with a university or higher education institution

Membership of doctoral organisations that are not affiliated with any university is potentially problematic, because this means that the same members could be represented twice (once by the new organisation, and once by their university organisation with which they may be affiliated). So while these organisations might ask to become a member of SiN, we should think about whether they should have voting rights. This matter is not urgent and will therefore be postponed until a future meeting before the next AGM.

Meeting end: 18:35

