

# Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

## Board meeting 20.06.2022

Time: 17:00

Location: Zoom

### Agenda

1. Updates
  - a. Membership fees
  - b. Time sheets
2. Media presence/Criticism from Camilla
  - a. How much can/should we do in the media
3. PhD Day
  - a. Dates?
4. Eurodoc AGM
  - a. Points for next year
5. SiN AGM - looking forward
  - a. Location
  - b. Statute changes
    - i. Longer term for Eurodoc Liaison - enable better cooperation
    - ii. Allow for appointments in the event of resignations
    - iii. Note any ideas you all have so we can discuss them later
6. Research Theft
  - a. Collecting anecdotes
  - b. Position statement
7. Consultation statements
  - a. Input for one due on 25th
8. Fall board meeting
  - a. Dates
  - b. Where
9. Newsletter 2

- a. Research Theft
- b. Eurodoc AGM
- c. Mental Health Survey
- d. Forskningsdagene
- e. Forskningsrådet Board Changes
- f. Anything else?

10. Misc. ideas

- a. SiN Sweatshirts
- b. Wikipedia page?

11. Other

- a. August Meeting date/time

## **Minutes**

Present: Nicolas, Johanne, Chris, Anna, Friederike, Yauhen

Not present: Sanja, Andrea, Siamak

Meeting start 17:00

### **1. Updates**

#### **a. Membership fees**

#### **b. Time sheets**

It could be an interesting idea to record the meetings, so that everyone can catch up.

Membership fees are ongoing. Everyone was reminded to do their time sheets. In the case of a high number of hours, we should contact Nicolas, so that it can be followed up (in relation to the budget).

### **2. Media presence/Criticism from Camilla**

#### **a. How much can/should we do in the media**

The previous president did one interview, and Nicolas has so far done five, so in that context, the board considers that the presence has been satisfying. Therefore, perhaps the criticism addresses our appearance on Twitter/Facebook which we can decide how to react to.

Camilla has sent an e-mail with 6 main points. The worrying one is the one addressing the consultation statements. The consultation statement on the financing of universities did not seem very relevant to us, as it relates to the financing of the entire university and education sector, not something that concerns us, and the group that we represent is barely mentioned at all. The other one is on academic freedom of speech. If anyone has any points on that they can put them in Slack, and Nicolas can type a one page agreeing with the statement. We are, of course, in favour of measures for more academic freedom of speech. Sanja is working on updating the member organizations' file. The last comment reflected on the periodic review of positions. Nicolas checked the yearly wheel, and it states that May is the time for that. If anyone has comments regarding their positions and sees a need to change something, they should inform Nicolas. So far, everything looks good. We can discuss this matter further either on Slack or at the meeting in August.

One of the things we could do is to address the issue of mental health, by recognizing and acknowledging some of the individuals that stepped out and getting out asap with the preliminary COVID-19 survey results.

The board appreciates Camilla's expertise and good intentions to help. We will discuss how to respond in the future in case there are more issues.

### **3. PhD Day**

#### **a. Dates?**

We will probably have 3 events in total. They will be addressing the advantages of being a member of a union and working rights for PhDs and postdocs. It will happen on UiO. One event will be in the morning with breakfast, and the other two will be in the evening. The first one in the evening will have a focus on diversity and cultural awareness, and a debate about

internationalization. It would be good to invite a professional speaker, and some more people to the panel. Anna has an idea about the professional speaker who raised the internationalization problem in the pandemic. And the last event could focus on life after PhD where we could have another professional speaker. In addition, we could invite some more people to talk about their post-PhD career. The date might be 29<sup>th</sup> September for the breakfast event, and the other 2 are flexible. The matters that could be discussed further are potential speakers who might be interested in taking part and the external funding of the professional speakers as they have to be paid to participate.

#### **4. Eurodoc AGM**

##### **a. Points for next year**

There is a little summary of the main points from the AGM in the newsletter. There were ca. 30 people in person attending the AGM in Lithuania. It was great that we had our representatives attend for the networking. The new board, advisory board and secretariat were elected, and there is no Norwegian representation in any of those this year. Some changes were made in the statutes also. One big issue is the change of statutes as they want to employ one person working on a specific project, and it seems unlikely to work well. So, our representatives wrote some remarks that can be put up by the next Eurodoc officer next year. Also, we voted against the annual financial report as the numbers were not adding up. Some changes were inserted from Friday to Saturday but without any good explanation. Still, the AGM accepted it. Therefore, we suggested having an external audit for the next year. Nicolas and Friederike, our representatives discussed that it might be a good idea for SiN to have the Eurodoc officer position with a 2-year term as most of the projects are the long-term projects, and it would be more useful if we would like to be more involved in the processes. Nicolas and Friederike will share some photos for the communication team to put on social media.

A very important point for the next Eurodoc officer is to submit the statute changes six months in advance. This is an important point for the transition seminar.

#### **5. SiN AGM - looking forward**

##### **a. Location**

##### **b. Statute changes**

- i. Longer term for Eurodoc Liaison - enable better cooperation**
- ii. Allow for appointments in the event of resignations**
- iii. Note any ideas you all have so we can discuss them later**

One important point is that we could consider having a Eurodoc officer as a 2-year position. Still, it is not impossible with the current settings, as the Eurodoc officer can be re-elected for instance. So, perhaps the officer could be encouraged to run for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, but we can still have the elections. The 2-year term could discourage people from applying or be problematic as both PhDs and postdocs are temporary positions that do not last long. Another change might be that if someone decides to resign from their position someone else can be appointed for the rest of the term. This comes based on the last year's SiN experience and Eurodoc experience. For instance, if everyone resigns, then the president and vice president could appoint someone to do communications. This way, SiN will not suffer with a low number of board members. It would be good to prepare these and other potential changes well ahead of the AGM.

UiA and UiS expressed interest in hosting the AGM. If it stays with two candidates we can have the AGM at one university, and the transition seminar at the other, which would help with acknowledging other places than only Oslo. We will talk further on this topic at the meeting in August.

## **6. Research Theft**

- a. Collecting anecdotes**
- b. Position statement**

Nicolas is going to mention the topic again in the newsletter and hopefully that can bring more stories. We can make changes to the position statement based on the changes in Google documents and on the comments from the quarterly meeting. Also, write something shorter afterward to put the topic back in the spotlight.

## **7. Consultation statements**

- a. Input for one due on 25<sup>th</sup>**

If anyone has something they want included, they should send it to Nicolas tomorrow. What might be inserted is to address that for someone who is not speaking Norwegian it can be challenging to participate in the various democratic organs at the institutions as most of them use Norwegian as their main language. When Nicolas finishes writing it, he will put it on Slack for comments prior to sending it.

## **8. Fall board meeting**

- a. Dates**
- b. Where**

This is the one we planned to have in person. It should preferably be around 3-4 hours at UiO and perhaps in September around the PhD Day so we can combine the two. Anna can check on the room and catering. Nicolas created a voting poll on Slack for the preferences.

## **9. Newsletter 2**

- a. Research Theft**
- b. Eurodoc AGM**
- c. Mental Health Survey**
- d. Forskningsdagene**
- e. Forskningsrådet Board Changes**
- f. Anything else?**

Nicolas wrote the second newsletter. He received comments from Sanja on it. There are some more comments, and if anyone has any additional ones, they are due Wednesday. The mental health survey preliminary results could be part of it, the PhD Day information, and Nicolas will send the Research theft position statement to the member organizations prior to finalizing it.

## **10. Misc. ideas**

- a. SiN Sweatshirts**
- b. Wikipedia page?**

Eurodoc has their own Wikipedia page. Does SiN need it? It could affect positively the visibility of SiN and our public outreach, and the communication team could try to put something together. Another idea could be SiN sweatshirts, which could also positively affect our presence and recognizability. For the orientation, price should be around 250 NOK for 20 t-shirts so it could be feasible. The question is whether to order sweatshirts or t-shirts and how to transfer them to the next board. Perhaps to bring them to the AGM. Another idea is to order roll-ups, which can particularly be interesting for the PhD Day. The challenge is who will take care of them as we do not have any offices, we are decentralized. Still, the plan is to get some quotas and then to consider whether it is a good idea or not.

## **11. Other**

### **a. August Meeting date/time**

29<sup>th</sup> August.

We got an e-mail from Forskerforbundet today, and they want to have a meeting with us on policies for PhDs and postdocs. It is on 10<sup>th</sup> August. If the meeting should be in English, Nicolas can attend. Otherwise, he will inform on Slack so if Johanne or Chris are free, they can attend. If anyone has any comments or questions for the Union, they should put them on Slack.

**The meeting ended at a few minutes past 18:00**