

Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge

Quarterly meeting with the local organizations 30.08.2022

Time: 18:00

Location: Zoom

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Updates from the Board
 - a. PhD Day
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. Local board compensation
3. AGM
 - a. Date and Location - Late November, likely 25th
 - b. Elections - All positions up for election, need candidates
 - c. Statute Changes - Link to statutes
4. Guide for those experiencing bullying/harassment
 - a. Any local information you want included?
5. Forskerforbundet wants input on policy documents
 - a. Deadline is Oct. 1
 - b. Written feedback before then
6. Slack
 - a. Does anyone else want to be on the Slack
7. Additional Issues?

Minutes

Present: Nicolas, Friederike, Andrea, Johanne, Siamak, Chris, Yauhen, Anna, Sanja (present for a few minutes, connection lost after), **Ole Kristian (NHHDoc)**, **Joanna (UiBDoc)**, **Stian (OsloMet)**, **Olga (SoDoc)**, **Regina (DION)**, **Koen (UiT)**, **Martin (UiADoc)**, **Zihao (UiSDC)**

Additionally: Anna presenting UiO

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Updates from the Board**
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 - b. Mental Health**
 - c. Local board compensation**

Nicolas has been working with journalists' interviews lately, as well as on other position and consultation statements. One of the interesting topics was the revision of PhD and postdoc policies by Forskerforbundet (will be discussed in Section 5 of the meeting).

The PhD day will consist of two events on September, 27 and September, 29. The first event will be digital and will be addressing the knowledge about the life after the PhD. Firstly, a professional speaker will hold a one-hour presentation, and after that we will have three PhDs who have graduated to share their experiences. We still need two people, so if anyone has ideas on who might be interested it would be great to share the information (preferably a person who has found a job in the industry, and one who has found a job in a governmental institution). The second event will be on Thursday in the breakfast format at UiO. Different union representatives will talk about the advantages of being a member. Johanne made posters to promote the events, which we will post during this or the following week. It would be great if all the member organizations could share the posters on social media. The prime idea was to have a fully physical event, or a decentralized event in different places, but that was challenging due to funding. Still, perhaps next year the event can grow further. There will be registration for the event in the form of a survey, and the event is open to everyone.

The mental health report on COVID-19 is drafted, and we hope to have it sent asap to get feedback. So far we see many issues that PhDs and postdocs are having, such as some receiving a one week extension, and the others getting 10 months extension. There are many concerns surrounding the whole situation. The comments in the discussion go towards disclosing any sensitive information in the comments provided within the survey, and the urgency of the report (as few member organizations mention their institutions would like to read the results).

For anyone interested the local board compensations can be shared with the member organizations. The previous president had the document on her local drive. That was the reason why the current board was not able to reach the document sooner. The information can also be updated.

- 3. AGM**
 - a. Date and Location - Late November, likely 25th**
 - b. Elections - All positions up for election, need candidates**
 - c. Statute Changes - Link to statutes**
 - d.**

It will be held on November, 25 and 26, which is Friday and Saturday. It will follow last year's format so there will be a dinner provided on Friday for everyone and on Saturday the AGM will

be held, hopefully not as long as the previous one (which lasted 3-4 hours overtime). Martin and UiADoc confirmed yesterday that the AGM will be held on one of their campuses. UiADoc is one of the member organizations that has not yet hosted an AGM, so we are very grateful that they offered to organize this year's AGM. This way it will not always be in Bergen or Oslo. At the AGM all SiN board positions will be up for election. Around October we plan to send out descriptions of all the positions and it would be great if the member organizations could forward them further to all their members. Each local organization has the right to send two delegates, whose hotel and travel will be covered by a certain amount. Additional observers who can be sent will have to cover their costs by themselves. It would be great if the positions could be promoted well so that we get more candidates prior to the AGM. At the AGM there will also be statute updates and guidelines updates if needed. If the changes proposed are substantial, there will be a debate and vote on them. Therefore, all member organizations are encouraged to also send proposal for statute changes ideally before the end of October, and it is the same for guidelines. In the coming September newsletter all the details on AGM will be provided, along with the amount covered for each delegate. If any member organization needs a reduced SiN membership fee or an exemption from it, it should be asked for two weeks before the AGM with the justification. That way it can be voted on the AGM. Current membership invoices have been sent out. The board will also double-check whether the changes in guidelines are the sole duty of the board or whether member organizations should be included in that one, too.

4. Guide for those experiencing bullying/harassment
a. Any local information you want included?

SiN has recently written a short guide with resources and procedures for PhDs and postdocs in case they experience any sort of bullying/harassment. It is still quite general. It would be great if the local member organizations could add information on, for instance, an ombudsman that exists at their universities or similar. Nicolas will send information on it, and then the local member organizations will have a chance to provide comments. For now there will be a new section on the SiN's web page about working in Norway, and a list of the different unions and reasons to join them. The idea is to make a list of the most important unions and then ask them to write a short introduction about them on the web page. This way none of the unions is favored, and every single one has a chance to take part. The comments in the discussion relate to covering more unions as some are field-specific like TEKNA or EKONA. Feedback on the idea is positive.

5. Forskerforbundet wants input on policy documents
a. Deadline is Oct. 1
b. Written feedback before then

So, Forskerforbundet every couple of years revises their policy on PhDs and postdocs and they asked for SiN input. The SiN board found in the document many useful points, and supported them. Still, it would be great to hear feedback from the member organizations as well in the form of written feedback by mid-September. In the case of any substantial changes we can try to have them included in their policy.

6. Slack

a. Does anyone else want to be on the Slack

For the new representatives, we have Slack as one of the communication channels. Some of the people present in the meeting on behalf of the member organizations are not included as it seems, and there is also a question about whether more people would like to be included or not. The discussion is going about the purpose of Slack. The main idea is to have an informal way of communicating. If, for instance, a journalist contacts SiN and needs a PhD or a postdoc urgently for an interview, Slack can be a quick way to find one. Also, in the event of any other updates between the meetings. The important documents are sent by e-mail. If someone else from the member organization boards wants to be on Slack they should inform the SiN board.

7. Additional Issues?

- At SiN one thing that is being done is when the government asks for inputs we write them, submit for approval to the member organizations and then send them back. Currently we have one addressing the higher education. The SiN board will send the document (it will be in Norwegian), and comments are due asap, as the document has to be submitted by the 15th. Another statement due in October will also be sent when ready for comments.
- Does an ombudsman exist in universities? The challenge is figuring out whom a PhD or a postdoc should contact and ask for help. Is it better that there is just one person, or is it better to have more sources. How confusing is it? Some member organizations have representatives on different university boards, but is that sufficient? On the other hand, in the case of universities with a large number of students, would it be enough to have 1 ombudsperson. On the other hand, there are unions, but not all PhDs and postdocs are members. Some member organizations are advocating having one at their institutions, and they will report back on the process. SiN is very much willing to support these initiatives. Other European countries have practice in this. The member organizations working on this issue at their institutions will report back.

The meeting ended at 19:07.