



Datum: 2023-10-30

Time: 18.00 Oct 30th - 19.30 Oct 30th

Place: Google Hangout

Attendees: 9 (see Appendix)

Welcome and opening

Ole Kristian Dyskeland greeted all the participants

Updates

- AGM committee has made the decision about the AGM 2023, it is going to be online due to the drastically increased costs for travel and accommodation this year
- nomination committee (Ole Kristian, Nicolas and Regina) will provide suggestions for the AGM who is a good fit for the board
- if anyone has suggestions candidates for the board, should feel free to nominate them

Yearly wheel

- AGM on the 11th and 12th of November
- government announced the budget, according to which we are supposed to get 400 000 NOK, but negotiations are still going on, there might be adjustments

PR review

- there have been some articles on the PhD live and experiences in Khrono
- suggestions for op-ed from Nicolas: experience based suggestions on how to improve a PhD
- an article based on a real story from UiA was published last year; Ole Kristian was in contact with the person, a change of supervisor resulted in her have negative consequences when applying for a permanent position, in addition to mental health issues



- this case makes it obvious that universities do not want deal with problematic cases
- Ole Kristian and Nicolas plan to get an op-ed about the national course portal in late November to follow-up the article by Nicolas published last year

EuroDoc review

- following up on the projects to make documents how to proceed with the excess of income of EuroDoc
- question from Dimitris about the status of PhD in Scandinavian countries as his UsN student card stopped working; first thought - technical issue, but then the PhD coordinator confirmed the employee status
- Regina and Ole Kristian: general view that we are employees and students to very little extent; positive as for example salary & sick leave and negative sides as for example missing student discounts
- Anum: at NTNU if PhD is taking any courses, then it is possible to get a student number and it can be used for the most purposes

UHR review & Consultations

- UHR meeting on the 16th of October, program for Enhetsmøte meeting on the 20th of November
- consultation on the change act on universities and university colleges; will be discussed at the XXX meeting
- another point on the agenda is the budget for 2024, its impact on the universities and research in Norway
- academia, code of practice on industry-academia co-creation for knowledge valorisation, part of EU research, Norway signs to the research area that they want to get involved, UHR is responding to that, discussion what to give as input
- discussion on the national research archive, now is the testing phase; will be tested on 2 universities for the rest of the year, 2 big universities with diverse fields: Oslo and Bergen and a smaller specialized university UsN
- discussion on the change of the publication indicator from 2025 and its potential effects as now publication indicator affects the allocated budget
- last meeting for this year in November
- Kontaktkonferansen 2024 is on the 16th of January in Oslo



- Friederike attended a meeting on supervisory guidelines last Friday; we can give input until the end of the week; send input to Friederike until Wednesday evening, she is going to post a presentation on that topic on Slack
- Friederike also asked about the tax reduction situation for the previous board; looks like the issue with wrong taxation wasn't that relevant for Skatteetaten; Friederike asked to make people aware

Working group status

Mental health and supervision working group

- Nicolas is going to start writing a summary
- Mental Fitness event on the 15th of November; a lot of registrations; 50 spots available, Regina is going to send out confirmation emails and get in touch with Forskerforbundet

Finances working group

- discussions related to the AGM; best solution to have the AGM online

Career working group

- finalizing the survey evaluation
- SiN received an email about survey on soft skills from the European network, Dimitris should check its reliability and then distribute it to the local organizations

AGM

- 11th and 12th of November in Trondheim digital
- reason: due to inflation the prices for flights are very high, even the flights tickets exceed the budget
- discussion whether the board member should meet in person for the AGM: as flights are 2-3 times more expensive compared to the last year, it is not feasible;
- Should the meeting chair (Ole Kristian, Regina, Nicolas and Zihao) meet in person? according to the cost estimates by Nicolas flying to Trondheim or Bergen or Stavanger are approx. as expensive, however, given the most affordable flights and how far the airports are from the city, we would need to reschedule the AGM start for after lunch; Regina's suggests to keep the AGM fully online; everyone agrees; meeting chair will keep in touch on Slack



- we should present a draft of the annual report, however, not started yet as the focus was making the AGM in person possible; OleKristian is going to start on the annual report tomorrow; according to Nicolas many sections can be copied from last year's report; every board member should write a small report about what has been done in their role during the last year, e.g., number of UHR meetings or EuroDoc meetings, what important has happened, financial report; SiN's appearance in the media, engagement on the social media, events collaborations
- it should be a draft of the report and not the final one as it has to be submitted first in February by the new board
- deadline for everyone to write a contribution: next Wednesday; everyone should make a separate document and send it to Ole Kristian, he is going to combine the documents together
- AGM current plan: paying for 2 lunches for all the delegates and the board would be approx 15K NOK would be feasible as we would not have any other expenses
- transition seminar: we do not know yet whether the new board is going to be scattered across Norway or localized, would be beneficial to meet in person to increase the motivation and team feeling, however, some positions can be easily transferred online; but it would be better to leave the new board in a better financial situation
- board members opinion on the transition seminar: Dimitris thinks that we need to decide based on the composition of the new board to estimate the travel costs, possibility to have it hybrid; Friederike is in favor of a physical transition, we could set an allowance which SiN can cover, the rest has to be paid by the board members themselves, EuroDoc is doing it the same way; Ole Kristian thinks that some positions would strongly benefit from meeting physically, e.g., president or UHR, to establish contact
- no perfect solution with such strict financial constraints; however, we already had to make some hard choices as e.g. Friederike was not able to attend the Idrettsmote (however, financially would be possible to sign up now if still possible); it would be beneficial to finish the year in a better financial situation so that the new board has an opportunity to go to the conferences, e.g., Kontaktkonferansen in January before the new budget arrives in March

Budget proposal for 2024

- the new budget is going to be passed at the AGM, we need to present expected costs and revenue, at the time point of the AGM we won't know exactly how much we are going to get from the government, an estimate is needed; approx. 300K NOK from the government



- **Membership fees:** based on the budget of the local organization
- **Compensation of the board members:** constant amount, compensation compared to now can also be reduced since SiN board 2024 is going to have less people; difficult for AGM to find a reasonable amount
- **Subscription for president's mobile:** is going to be discontinued; this year Nicolas was the contact person for the media; the contract is still active and should expire by the end of the year; Ole Kristian will check how much it costs to cancel it right away
- **AGM 2025:** travel and accommodation, catering, dinner; cost estimates based on the number of board members in the new board (6 people); covering costs for only one delegate; 4K NOK per delegate based on the current prices; the SiN board 2021 set the limit of 2K and the costs above needed to be covered by the local boards; agreed to propose the same for the next board; Ole Kristian suggests to raise the allowance up to 2.5K NOK
- **Membership fees:** EuroDoc
- **UHR conferences:** Kontaktkonferanse, Samarbeidskonferanse, UHR-Konferansen, 2*Enhetsmøte + evt. Forskerutdanningskonferanse
- **Miscellaneous:** website, invoice, bank and accountant (auditor) fees
- Change of the auditor based on the incident this year; Ole Kristian: technically the auditor did nothing wrong as he is responsible for reporting the sums and not controlling the correctness of the sum; need to check out the termination terms of the current contract

Other

- Remaining board meetings: AGM in November, meeting December
- Nicolas: 5 applicants so far, no applicants for the presidency, Ole Kristian has a potential candidate



SiN Monthly Meeting 2023-10-30
Google Hangout

Appendix: Attendies

Ole Kristian Dyskeland

Regina Paul

Friederike Schäfer

Zihao Wang

Yucong Ma

Dimitris Polychronopoulos

Jareef Bin Martuza

Nicolas Gibney

Anum Masood