

## **Annual Report of the PhD Council, 2019**

### **1. Summary of work of the PhD Council in 2019**

In 2019, the PhD Council consisted of the following people who represented the PhDs and Post Docs in the mentioned committees:

- Astrid Iversen, Department of Private Law - head of the council and representing temporary employees in the Faculty Board
- Runar Hilleren Lie, PluriCourts – treasurer, IVA, meeting alternate for the Election Committee for the Dean
- Nicola Claire Strain, PluriCourts, secretary
- Johan Wibye, Department of Public and International Law - PFF
- Jørgen Sørsgard Skjold, Department of Public and International Law - Law Faculty Working Group
- Birgit Hellesnes, Department of Public and International Law - LiMU

During the course of the year, the PhD Council has worked to represent the interests of PhDs and Post Docs at the Faculty of Law. This has involved participation in ongoing processes at the Faculty, representing PhDs and Post Docs in committees and initiating events that bring PhDs and other researchers together. This work is briefly summarised below.

The PhD Council has organised two events during the course of 2019. These events have aimed at bringing together PhDs and Post Docs for social gatherings combined with a topical debate or other form of academically relevant content. The event on 26 March included a panel debate focusing on “the past present and future of legal research”. Among the issues covered was the merits and problems of internationalisation; the challenges of interdisciplinarity; the structures of academic life and the various views on the role (past, present and future) of the Oslo Law Faculty in Norwegian society. The event on 9 October focused on the then ongoing election for Dean and Vice Deans. The two teams of candidates were invited to present themselves to PhDs and Postdocs. Both events included a social-side to the event, with the service of food and beverages for attendees.

The Dean suggested ending the practice of offering 6-month teaching contracts to PhDs who hand in their thesis on time (the completion grant). The PhD Council made a preliminary complaint to the Dean which resulted in the Dean asking for input from the various faculty bodies in a written hearing. The PhD Council drafted a response arguing against ending the completion grant. After asking all PhDs and Post Docs for comments on the draft via email, the PhD Council sent our response to the Dean in a letter on 23 August (see Appendix I). The case is still pending and will probably be handled by the newly elected Dean, and should therefore be followed up by the new PhD Council.

The PhD Council submitted to PFF a suggestion to formalise the PhD Council’s status through a change in the Faculty regulations. This is meant to ensure both that the interests of PhD candidates are heard during decision-making and to aid in recruiting new members. The Faculty



administration is currently considering the wider ramifications of the suggestion, and there may be a need for the next Council to add some detail to the existing proposal. Although the process is currently between the administration and the PFF, the final decision is to be taken by the Faculty Board. The aim of the PhD Council was to have support/recommendation from the PFF and thereafter raise the case with the Dean and the Faculty Board.

The PhD Council was represented by Jørgen Sørgard Skjold in the working group for the assessment of the organisation of the Faculty. This working group was established in 2019 to undertake an initial review of the organisational structure at the Faculty.

The PhD Council was represented by Runar Lie as a meeting alternate at the election committee for the Dean of the Faculty. The PhD Council's position of a transparent, free and open election was communicated in the committee meetings. The elections were held with two teams, for the first time in the Faculty's history. The candidates were subject to numerous debates, including one organised by the PhD Council. The PhD Council considers the election to be in line with its position on transparent, free and open procedures.

The PhD Council carried out a brief survey regarding experiences with supervisors. Twenty-two students responded, which is a high percentage of PhD candidates. Results showed that students are satisfied with the academic proficiency of supervisors, but indicated challenges related to the availability of supervisors and their ability to act as mentors. These results were passed on to the PFF and were submitted to the supervisor conference held in Oslo in 2019 (see Appendix II).

The budgetary situation of the PhD Council is currently dwindling. At the beginning of the term the PhD Council had 23 124,01 kr cash on hand. After having received receipts for all but one expense for the events of 2019 the current cash on hand is 18 804,21 kr (see below account summary). All expenditures by the PhD Council this year has been for events where all PhDs have been invited. While the current financial status will allow the PhD Council to operate at similar levels for the foreseeable future, efforts will be made to ensure a more stable financing source to allow the PhD Council to arrange an increased program of events for the PhDs. To this end, a letter to the Faculty as well as the heads of each Department will be sent in December, asking for regular funding in accordance with the number of PhDs in each Department. Final accounts, including the cost of the general meeting, will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

Transaction number	Date	Description	Movement	Bank account
1	18.12.2018	Ingoing balance	0,00	23124,01
2	26.03.2019	Wine for event	-719,80	0,00
3	07.10.2019	Peppes pizza for event	-1616,00	0,00
4	26.03.2019	Peppes pizza for event	-1984,00	0,00
5	27.11.2019	Interest (not yet accrued)	20,13	0,00
6	27.11.2019	Refund of outlays for transactions 3, 4 and 5		-4319,80
	27.11.2019	Result before interest accrual	-4319,80	
		Result after interest accrual	-4299,67	
		Current bank account		18804,21

## 2. **Agenda for the Annual Meeting 2019**

### Proposed Revisions to the PhD Council's Statutes

The PhD Council recommends the following changes to the PhD Council's Statutes (see Appendix III) be passed at the Annual Meeting:

- (1) Suggested Revision 1: The time of the annual meeting should be before the nomination deadline for representatives for temporary staff to the Faculty Board, so that the newly elected PhD Council members can run for election.

Old 2.2: 'Medlemmene velges ved allmøtet i desember hvert år. Som valgt anses den som får flest stemmer. De valgte medlemmenes funksjonstid er ett år.'

New 2.2: Medlemmene velges ved allmøtet i oktober eller november hvert år, slik at det er tilpasset nominasjonsperioden til Fakultetstyret. Som valgt anses den som får flest stemmer. De valgte medlemmenes funksjonstid er ett år.

- (2) Suggested Revision 2: References to annual meetings in December in section 4.1 should be deleted.

### Election to the PhD Council 2020

The PhD Council has received the following candidates for election to the PhD Council 2020:

- Runar Hilleren Lie, PluriCourts – Chair
- Birgit Hellesnes, Department of Public and International Law - Treasurer
- Nicola Claire Strain, PluriCourts – Secretary
- Dorina Damsa - Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law

### Nomination for the Faculty Board 2020

The PhD Council suggests the nomination of the following candidates to represent the PhDs and Post Docs in the Faculty Board:

- Runar Hilleren Lie – Main Candidate for Faculty Board
- Birgit Hellesnes – First Deputy Candidate for Faculty Board
- Dorina Damsa - Second Deputy Candidate for Faculty Board

## 3. **Appendices**

- I. Letter to the Dean concerning the completion grant
- II. Results of the survey carried out in March 2019
- III. The current Statutes of the PhD Council
- IV. Minutes from the PhD Council meetings in 2019

## **Appendix I: Letter to the Dean concerning the completion grant**

Til Dekanetet ved Dag Michaelsen

**Stipendiatrådets merknader til «Høring - forslag til dekanvedtak om avvikling av ordningen med gjennomføringsstipend», med frist 23 August 2019.**

Stipendiatrådet jobber for å ivareta stipendiatenes interesser ved Det juridiske fakultet. Rådets medlemmer representerer stipendiatene i fakultetets organer.

Vi takker for muligheten til å komme med innspill i saken om potensiell avvikling av ordningen med gjennomføringsstipend for stipendiater som har levert inn doktorgradsavhandlingen innen tidsfristen.

Stipendiatrådet har i et tidligere brev gitt uttrykk for positive sider ved gjennomføringsstipendiatets eksistens og vil her hovedsakelig fokusere på dekanatets hovedargumenter: 1) økonomiske og administrative utfordringer, herunder mangelfullt undervisningsbidrag og 2) at ordningen kan ha vært et incentiv til å levere doktoravhandlingen for tidlig.

**1. Økonomiske og administrative utfordringer**

Dekanatets sentrale argument er at fakultetet må spare penger. Forslaget mangler imidlertid de to tallene som vil bestemme om avviklingen bidrar til kostnadsbesparelse: Hvor mye ordningen koster, og hvor mye fakultetet alternativt ville brukt på undervisning og sensur som nå dekkes av gjennomføringsstipendiater. Hvis det er et behov for undervisningskrefter og sensorer til kursoppgaver, fakultetsoppgaver og eksamensretting, er dette uansett utgifter som fakultetet må dekke. Stipendiatrådet har vanskelig for å tro at kontrakter om eksterne undervisningskrefter vil utgjøre en stor reduksjon i kostnadene og i logistikkarbeid sammenlignet med dagens ordning, dersom gjennomføringsstipendiatene blir utnyttet på en god måte.

Vi har forståelse for at det er problematisk hvis gjennomføringsstipendiater gjør at man foretrekker stipendiatstillinger. Det er imidlertid uklart for oss hvorfor en undervisningsstilling slik som gjennomføringsstipendiatet er, skal dekkes av den samme potten som de ordinære basisstipendiatene. Stipendiatrådet hadde håpet at dekanatet hadde sett på alternative finansieringsløsninger, for eksempel fra undervisningsbudsjettet for å kunne beholde gjennomføringsstipendiet og det godet det utgjør for stipendiater i innspurtsfasen.

Mangelfullt undervisningsbidrag

Vi forstår at det er utfordrende å planlegge undervisning og sensur. Det har vært pekt på at det er vanskelig for administrasjonen med forutsigbarhet både ved at stipendiater ikke er tydelige på når de skal tiltre gjennomføringsperioden, at de slutter midt i perioden, samt at gjennomføringsstipendiater ikke underviser eller sensurerer i det omfanget kontrakten legger opp til. Hvis dette er tilfelle, er det tydelig at implementeringen av gjennomføringsstipendiet bør forbedres. Vi har likevel vanskeligheter med å forstå hvorfor det er vanskeligere å planlegge undervisning for gjennomføringsstipendiater enn for ordinære stipendiater. Det må for øvrig også kunne forventes av stipendiater at de melder ifra til administrasjon eller institutt om kapasitet i påfølgende semester, selv før kandidaten har levert, slik det ellers gjøres overfor ordinære stipendiater. Arbeidsoppgaver som kandidaten påtar seg må videre være bindende som enhver annen arbeidskontrakt, slik at man ikke kan trekke seg fra oppgaver man



har bundet seg til. Det er uklart for oss hvorfor dette har blitt akseptert av fakultetet, hvis det har vært vanlig for tidligere gjennomføringsstipendiater.

Stipendiatrådet mener at utfordringene med mangelfullt bidrag til undervisningen ikke ligger i gjennomføringsstipendets karakter, men en for svak undervisningsledelse. Det kan i dag virke som om enkelte fagmiljøer har en for løs struktur med tanke på planlegging av undervisning. Hvis det er et behov for sensorer og undervisningskrefter som gjennomføringsstipendiater kan dekke, bør ikke undervisningsledelse og logistikkutfordringer være avgjørende faktorer for at man legger ned gjennomføringsstipendet.

Vi mener at potensielle problemer med for lite undervisning per gjennomføringsstipendiat kan reduseres dersom man i større grad jobber for å sikre forskningsbasert undervisning ved å trekke på stipendiater kompetanse også før de går inn i gjennomføringsstipendiatperioden, samt å inkludere dem mer i planleggingen av undervisningen. I dag blir stipendiater med kompetanse på et feltet ikke integrert som en naturlig del av undervisningskapasiteten. I denne sammenhengen er det naturlig å vise til fakultetets satsning på erfaringsbasert læring gjennom prosjektet CELL. I CELL er forskningsbasert undervisning et av kjerneområdene, og stipendiatene vil her kunne være en ressurs for å integrere nyskapende forskning inn i undervisningen.

I forbindelse med spørsmålet om gjennomføringsstipendiater bidrag til fakultetet vil vi også fremheve at tallgrunnlaget som dekanatet har lagt frem i liten grad er egnet til å underbygge slutningen om at gjennomføringsstipendiater ikke bidrar til fakultetets publikasjonspoeng. Tallene ser ut til å være basert på registreringer i Cristin mens gjennomføringsstipendet pågår, men innen publikasjoner har blitt fagfellevurdert, korrigert, publisert og deretter registrert, er gjennomføringsperioden over.

#### Likebehandling

Vi ønsker også å ytre vår bekymring for risikoen for at stipendiater inngår individuelle kontrakter med institutter eller forskningssentre om undervisning og enkeltprosjekter i etterkant av innlevering, som substitutt for gjennomføringsstipend. Stipendiatrådet ønsker ryddige prosesser der stipendiater blir likebehandlet. Det bør ikke utvikle seg en praksis der enkeltstipendiater inngår korttidskontrakter på individuell basis basert på personlige kontakter.

## **2. Incentiv for gjennomføring versus utsatt gjennomføring**

At stipendiater slipper å tenke på å søke jobb det siste året som stipendiat er en faktor som øker sjansen for å levere en avhandling som blir godkjent av bedømmelseskomiteen innen normert tid. Videre, en lovnad om en arbeidskontrakt utgjør i seg selv et incentiv for å levere innen fristen. At dette virkemiddelet også kan gjøre at stipendiater leverer på et tidspunkt hvor avhandlingen ikke tilfredsstillende bedømmingskomiteens krav, er en tilknyttet risiko. Hvis det er et reelt problem at stipendiater leverer avhandlingen for tidlig, bør man diskutere veilederes rolle i å forebygge levering av mangelfull avhandling og evt. utbedre systemet for fremdriftsrapportering.

Stipendiater som ikke klarer å levere ved utgang av stipendiatperioden vil normalt gå over i en ny jobb hvor det vil være mindre tid til å ferdigstille avhandlingen. At gjennomføringsstipendets eksistens er en faktor som bidrar til utsatt eller manglende gjennomføring sammenlignet med normalsituasjonen, er i våre øyne et lite overbevisende argument. Alternativet er at

stipendiatene holder frem med skrivingen uten lønn, som ikke er en ønskelig situasjon. For utenlandske stipendiater er dette potensielt mer problematisk, ettersom de ikke nødvendigvis vil ha oppholdstillatelse i en slik situasjon.

Stipendiatrådet er enig med dekanatet i at tallgrunnlaget som er presentert i saksbakgrunnen ikke bør brukes som argumentasjon i noen retning - hverken som grunnlag for å si at det er manglende incentiv eller at det er årsak til utsatt/ manglende gjennomføring - fordi utvalget og sammenligningsgrunnlaget er mangelfullt. Diskusjonen om hvorvidt gjennomføringsstipendiet er et incentiv til rettidig eller heller utsatt gjennomføring bør baseres på andre argumenter.

Stipendiatrådet kan ikke se at det foreligger sterke argumenter for å legge ned gjennomføringsstipendiet. Tvert om utgjør ordningen et gode både for fakultetet og for stipendiatene, som bør beholdes og utnyttes på en bedre måte enn det gjøres i dag. Stipendiatrådet er positive til å bidra i en prosess hvor man går gjennom innholdet i kontrakten til gjennomføringsstipendiater for å sikre at undervisningsressursene blir utnyttet bedre i fremtiden.

På vegne av Stipendiatrådet



Astrid Iversen  
Leder, Stipendiatrådet

## **Appendix II. Results of the survey carried out in March 2019**



Q1

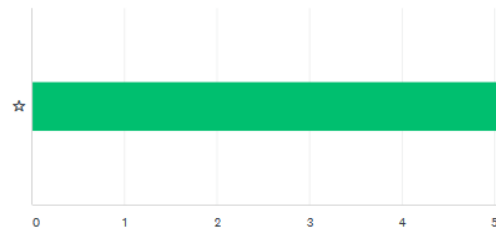


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

How satisfied are you with your supervisor's availability?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALT	VEKTET GJENNOMSNITT
★	4,55% 1	13,64% 3	4,55% 1	9,09% 2	9,09% 2	31,82% 7	27,27% 6	22	5,09

[Kommentarer \(12\)](#)

Q2

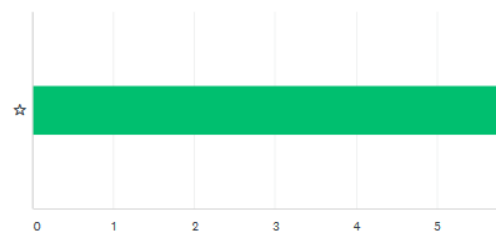


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

How satisfied are you with your supervisor's academic proficiency in your field?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALT	VEKTET GJENNOMSNITT
★	4,55% 1	0,00% 0	4,55% 1	13,64% 3	0,00% 0	31,82% 7	45,45% 10	22	5,82

[Kommentarer \(9\)](#)

Q3

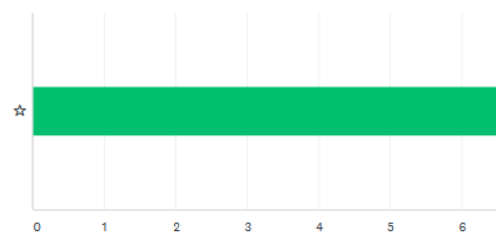


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

How satisfied are you with your supervisor's approach to the ethical issue of co-authorship?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 3



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALT	VEKTET GJENNOMSNITT
★	0,00% 0	0,00% 0	5,26% 1	0,00% 0	0,00% 0	21,05% 4	73,68% 14	19	6,58

(Scale: 1-7)

Q4

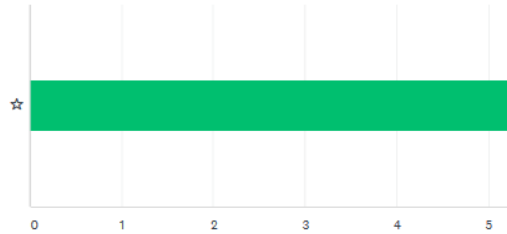


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

How satisfied are you with the degree of influence your supervisor exercises over your work?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALT	VEKTET GJENNOMSNIITT
☆	4,55% 1	4,55% 1	4,55% 1	22,73% 6	0,00% 0	36,36% 8	27,27% 6	22	5,27

Q5

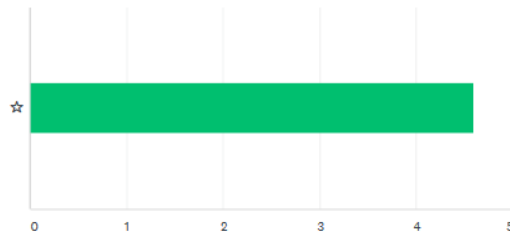


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

How satisfied are you with your supervisor's general role as a mentor?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTALT	VEKTET GJENNOMSNIITT
☆	9,09% 2	9,09% 2	9,09% 2	9,09% 2	31,82% 7	13,64% 3	18,18% 4	22	4,59

Kommentarer (9)

Q6

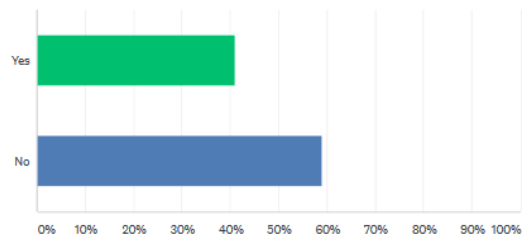


Tilpass

Lagre som ▼

Are you being supervised by academics external to UiO?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



SVARVALG	SVAR	
Yes	40,91%	9
No	59,09%	13
TOTALT		22

### Question 7: Optional comment

"It would be nice maybe to have a clear scheme that facilitate setting of expectations from both side."

"Where the faculty knows that there have been problems or lack of supervision in the past, they must be more active to ensure that new phd students who have those supervisors actually do get supervision."

"I have no idea what I am entitled to expect from a "good" supervisor. I know how many hours I am entitled to have, but not the quality of the supervision. The candidates should be informed of this during the introduction as well and not only about the number of hours. When I ask for advice or want to discuss a topic, pros and cons and so forth, I far to often receive the answer "you just have to figure it out". Not much of support. I also think it would be helpful if this topic (supervision or rather project management) could be discussed among the candidates. Not in order to talk "bad" about anybody, but in order to give each other support."

"Not sure if it already exists but there needs to be a limit on the number of PhDs a supervisor can supervise at a time. Some seem to have too many handle."

"The quality of supervision has been very good. However, my supervisor is clearly overworked and has way too many PhD students. Therefore, it is very difficult to submit work and obtain feedback in a timely. However, the quality and level of detail of the feedback could honestly not be better. Therefore, I am very satisfied, but UiO needs to seriously consider either hiring more professors or limiting PhDs."

"It could be made clearer for supervisors as well as the supervisee what one should and should not expect from supervisors."

## **Appendix III. The current Statutes of the PhD Council**

### **Statutter for Stipendiatrådet ved Det juridiske fakultet, Universitetet i Oslo**

#### **1. Formål**

Stipendiatrådet skal fungere som et talerør for stipendiatene ved Det juridiske fakultet, Universitetet i Oslo.

Rådet skal fremme synspunkter og problemstillinger som er aktuelle for stipendiatene, gjennom ulike representantposisjoner i fakultetets og instituttenes organer. Rådet skal også formidle informasjon fra disse organene til stipendiatene.

Rådet skal slik fylle en tillitsvalgtfunksjon for stipendiatene på tvers av fagområder og institutter, og samtidig bidra til å forbedre kommunikasjonen mellom stipendiatene og fakultetsorganene.

#### **2. Rådets sammensetning**

Om mulig skal rådet bestå av fem medlemmer som representerer fakultetets institutter og senter, slik at hvert institutt og senter er representert med ett medlem.

Medlemmene velges ved allmøtet i desember hvert år. Som valgt anses den som får flest stemmer. De valgte medlemmenes funksjonstid er ett år.

Rådet konstituerer seg selv på første rådsmøte etter valget men de sentrale funksjonene av én lederen og sekretæren skal velges under allmøtet. Det er et mål at Rådet har nært samarbeid med representanter som bekler verv for midlertidig ansatte i alle fakultetets råd og utvalg. Der representanten er stipendiat, er det et mål at representanten også er medlem av Rådet.

#### **3. Rådets møter**

Stipendiatrådet avholder møter etter behov. Som hovedregel avholdes møte én gang i måneden i vår- og høstsemesteret.

#### **4. Allmøtet**

I desember hvert år avholdes allmøte for fakultetets stipendiater, hvor Rådets arbeid presenteres. Allmøtet etterfølges av et sosialt arrangement.

For øvrig avholdes allmøte når dette kreves av minst tre av stipendiatrådets medlemmer eller minst 20 av stipendiatene. I begge tilfeller skal stipendiatrådet kalle inn til allmøte som avholdes i løpet av fire uker etter at krav om allmøte er fremsatt.

Senest tre uker før allmøtet skal stipendiatrådet sende innkalling til møtet. Innkallingen sendes stipendiatene per e-post med varsel om at saker som ønskes forelagt allmøtet til vedtagelse etter pkt. 4.2, må sendes inn til stipendiatrådet senest to uker før allmøtet. Dersom stipendiatrådet mottar saker som nevnt, skal Rådet sende ut en endret saksliste senest én uke før allmøtet.

## **5. Referat mv.**

Rådets sekretær fører referat og sender referat fra rådets møter og allmøter til stipendiatene. Representanter som også sitter i fakultetets øvrige organer, skal i rådsmøtene informere om aktuelle saker.



## **Appendix IV. Minutes from the PhD Council meetings in 2019**

# **PhD Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

15 January 2019

### **Opening**

The regular meeting of the PhD Council was called to order at 1300 on 15 January 2019 in Domus Media by Astrid Iversen.

### **Present**

Astrid Iversen, Runar Lie, Nicola Strain, Birgit Hellesnes and Jørgen Skjold.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

### **Agenda**

#### **1. How to run the PhD Council**

##### **1.1 Meeting frequency**

The frequency of meetings of the PhD Council was discussed in relation to meeting prior to the meetings of the other committees which members of the PhD Council are required to sit on. The Faculty Board meets about four times per year.

Members of the Council are to circulate cases that are to be discussed prior to the committee meetings and then flag anything to follow up after the committee meetings. The PhD Council will discuss amongst the members whether any cases from the committee meetings are to be sent to the PhD cohort.

PhD Council to have meetings every two months and further meetings to be called as required.

##### **1.2 Website and email list**

Nicola Strain has administrative rights to the email list and the website. All members of the PhD Council have been added to the email list. The PhD Council website is to be updated as issues arise.

A short summary of the minutes of the PhD Council should be sent to the PhD cohort. Strain to send out the top lines of discussion of each meeting in English.

#### **2. Formalisation of the roles of the Council members**

The formalization of the roles of the Council members as circulated by Astrid Iversen was agreed.

The agreed roles are:

- Astrid Iversen – Faculty Board
- Runar Lie – IVA
- Johann Wibye – PFF
- Birgit – LIMU
- Jørgen Skjold – Academic (and social) events
- Nicola Strain – Social (and academic) events

### **3. Budget**

Runar Lie reported that the PhD Council has about 23,000 NOK. PhD Council may apply for further funding for specific events. There are two deadlines for such funding each year.

Agreed that PhD Council could coordinate events with academic faculty and research groups.

It was also discussed that it might be easier for the PhD Council to get an annual grant from the Faculty like research groups. This could be included as part of the request for formalization.

### **4. Formalising the PhD Council**

The PhD Council discussed the potential disadvantages of formalization:

- Time and effort required to formalize committee.
- PhDs are academic employees and do not need a formalized interest group.
- The members of the PhD Council are already invited to hold positions within all relevant Faculty committees. The Council seems, for all practical purposes, to be recognized and included in relevant issues with its current status.
- PhDs are in a different position than regular students who have formalized student organizations.
- Concern with too many formalized groups within the Faculty.

The PhD Council discussed the potential reasons for formalization:

- PhDs are in a special category – temporary academic employees who are also students. PhDs are in a more vulnerable employment group than most academics.

- Formalising PhD Council would ensure the formalization of the election and representation of the PhD Council on Faculty committees.
- Formalising the PhD Council would ensure that the Faculty is required to ask for the PhD Council's opinion on important issues, rather than merely the prerogative of the Dean.
- Recruitment may be easier if formalized.

PhD Council noted that formalization may involve specific formal obligations to the Faculty, such as annual reporting, transparent budget and meeting minutes.

Agreed (4-2) that PhD Council would write to PFF seeking formalization. Lie to draft formalization request.

## **5. Credit for sitting in committees**

PhD Council to prioritise formalization of the Council and then consider teaching credit later. Lie to include separate paragraph in letter of formalization for committee to consider.

Agreed that PhD Council will not be requesting teaching credit for sitting on the PhD Council.

## **6. Dinner with the 2018 Council**

Astrid Iversen to send current and previous Council members poll to determine date of dinner. Fridays in February are preferred.

## **7. Social and academic events**

PhD Council agreed to hold at least 1 academic event in Spring semester and 2 in Autumn semester, with another possible event in June. Jørgen Skjold to begin organizing first academic event to be held in March. Preliminary topic for event is a panel discussion on the past and future of academic research at the Faculty. Members of panel to be from different departments and areas of law, where possible. Panel to include one female academic. Astrid Iversen to consider possible private law academics.

PhD Council also discussed whether to hold events in Norwegian or English. Norwegian events may change the debate but English events may be more inclusive.

Other suggested events include:

- Career pathways (possibly in Autumn)

- Suggestion by Rosa Manzo – public speaking workshop
- Reference manager courses (EndNote) and other courses on technology to assist PhD writing process.
- Tips and trick of doing a PhD (more social event)

#### **8. New deanship election committee**

Runar Lie to sit on the new deanship election committee on behalf of PhDs.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1440 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be at a date to be determined based on the timing of the next Faculty Board meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain



## Phd Council Meeting

Tuesday 19 February 2019, 12.00 – 13:40, Domus Media West, 4th floor, room 335.

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**Present:** Astrid, Birgit, Johann, Jørgen, Nicola, Runar.

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### Opening

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed by Astrid Iversen by email on 18 February 2019.

### Agenda

#### 1. LIMU

Birgit provided an update from LIMU: no particular issues to report from the meeting of LIMU on 11 February 2019. The topic of the meeting was the concretization of working on diversity at the Faculty. Birgit reported that there was only discussion at this meeting and no concrete decisions were made. The meeting included discussion of:

- The Forum for International Researchers organised by Malcolm Langford;
- Discussion of possible ways to increase diversity;
- Concern amongst some LIMU members that law students seems quite homogenous and that recruitment could be more diverse;
- Concern in relation to the writing skills for non-Norwegian native speaking students which could be addressed through spring courses or extra time for exams; and
- Quota for international students and how to compensate for the fact that this has been abolished.

The PhD Council discussed whether there were forums for international students and Norwegian students to interact and whether this should be encouraged as part of helping the current diversity between international and Norwegian students at the Faculty.

The PhD Council discussed whether the mentoring program should be open to all PhD students, not just women. The PhD Council is not aware of the split between male and female PhD students but that the academic split is at least 50/50 (for IOR). The PhD Council discussed the running of the program and the issues with lack of requirements for mentors and mentoring relationship. The PhD Council also discussed whether the mentoring program should be for a shorter duration and more formalised (to help students at the beginning of their PhDs to build networks) or whether the mentoring program was a longer-term relationship for career development. The PhD Council also discussed whether the mentoring program should be amended to provide support for international students.



The PhD Council agreed that the mentoring program should be open to male and female PhD students and that LIMU should be encouraged to consider the duration and function of the mentoring program to ensure the program worked effectively and cost-efficiently.

## **2. PFF**

Johann provided an update from the last meeting of PFF. Two issues were addressed at the meeting: the guidelines for the assessment of article-based dissertations and organising a meeting of all academic supervisors.

For the guidelines for the assessment of article-based dissertations, the PhD Council discussed how the guidelines are communicated to the assessment committees and how this could affect how foreign or Norwegian professors follow the guidelines. The PhD Council agreed that there are no issues with the guidelines.

In relation to the meeting of academic supervisors, Johann noted that he had been asked for the general feeling amongst PhD students and that Malcolm Langford had suggested a survey of PhD students for this purpose. The PhD Council discussed whether such a survey would provide any useful results.

Johann provided the following suggested questions for the meeting:

How satisfied are you with your supervisors:

- availability?
- academic proficiency in your field?
- approach to ethical issues such as co-authorship and degree of influence exercised over the candidate's work?
- general role as a mentor?

The PhD Council agreed for the survey to be sent out with the following amendments/additions to Johann's proposal:

- Survey to include ratings for each question;
- Question 3 (approach to ethical issues) to be broken into two separate questions;
- Separate ratings boxes for first and second supervisor;
- Include question whether supervisor is external to UiO or not.

The PhD Council also agreed that the survey should be anonymous and that PFF should be provided with the response rate of the survey.

## **3. Faculty board meeting**

Astrid provided an update on the Faculty Board: the meeting primarily concerns budget and account issues. New positions were also discussed: legal history, insurance law, energy/climate, and new position in tax law if the faculty gets external funding.

Astrid noted that little of interest for the PhD Council.

See general info here:

<https://www.jus.uio.no/om/organisasjon/styret/moter/2019/190225/saksart.html>

Decisions from the Dean: <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/aktuelle-saker/dekanvedtak/>

#### **4. Names for new deans**

Runar noted that he has not received any updates on the working group. The PhD Council discussed ways that the Council and PhDs could be involved in the process and some of the attitudes of the Faculty to new deans.

The PhD Council agreed that Runar would follow up on the meeting/progress of the working group and that the PhD Council would not make any decision on this issue at this stage.

#### **5. IVA**

Runar provided update on IVA: two positions have been discussed but nothing of interest to the PhD Council.

#### **6. Academic seminar**

Jørgen has begun preparing an academic seminar involving Malcolm Langford, Christopher Eriksen and May-Len Skilbrei. The seminar is intended to be conversational panel-style, discussing the past and future of academics at the Faculty. Jørgen will prepare a list of questions with the panel prior to the event.

The PhD Council agreed to combine the academic event with a social event, providing soft drinks, wine, beer and pizza for those attending. Suggested date for early April, subject to panellist availability. The PhD Council also agreed that Kjerka would be a suitable venue. The event will also be open beyond PhDs. Suggested budget of 5,000 kr but PhD Council may be able to ask institutes for further social funds.

Jørgen also suggested two events for the autumn: a writing and publishing workshop for Norwegian PhDs and another event in English.

The PhD Council agreed that one event should be held in Norwegian, tailored to Norwegian students writing in Norwegian, and another event in English to have the same panel-style format to be held this semester. The PhD Council also agreed that having recurring events in the panel-style format would be useful and encourage greater attendance.

#### **7. Life after PHD- seminar (career seminar)**

The PhD Council agreed that the seminar was too expensive for the PhD Council.

### **8. Formalisation of the PhD council**

Runar has drafted a letter to send to PFF for formalisation of the PhD Council.

The PhD Council discussed concerns about the cost implications for formalisation of the PhD Council as formalisation may lead to requirement for compensation for sitting on committees, even if the current PhD Council is not seeking such compensation.

The PhD Council also discussed the possible need for amending PhD Council statutes if election of PhD representatives on committees was going to be done at the General Assembly.

Runar to send draft letter to PhD Council for comments. The PhD Council agreed that the letter should include a sentence noting that there is disagreement within the PhD Council on this issue but that the majority have decided to seek formalisation. The PhD Council to finalise letter for PFF meeting in April or mid-June.

### **9. Dinner 1<sup>st</sup> of March**

Dinner with 2018 PhD Council to be held on 1 March. No suggestions of venue were made.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1340 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain

## PhD Council Meeting

Thursday 2 May 2019, 12.00 – 13:15, Domus Media West, room 311.

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**Present:** Astrid, Birgit, Johan, Nicola, Runar.

**Absent:** Jørgen.

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### Agenda

#### **1. Committee updates**

##### **1.1 Faculty Board**

Astrid had nothing to report from the Faculty Board.

##### **1.2 LiMU**

Birgit attended a LiMU meeting on 1 April. Committee agenda included orientations about planned arrangements on debate culture and diversity and the guidelines on sexual harassment.

LiMU received two applications for funds. LiMU manages 140,000 kr which is supposed to be matched by the Faculty. Birgit suggested to LiMU that the availability of these funds be shown on LiMU's website as the funds are not well known.

##### **1.3 Dean Selection Committee**

Runar has attended the first meeting of the Deanship Selection Committee. The Committee seems to be taking a democratic approach to the selection, allowing anyone to nominate for deanship. The Committee has a target of having at least two candidate teams and seems to have a desire for an open process and a female dean. The Committee does not seem to endorse any rotation basis between IOR and IFP but Committee's idea is that candidate team should have wide support from institutes.

The next meeting of the Committee is in June and Committee hopes to have inkling of candidates before the next meeting. The Committee process is supposed to end in October with new deanship starting January.

Runar suggested that if anyone on PhD Council has suggestions for deans to email him and he can suggest to the Committee and spread the news that this is happening. Once candidate teams have been arranged, PhD Council should prepare questions for candidates to put stipendiater on the agenda of the selection process.

##### **1.4 IVA**





Runar reported that nothing particularly interesting has arisen in IVA. The process seems to be working as it is supposed to in eliminating favouritism etc. The IVA does not have meetings – all interactions via email with short deadlines. Runar considered that the volume is low so this has not been a problem but the process should be more formalised.

### **1.5 PFF**

Johan has attended one meeting of PFF since the last PhD Council meeting. Johan presented the survey results sent out to stipendiater in March, noting that only 22 responses were received (out of about 40 stipendiater). PFF was focused on accessibility and whether supervisors should have a mentorship role.

PFF included a last minute agenda item which meant Johan was not able to raise with the PhD Council before the meeting: raising the word limit for PhD dissertations to 300,000. The current limit is 200,000 with recommended 100,000. Johan was asked during PFF whether stipendiater wanted a higher word limit. PFF discussed the following options: removal of any word limit, ad hoc applications to raise word limits or raising to 250,000. PFF decided not to make any change to the word limit.

The PhD Council discussed whether word limit should be raised, noting the potential limitation on research if shorter word limit, verbage if too long and global trend was towards shorter dissertations. Astrid noted that haven't heard any complaints from stipendiater so happy to leave as is. However, Astrid noted concern that about PFF raising issues related to stipendiater last minute and so PhD Council could not be consulted before the meeting.

PFF also reviewed applications for external PhDs (i.e. PhDs funded externally and based at another organisation but attend UiO courses and receive PhD from UiO). PFF accepted 4 out of 7 applications. Johan noted that the Faculty has a financial incentive to approve applications which may lead to issues surrounding the value of a PhD. PhD Council discussed the selection process and some members concerned that the process for external PhDs is not as thorough as fellowships and may affect the quality and value of PhDs from the Faculty. PhD Council also discussed if the number of external increases as stipendiater numbers decrease may cause ratio issues. Johan to keep the PhD Council updated on the number of applications etc and PhD Council may raise the issue with other bodies if developments require it.

## **2. Formalisation of the PhD council**

Runar presented the revised draft letter to send to PFF for formalisation of the PhD Council. Runar set out the two small changes that were made based on discussions at the last meeting.

All PhD Council members to review letter before sending to PFF. Letter to be sent to PFF for approval (next meeting in June) before seeking approval from the Faculty Board.

## **3. Social event**

PhD Council agreed that no need to arrange a social event before the summer given IFP and IOR are likely to have social events soon.

#### **4. Dean's decision on 3-year stipendiater teaching**

Runar raised the Dean's decision from March that future stipendiater on 3-year teaching contracts will not be allowed to teach (<https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/aktuelle-saker/dekanvedtak/2019/dekanvedtak-jf-2019-11-opphor-av-ordningen-med-forlenget-tilsetting-for-utfort-undervisning-for-stipendiater-med-3-ars-kontrakter.pdf>). Runar raised concern that this decision was made without consultation and suggested the PhD Council write to the Dean to be consulted on issues like this in future.

PhD Council discussed that the decision for future stipendiater is unlikely to be up for consultation so should focus on ensuring transparency in the 'interim arrangement' being worked out by the administration for current 3-year stipendiater. Runar to draft email to deans, requesting to be involved in working out the interim arrangement for current stipendiater.

#### **5. Stipendiater with sick children**

Runar was asked by a fellow stipendiater whether the PhD Council would take up the issue of extension of contract due to children's illness. Runar suggested this issue be discussed at the next meeting and PhD Council could discuss whether it is a legal issue, whether it should be dealt with by the union or another committee (e.g. LiMU). PhD Council members agreed to discuss at the next meeting. In the interim, PhD Council members should ask friends at other departments at UiO/Bergen whether they have the same arrangement or not.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1315 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain

## PhD Council Meeting

Thursday 6 June 2019, 12.00 – 13:00, Domus Media West, room 311.

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**Present:** Astrid, Birgit, Johan, Nicola, Runar.

**Absent:** Jørgen.

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### Agenda

#### **1. Formalisation of the PhD Council**

Runar has finalised the letter for consideration at PFF. Johan to bring up at the next meeting of PFF on Wednesday (12 June).

#### **2. Extension of 3 year contracts**

Runar has drafted an email to the Dean to ask about the interim arrangement for current PhDs on 3-year contracts.

After send email to Dean, PhD Council to consider email to PhDs referring to the decision and noting that the PhD Council has been asked to be informed about the process of determining the interim arrangements.

#### **3. Completion grant ("gjennomføringsstipend")**

The Deans and the head of the institutes have, in a meeting 22 May, discussed the end of the "gjennomføringsstipend" (the 6 month employment contract PhDs are offered after handing in the PhD on time) See (sak 5) <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/ledelses-og-utvalgsmoter/ledelsen/instituttledermoter-fu/moter/2019/190522/sakskart.html>

PhD Council discussed the arguments provided by the Faculty for the removal of the completion grant. Astrid noted that the reasoning for removing was confusing yet all institute leaders supported the removal.

In summary, PhD Council discussed:

- Cost of the completion grant:
  - Faculty seems to argue that it is difficult to estimate the costs of the completion grant given cannot know when PhDs will complete and how many will opt for the completion grant – budgeting concerns.
  - But the cost of getting external teachers to do what the completed PhDs would teach would also be high.
  - Faculty could also financially benefit from any publications during the completion grant.
- Budgeting and predictability issues for the Faculty.



- Labour law issues:
  - Whether completion grant after 4-year PhD contract would entitle permanent position.
  - Unclear what the labour law issue so Faculty should specify what the issue is with the completion grants.
- Benefits of completion grant:
  - Benefits for teaching at the Faculty.
  - Benefits for research (e.g. research published during completion grants, less concern with finding jobs instead of finishing PhD).
- Potential impact on foreign students due to visa issues if no longer employed by UiO after handing in PhD

Runar to draft email to Dean, to send together with issue on the interim arrangement for teaching for 3-year PhDs. Email to note that the reasoning is unclear and ask for clarification and meeting to discuss.

PhD Council also discussed the news article sent by Daniel Arnesson relating to whether NAV provides unemployment benefits post-PhD. PhD Council considered this was an issue, but should not be raised in relation to the completion grant.

#### **4. Stipendiater with sick children**

PhD Council resumed discussion on this issue from the last meeting. Astrid noted that Bergen seemed to be the most flexible for arrangements but NTU was similar to UiO. PhD Council discussed:

- Who should this issue be raised with?
  - Should this be a LiMU issue?
- Who makes decisions on extensions?
- How flexible are the extension arrangements?

PhD Council discussed possible solutions including:

- Extension of contract?
  - Budgetary issues
  - PhDs with children can extend contract by taking 80-20 contract instead
- Extension of the date that PhD would be entitled to completion grant?
  - Unlikely to have an economic effect on the Faculty
  - Not an unreasonable solution

But PhD Council noted changes may cause administrative issues, budgetary concerns and documentation issues (i.e. whether this would require PhDs to take their child to the doctor every time etc).

Johan to see if extension guidelines are public or ask for guidelines in PFF meeting. PhD Council then consider whether more flexibility is required or more information is needed.

## 5. **External PhDs**

Astrid suggested that this discussion be postponed to another meeting as there are many facets of this issue to be discussed. Astrid noted that issue raises concerns in relation to:

- What are the requirements for admitting external PhDs?
- What are the quality controls for these external PhDs?
  - Particularly an issue since it is very difficult to fail the PhD courses and/or the disputas.

## 6. **Research Strategy**

A draft for a new research strategy has been released: <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/ledelses-og-utvalgsmoter/ledelsen/instituttleder-moter-fu/moter/2019/190522/sak-4.pdf>

Astrid raised concern with the draft research strategy: research strategy is not elaborate and fairly useless in guiding future decisions of the Faculty. Astrid noted that the strategy doesn't include any quantifiable outcomes that would help assess whether the research strategy was successful. PhD Council discussed the purpose of the research strategy and what the research goals of the Faculty should be.

Johan to inform PhD Council if it is included in the next PFF meeting (agenda should be sent on Friday). If it is included in PFF meeting agenda, PhD Council members can email their thoughts to Johan to raise in PFF meeting.

## 7. **New PhD positions**

Dean and institute leaders' meeting recently discussed hiring 4-5 new PhDs in open positions. PhD positions will go through PFF and then the calls will be considered in IVA.

PhD Council discussed the hiring process for these new PhD positions (and other positions more generally). Astrid and Runar noted concern if calls are open but there is an implicit research agenda of the hiring committee that is not advertised. Johan noted that this doesn't seem to be an issue with the hiring process, but for the new PhD positions PFF seems inclined to a large panel to make the hiring decision anyway.

## **Action items**

- Formalisation of PhD Council: Johan to raise at PFF meeting based on letter drafted by Runar.
- Extension of 3-year contracts and completion grant: Runar to amend email to Dean on the issue of interim arrangements for 3-year contracts and the possible removal of completion grant – ask for clarification and suggest meeting.

- PhDs with sick children: Johan to find extension guidelines and PhD Council consider information/flexibility issues.
- External PhDs: consider at another meeting.
- Research strategy: Johan to email PhD Council if draft is to be discussed at PFF meeting. PhD Council members can then email their thoughts to Johan to raise at PFF meeting.
- New PhD positions: PhD Council continue to monitor.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1315 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain

## PhD Council Meeting

Friday 16 August 2019, 14.15 – 14:50, Domus Media West, room 311.

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**Present:** Astrid, Birgit, Johan, Jørgen, Nicola, Runar.

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### Agenda

#### 1. Committee Meetings

##### (a) *PFF*

PFF discussed the PhD Council's request for formalisation of the Council. Johan noted the discussion was rather unexpected and PFF is likely to propose new provisions. The proposal is likely to be more formal and Eirik is to prepare something for the next meeting.

Astrid suggested that the PhD Council should be consulted before proposal is finalised.

##### (b) *Deanship Committee*

No meeting on the selection of the Dean since the last PhD Council meeting. Next meeting will be in September.

Runar reported that there seems to be two running groups and that the process continues to seem democratic. Runar said that he will push for a general meeting for everyone at the faculty.

Runar to send email to PhD Council with names of the candidates.

##### (c) *IVA*

Runar raised concern that he had not seen any paperwork on the recent SMR position. Runar to check records and ask if there has been any paperwork.

##### (d) *Organisation Committee*

Jørgen reported that the committee has had meetings with various sections and are now writing a report and recommending outcomes. There does not appear to be any special interest or concern for PhDs. The most likely impact will be centralising administration.

##### (e) *Faculty Board*

Nothing to report or follow up on.

##### (f) *LiMU*

LiMU meeting was cancelled.



## **2. Completion grant ("gjennomføringsstipend")**

After last meeting, on 13 June 2019, Astrid emailed the Dean noting the PhD Council's concerns with removing the stipend. The Dean subsequently sent the issue to a final hearing and invited further comments. The deadline for comments to the Dean is 23 August, which will then be discussed at the Dean's and Heads of Department meeting on 28 August. Astrid prepared draft letter to send to the Dean, which she circulated within the PhD Council prior to the meeting.

By email prior to the meeting, Jørgen and Runar both suggested amendments relating to teaching. Runar suggested inclusion of the teaching requirements of the new Centre for Experiential Legal Learning (CELL). PhD Council discussed whether this should be combined with the arguments on teaching or whether the Dean might argue that it is not relevant for all PhDs. Letter to include CELL as an additional point at the end of the letter.

By email prior to the meeting, Johan also raised issues with the publication points argument. PhD Council discussed that the statistics don't support the arguments of the Dean and that there are issues with Cristin itself (such as people not registering publications, or having access to the system after completion). Letter to include a sentence on publication points, but not refer to the issues with Cristin.

Johan noted that PFF is discussing the proposal on Wednesday, with a view to provide feedback on Friday. Johan to provide PhD Council's letter to PFF.

PhD Council further discussed the Dean's arguments, noting that two points seem to be missing: how much the stipend currently costs and how much cost would be of lost teaching. PhD Council agreed that these numbers should be specified.

PhD Council agreed that the letter should also be sent to the heads of the institutes. [Post-meeting note: Astrid emailed the letter to the institute leaders on Monday, 19 August 2019].

## **3. Academic and social events**

Jørgen suggested two events for the Fall semester:

- Meeting with the candidate for the deanship to discuss position on PhD issues; and
- General Meeting.

PhD Council agreed that these would be suitable events for fall.

## **Action items**

### *(a) This meeting:*

- Completion grant: letter to be sent to institute leaders (Monday) and to Dean by deadline.
- Formalisation of PhD Council: Johan to ask that PhD Council be consulted on any new provisions drafted by PFF.
- Selection of Dean: Runar to report names of candidates to PhD Council.
- Academic and social events: organise event with candidate for the deanship.



*(b) Continuing from previous meetings:*

- PhDs with sick children: PhD Council consider information/flexibility issues.
- External PhDs: consider at another meeting.
- Research strategy: Johan to email PhD Council if draft is to be discussed at PFF meeting. PhD Council members can then email their thoughts to Johan to raise at PFF meeting.
- New PhD positions: PhD Council continue to monitor.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1450 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain

## **PhD Council Meeting**

Thursday 17 October 2019, 11.30, Domus Media West, room 311.

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**Present:** Astrid, Johan, Jørgen, Nicola.

**Absent:** Birgit, Runar

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### **Agenda**

#### **1. UiO Strategy 2030**

The PhD Council discussed the university's strategy document and whether the PhD Council should comment on it. The PhD Council agreed that would wait for the Faculty strategy to come out for comment, as that was a more appropriate forum for the PhD Council's comments.

#### **2. Next PhD Council**

The election to the Faculty Board is supposed to be 11 November. Astrid will ask Eirik to postpone the election in order for next year's PhD Council to be elected.

The PhD Council discussed recruitment of next year's PhD Council, noting that there were relatively few new hires of PhDs. After Astrid has spoken to Eirik about postponing Faculty Board elections, an email should be sent out to all PhDs seeking volunteers. PhD Council members could also consider possible people to recruit for the Council. Diversifying the PhD Council to ensure people from all institutes were represented was also discussed. Jørgen suggested that the PhD Council should be emailed to push PhDs in criminology to be volunteer.

The Annual Meeting of the PhD Council should then be held in early December (with date to be finalised).

#### **3. Sick children**

PhD Council had received letter from one of the PhDs in relation to issues surrounding care for sick children. The PhD Council discussed how and where to raise this issue. While noting it was not specifically a gender issue, LiMU was discussed as the more appropriate forum for the issue to be raised. Birgit to pass the letter on to LiMU and should note to LiMU that it is not an issue pushed by the PhD Council but had been raised by a concerned PhD.

#### **4. Finances**

PhD Council discussed writing to the heads of institutes to request money to support events of the PhD Council. Runar to write draft letter to the heads of institutes.



## **5. Formalisation of PhD Council**

The formalisation of the PhD Council discussions are continuing in PFF – Erik is preparing a draft of provisions. Johan noted that it was difficult to predict exactly when will come out of that process. Johan to talk to Alf Petter about this.

## **6. PhD Council Event: Meet the Candidates for Dean**

The PhD Council discussed the event held last week where PhDs could meet with the candidates for Dean. There was a relatively low turnout but there was some interesting discussion on the strategies of the dean teams.

### **Action items**

#### *(a) This meeting:*

- Next PhD Council: Astrid to ask Eirik to postpone election to Faculty Board. Email to be sent out to all PhDs for volunteers for next PhD Council. Annual Meeting to be held in early December.
- PhDs with sick children: Birgit to pass letter on to LiMU.
- Finances: Runar to draft letter to heads of institutes to request money to support PhD Council.
- Formalisation of PhD Council: Johan to talk to Alf Petter and continue to see what happens with PFF.
- UiO Strategy: wait for Faculty strategy to consider for comment.

#### *(b) Continuing from previous meetings:*

- External PhDs: consider at another meeting.
- New PhD positions: continue to monitor.
- Completion grant: continue to monitor.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1210 by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain

## **PhD Council Meeting**

Friday, 15 November 2019, 15.15, Domus Media West, room 311.

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**Present:** Astrid, Johan, Jørgen, Nicola and Runar.

**Absent:** Birgit

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### **Agenda**

#### **1. Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the PhD Council's regulations, the PhD Council determined the date for the Annual Meeting to be Thursday, 5 December 2019. The Annual Meeting will include a social event.

Astrid will send an invitation to all PhDs to attend the Annual Meeting. Johan will invite both the current and incoming Research Dean to provide some short introductory comments at the Annual Meeting.

The PhD Council must prepare an Annual Report to be finalised and provided at least 1 week before the Annual Meeting (28 November). The PhD Council determined that the Annual Report would include the minutes of the PhD Council meetings in 2019 and a short summary of PhD Council activities, including:

- the events held during the year, including the fireside debate and meeting with the candidates for dean;
- letters written in support of maintaining the completion grant;
- the process of formalisation of the PhD Council;
- participation in the Organisation Committee and Dean Election Committee; and
- the survey of PhDs carried out for PFF.

Astrid will set up Google Doc for PhD Council members to contribute to the summary of activities.

The PhD Council discussed changes to the regulations that should be proposed at the Annual Meeting. Changes include:

- remove reference to the month of the Annual Meeting (reflecting need for Annual Meeting to be held before nomination for Faculty Board is required);
- insertion of allowance for election to be conducted by email, if necessary.

Astrid will send out regulations for PhD Council to consider whether any further changes required.



## **2. Election of PhD Council**

The next PhD Council will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Current candidates for PhD Council 2020:

- Runar Hilleren Lie – Chair and candidate for Faculty Board
- Birgit Hellesnes – Deputy candidate for Faculty Board
- Nicola Claire Strain – Secretary
- Dorina Damsa

Faculty Board requires three nominations so a further candidate (with Scandinavian language capacity) is required to be deputy for Faculty Board. Email with invitation to Annual Meeting will include further request for volunteers.

## **3. Formalisation of PhD Council**

The formalisation of the PhD Council process is continuing. Eirik Haakstad has passed the request to the heads of the institutes and it seems the process may stall until the new Deanship is in place. It may assist if the new PhD Council discuss with the new Dean and draft the required regulation changes themselves in order to get the process moved along.

## **4. Organisation Committee**

Jørgen reported on the activities of the Organisation Committee, which will be having its final meeting. The structure and functioning of level 4 organisation (organisation of research e.g. the research groups and centres) may be an area that the PhD Council should comment on. The PhD Council discussed the role and functioning of the 16 research groups at the Faculty and concerns in relation to the fragmentation of research groups, the social cohesion of groups and the lack of support for sharing PhD research at these groups. The PhD Council considered that it should be made easier for PhDs to become active in these groups and that a reduction in number of research groups may be beneficial.

## **Action items**

### *(a) This meeting:*

- Annual Meeting: to be held 5 December. Action required:
  - Invitation to be sent to PhDs (Astrid)
  - Consider whether further changes to regulations required
  - Draft Annual Report (to be sent to PhDs by 28 November)
  - Election of PhD Council 2020 – further volunteers required
- Formalisation of PhD Council: PhD Council 2020 to follow up

### *(b) Continuing from previous meetings:*

- PhDs with sick children: Birgit to pass letter on to LiMU.
- Finances: Runar to draft letter to heads of institutes to request money to support PhD Council.

- UiO Strategy: wait for Faculty strategy to consider for comment.
- External PhDs: consider at another meeting.
- New PhD positions: continue to monitor.
- Completion grant: continue to monitor.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Astrid Iversen. The next general meeting will be determined at a later date.

Minutes submitted by: Nicola Strain