

Annual Report of the PhD Council, 2020

1. Summary of work of the PhD Council in 2020

In 2020, the PhD Council consisted of the following people who represented the PhDs and Post Docs in the mentioned committees:

- Runar Hilleren Lie, PluriCourts - head of the council, treasurer and representing temporary employees in the Faculty Board
- Nicola Claire Strain, PluriCourts – secretary
- Martine Synnøve Bergersen Lie, IKRS – PFF
- Birgit Hellesnes, IOR – LiMU
- Dorina Damsa, IKRS – IVA

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's work this year has been significantly impacted and directed by the uncertainty and restrictions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The PhD Council was only able to organise one event during the course of 2020. The event was a social gathering in Domus Juridica following the National PhD Seminar, which was held virtually this year, to provide an opportunity for new and old PhDs to meet each other outside the virtual format.

In April, members of the PhD Council met with the Research Dean to discuss issues related to PhDs and how PhDs were handling the COVID-19 restrictions. A draft of the extension form sent out to all PhDs was provided to the PhD Council for comment. In October, the PhD Council sent out a survey to all PhDs on whether extensions that had been applied for had been granted or not. Following the survey, the PhD Council will meet with the deanship to discuss.

In 2019, 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 formalisation request is currently making its way through the Faculty process and should be followed up by the new PhD Council.

Other work in PFF by the PhD Council has included advocacy for improving the PhD courses at the faculty, especially in regards to the heterogeneous group of PhDs with both legal and social science backgrounds and widely diverse research projects. This has resulted in some amendments agreed upon in PFF, such as adjusting the course readings to better suit the different backgrounds and needs of the PhDs, and should be followed up by the new PhD Council.



The PhD Council is also represented in the Equality and Diversity Committee (LiMU). LiMU works to ensure that the composition of the faculty's students and staff better reflects the general population, and that students and staff have equal opportunities regardless of gender, ethnicity, functional ability or other backgrounds. At the time, LiMU is working on making a new action plan for equality, gender balance and diversity for 2021-2023. For 2020, LiMU had also planned a faculty event to promote an academic debate climate. But this has been postponed until further notice due to the pandemic. LiMU also manages funds that can be applied for by individuals or groups at the faculty who plan activities that promote equality and diversity.

In February, the University adopted a new strategy for 2020-2030 (Strategy 2030). The PhD Council was asked to provide a representative to the Faculty's working group on implementing the new strategy. The Faculty's process has been delayed by the response to COVID-19 and may not begin until 2021.

The budgetary situation of the PhD Council is currently dwindling. At the beginning of the term, the PhD Council had 13 756,21 kr cash on hand. After having received receipts for all events, the current cash on hand is 10 749,11 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 have to be made to ensure a more stable financing source to allow the PhD Council to arrange an increased program of events for the PhDs.

Transaction number	Date	Description	Movement	Bank account
1	18.12.2018	Ingoing balance	0.00	13765.21
2		Interest	8.90	8.90
3	16-Sep	Wine for social event	-720.00	0.00
4	17-Sep	Snacks and drinks for social event	-321.00	0.00
5	18-Sep	Snacks and drinks for social event	-1984.00	0.00
6	30-Oct	Refund of outlays for transactions 3, 4 and 5	3025.00	-3025.00
<hr/>				
27.11.2019 Result before interest accrual				
Result after interest accrual				
<hr/>				
Current bank account				
10749.11				

2. Agenda for the Annual Meeting 2020

Election to the PhD Council 2021

The PhD Council invites nominations for election to the PhD Council 2021. Candidates will be elected at the Annual Meeting by general vote.

Nomination for the Faculty Board 2021

The PhD Council invites nominations of candidates to represent the PhDs and Post Docs in the Faculty Board. Nomination shall be for one main candidate and two deputy candidates and shall be drawn from the newly elected PhD Council 2021. Nominations to be approved by general vote at the Annual Meeting.

3. Appendices

- I. Survey on COVID-19 extensions
- II. Statute of the PhD Council

Appendix I: Survey on COVID-19 extensions

Extension of PhD period

Have you applied for an extension due to Covid-19?

- Yes
- No

To what extent did the faculty grant your extension

- I did not get an extension
- I got a shorter extension than I applied for
- I got the extension I applied for
- I got a longer extension than I applied for

If you did not apply for an extension, what was the reason for this?

Beyond any extension you have received, do you believe you will need further extensions?

- Yes
- No
- Not at the present time, but it depends on the future development of the situation

How the faculty has responded to the pandemic's impact on PhDs

- 1 (poorly)
- 2
- 3 (neutral)
- 4
- 5 (very well)

Do you have any thoughts/comments on how the faculty has responded to the pandemic's impact on PhDs

Utvidelse av stipendiatperiode

Har du søkt om utsettelse utvidelse av stipendiatperioden grunnet Covid-19?

- Ja
- Nei

I hvilken grad fikk du innvilget utvidelse?

- Fikk ikke innvilget utvidelse
- Fikk innvilget kortere utvidelse enn jeg søkte om
- Fikk innvilget den utvidelsen jeg søkte om
- Fikk innvilget lengre utvidelse enn jeg søkte om

Hvis du ikke har søkt om utvidelse, hva er grunnen til dette?

Utover utvidelse du alt har fått, tror du at du kommer til å trenge å få videre utvidelse pga. Covid-19?

- Ja
- Nei
- Ikke for øyeblikket, men dette avhenger av hvordan situasjonen utvikler seg

Hvordan har fakultetet håndtert pandemien overfor stipendiatene

- 1 (veldig dårlig)
- 2
- 3 (nøytralt)
- 4
- 5 (veldig bra)

Har du noen videre tanker/kommentarer om hvordan fakultetet har håndtert pandemien overfor stipendiatene

Appendix 2: Statute of the PhD Council

Statutter for Stipendiaturådet ved Det juridiske fakultet, Universitetet i Oslo

1. Formål

Stipendiaturådet 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 instituttene 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 oktober eller november hvert år, slik at det er tilpasset nominasjonsperioden til Fakultetstyret. Som valgt anses den som får flest stemmer. De valgte medlemmene 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

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

4. Allmøtet

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 stipendiaturådets medlemmer eller minst 20 av stipendiatene. I begge tilfeller skal stipendiaturådet kalle inn til allmøte som avholdes i løpet av fire uker etter at krav om allmøte er fremsatt.

Senest tre uker før allmøtet skal stipendiaturådet sende innkalling til møtet. Innkallingen sendes til stipendiaturådet per e-post med varsel om at saker som ønskes forelagt allmøtet til vedtagelse etter pkt. 4.2, må sendes inn til stipendiaturådet senest to uker før allmøtet. Dersom stipendiaturådet 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 stipendiaturådet. Representanter som også sitter i fakultetets øvrige organer, skal i rådsmøtene informere om aktuelle saker.