

Minutes of meeting, Stipendiatrådet / Council of Research Fellows (4 June 2014)

Present: Sofie Høgestøl, Stian Øby Johansen, Caroline Bang Stordrange, Carola Lingaas

1) Social event

The event of 14 May was a success, with approx. 20 participants and very engaging discussions. We are planning another event for the late fall, preferably before the Christmas season starts. We aim at **5. or 6. November** at 'Kjerka', possibly without a speaker. Caroline/ Stian will coordinate and book the room. In January 2015, a new PhD Council should take over and it is important to inform all the PhD fellows about the upcoming vacancies and the important work to be done. The event will be an 'allmøte'/ general meeting and will also have to be promoted accordingly. Sofie will be checking out candidates to replace Caroline who is taking maternity leave as of August.

2) Information from different meetings:

a) Likestillings- og mangfoldsutvalg (LiMu)

- There will be a survey on the working environment of female PhD fellows. The gender equality will be the central issue of this (expensive) survey that will be conducted by a professional in early fall. The survey will also be looking at the possibilities for women to get into higher positions in Academia.
- Funding for mentoring will in the future be included into the institutes' budgets.
- The LiMu's mandate has now been adopted and includes equality with special focus on gender, ethnicity and disability.

b) PFF

- There will not be a one-time general evaluation of all PhD courses, but an ongoing evaluation of all passed courses (by Questback).
- Foreign fellows on 3-year contracts without teaching will be - hopefully - given the opportunity to teach. Their supervisor will evaluate the fellow's qualifications and suggest him/her for teaching. A respective form will be handed in to the 'studieplanlegger' (study planer?) with the amount of hours and courses.

For every 9,33 hours that a PhD fellow teaches (actual teaching, not preparations), his/her contract will be extended by one month. This suggestion is not yet approved, but is currently being assessed by the Dean and the Institutes' managements.

- Midway evaluation:

During the social event, there were some critical voices with regard to the new suggestion for the meeting following the midway evaluation. The PFF's leader explained that the flow of PhD candidates is an important issue that has to be discussed during the midway evaluation. Experience shows that there will be less criticism and less discussions if the candidate is present. Furthermore, the supervisor's job is also a subject for discussion that is easier treated without the candidate present. The former PhD council had given

written inputs to the suggestions and had been involved in PFF's work with these new routines.

3) **Next meeting: 11 August 2014, 12.00, "Aulakjelleren"**