

Minutes of meeting, Stipendiatrådet / Council of Research Fellows (14 October 2014)

Present: Sofie Høgestøl, Stian Øby Johansen, Marte Rua, Daniel Arnesson, Carola Lingaas

1) Information from different meetings:

a) Faculty Board

The Faculty's budget is apparently in a positive balance, meaning that there will be a significant surplus at the end of the year. This will cause some challenges, which could be resolved by expediting recruitment of new PhD candidates/ PostDocs. Another suggestion could be to increase the budget for trips to conferences/seminars and extra costs associated with qualitative data collection or other parts of PhD projects that make them more expensive to carry out. Discussion on a common 'pot' from which all PhD candidates could apply for funding.

The Faculty is planning an analysis of the reasons for dropping out during the PhD fellowship period. Marte will follow up on how this will be done. We are also curious about how high the percentage of drop-outs is.

The Election Committee for the Faculty Board of 2015 has been constituted; Marte is a member.

b) Instillingsrådet for vitenskapelige ansatte (IVA) (Board for Appointment of Researchers)

This board only deals with the appointment of PostDocs and Prof. II positions. The requirement for the last round of positions was that the applicant "must have a PhD", which includes not only the handing in of the dissertation, but also the actual defense. This will have to be made clear in the next round of job announcements.

c) Likestillings- og mangfoldsutvalg (LiMu)

The Norwegian Research Council has announced a major survey on gender balance in Norwegian research. The Law Faculty/LiMu has applied for a project called "Mapping of women in Norwegian Legal Research (Law)", to include female students, research assistants, PhD candidates, PostDocs and Professors. The previously reported project on female law PhD candidates has been postponed because of the lack of a researcher to do the project.

The LiMu invites everyone to come up with ideas for new initiatives in 2015. So far, in 2015 there will be a media training course and a meeting for mentors as well as other workshops for female PhD candidates. Further initiatives are welcomed to be taken by the new PhD Council ☺

d) PFF

- The criteria to hire PhD candidates (particularly the required average level of A-grades) will be discussed between PFF and ITU next week (previous meeting was postponed). Update to follow. We agree that previous experience and particularly publishing has not been sufficiently acknowledged. Furthermore, we agree that an overall A-level is too high – and that grades are given too much emphasis in general.
- In PhD position announcements from the Faculty it should be made clear that the criterion "Master/utdanning i rettsvitenskap" also includes a master degree in criminology and sociology of law, or relevant/equivalent education within the social sciences. Otherwise one might lose

out a lot of potentially interested applicants and projects in these two fields (who often not are lawyers).

2) Social event/ ELECTIONS

29. October 2014 at 18.00 we have a social event for all PhD candidates in "Kjerka" (Domus Media).

Organizational issues:

- Catering: Bølgen & Moi tapas. We order food for 25 people (Sofie)
- Help: try to get 2 research assistants to help (Carola)
- Candidates: we all try to talk to potential candidates for the new PhD Council (all)
- Information: we all encourage our PhD colleges to join in (all)
- Information: Stian sends a reminder e-mail on 14.10 (done), one on 27.10 and one on 29.10. (Stian)
- Shopping: we need to stock up on wine, beer, drinks (Sofie & Stian) on Tuesday, 28.10.)
- Preparations before the arrangement: we meet at 17.00 at the entrance to the cantine (all)

Sequence of event:

- Sofie welcomes
- Presentation of our tasks/ mandates
- Inform about an overlap between the old and the new PhD Council in January (which includes a dinner for the official hand-over)
- Food!
- Information on current issues:
 - a) Teaching for PhD candidates on 3 year contracts
 - b) Approval for participation at B-seminars
 - c) List over funding possibilities
 - d) Other (e.g. midway routines)?
- Election of new PhD Council (approx. at 19.00)
- Open discussion: Issues important to PhDs now – what should next years' PhD council work for?
- If possible, we would like to receive some feedback on the level and content of A-seminars as well as on the idea of creating a common funding 'pot' for all PhD candidates to apply from (independent of the individual departments)?

3) Credit for work in PhD Council

Today, only the work in PFF is accredited for the representative of the PhD Council. This is unfair with regard to the work of the other members in the other committees/boards at the Faculty, work that is done in addition to other tasks in the PhD Council not linked to particular committees/boards. We suggest that all work should be equally accredited, for each member of the PhD Council. After all it is our work in the Council that contributes to the improvement of the PhD student's work and life, and to the communication and democratic/administrative processes at the Faculty. A fast clarification will

be important to secure the recruitment for next year's Council. By now potential new members can't be guaranteed accreditation for their work in the Council, as we have realized that such compensation is not given to every member.

This suggestion will be followed up with the Dean of Research and the Dean of the Faculty.

4) Velferdspris / Welfare award

It has been suggested that the PhD Council should be nominated for this year's "Velferdspris". We are honored about this suggestion and hope that five permanent employees will support the nomination. Deadline is 1 November 2014.