

Minutes of meeting, Stipendiatrådet / Council of Research Fellows (17 September 2014)

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

1) New member of the Council of Research Fellows

Welcome to Daniel Arnesson (from Sweden) who started as a PhD candidate 1 September. He will be taking over Caroline's position, who is in maternity leave.

2) Information from different meetings:

a) Likestillings- og mangfoldsutvalg (LiMu)

Meeting has been postponed until October; no news.

b) PFF

- PhD fellows on 3-year contracts without teaching are now officially allowed to teach! For every 9,33 hours that a PhD fellow teaches (actual teaching, not preparations), his/her contract will be extended by one month. See the routines here: <http://www.jus.uio.no/for-ansatte/ansettelsesforhold/stipendiater/forlengelse-for-undervisning.html>
 - Clearer and stricter rules for the organizers of A-seminars: in the future, the professor in charge of a A-seminar has to submit a detailed program, reading list, date and time as well as booked meeting room for each PhD seminar at least 3 months in advance to the administration. This information will be passed on to the PhD candidates at the latest one month before the course, in order to give them appropriate time to prepare. Short-hand notice of courses cancelled are not acceptable anymore.
 - The criteria to hire PhD candidates will be discussed between PFF and ITU next week. Update to follow (the weighing of previous experience/grades has to become more transparent).
- c) **Faculty Board:** will meet in October. Update to follow.
Marte will join the Electoral Committee at the Faculty Board for the upcoming elections of a new board in 2015 (see: <http://www.uio.no/om/regelverk/orgadm/valgsegment.html#toc4>)
- d) **University Board:** had a meeting last week; more information to come shortly.

3) Discussion on quality and content of A-seminars:

Following last week's course in International and European Law (JUR9103 and JUR9104) there have been a lot of critical voices with regards to the courses' content. Seemingly, the Faculty has not defined why we should have the courses: are they meant as a general (and rather superficial) introduction into a specific field of law (as "building stones" for a researcher's career) – or are they meant to give us detailed knowledge (of a narrow field)? Or are they perhaps supposed to assist us in our work (but then they should be more "hands-on")? These are topics we wish to discuss during the next PhD social event in October.

4) General meeting/ ELECTIONS /social event

29. October 2014 at 18.00 we invite for this semesters general meeting for all PhD students in “Kjerka” (Domus Media). There will, again, be lots of food and drinks – and we invite to an open and engaged discussion on topics that concern our daily life as PhD candidates.

Organizational issues:

- Sofie will check the accounting (from Caroline and the grant we got).
- Stian has still a lot of drinks from last time standing in his office
- Stian will send out the invitation; emphasis on general meeting with discussion & elections (and less focus on free wine 😊)
- Catering: check out which company we should use (ref. old offers)
- Sofie will check if we can use the help of research assistants
- Everyone: talk to your colleagues and find out if they could be interested in joining the PhD Council next year!
- Everyone: should PostDocs also be invited to our general meeting (since they are also temporarily employed researchers?). Or are most the topics we discuss only related to the PhD period – and uninteresting for PostDocs?

5) Next meeting: **14 October 2014, 12.00, “Aulakjelleren”**