

## **Minutes of meeting, Stipendiatrådet / Council of Research Fellows (8 December 2014)**

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

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### **1) Information from different boards:**

#### **a) Faculty Board**

The PhD council has suggested that PhD scholars can apply for funding from a common 'pot' if they need more funding than the already assigned 15.000 NOK ('driftsmidler') through the Faculty board. This suggestion will hopefully be formally approved at the next meeting. Marte will follow up how one can apply for this funding. The good news will be spread among PhD candidates through our web page and newsletter when confirmed.

The Faculty board will discuss the year plan for 2015-2017 next Monday. Quality of education ("studiekvalitet") is still the Faculty's main overarching priority. There are also six other main priorities, and a seventh is suggested. As part of the 4<sup>th</sup> area of main priorities ("learning and teaching environment" - læringsmiljø), two specific goals are set with regard to the PhD program: a more clear description of the mandatory subjects ("tydeligere emnebeskrivelse") and goal oriented teaching in accordance with course curriculum and in line with educational models of bachelor- and master studies ("opplæringsmodell etter mal fra bachelor- og masterstudier").

The PhD Council welcomes these suggestions, which are in line with the discussions and wishes raised in the general PhD meeting in October. In addition, we believe that these measures also should be seen as a part of the overall aim of quality of education, and that particular attention should be given to the A-seminars. The 2015-Council will have a meeting with Gørill (responsible for the PhD education at the Faculty) in January, were these changes will be discussed.

The Faculty's budget shows an enormous surplus in 2015, rising further in the years to come. This is not a positive development. The Council leaves a discussion about whether there should be more Post.Doc. positions and/or permanent positions to next years' Council. We suggest that a surplus can be used to strengthen the PhD candidates' possibilities to go/study abroad and make international networks, by encouraging the candidates to apply for grants through the new funding pot at the Faculty (see above). Our impression is that PhD candidates use a lot of valuable time to raise small money for stays abroad - or simply give up.

#### **b) Likestillings- og mangfoldsutvalg (LiMu)**

With regard to the earlier mentioned survey on gender balance in Norwegian research, LiMu has applied for "balansepenge" (funding to improve the gender balance) for 2015. If it is granted, the survey will be done in 2015.

LiMu also presented a plan of action for 2015-2017, which, amongst others, includes actions to make female researchers more competitive as candidates for permanent positions at the Faculty. The ultimate aim is to recruit more female professors.

LiMU has adopted a new standard formulation on equal opportunities that is to be included in all new job announcements at the Faculty.

### **c) PFF**

PFF and ITU set down a working group to discuss the criteria to hire PhD candidates, particularly the required average level of A-grades. This working group has decided to suggest to ITU a new routine in hiring PhD candidates, particularly that they should be placed amongst the 10-15% best of their topic ("10-15% beste i sitt fag"), instead of the old requirement of "A-level". Previous independent research, particularly publications, should be weighed positively, but cannot fully compensate for a level below 10-15%.

New member of PFF in 2015: follow-up the issue for the approval of B-seminars. It was decided that the supervisor can approve the participation at B-seminars, but the routines have not been clarified yet.

### **2) Credit for work in PhD Council**

This autumn it was discovered that members of the PhD Council do not get credit for their work as promised when taking the positions. This misunderstanding has been inherited from one PhD council to the next over several years and must be clarified. The suggestion to award each member of the PhD Council (present and future) with a certain amount of hours (a moderate suggestion is 40 hours, members can document more time spent in reality) for their contribution to the work of the Council and in the different boards etc., will be followed up by Sofie with the Dean of Research and the Dean of the Faculty.

### **3) Velferdspri / Welfare award**

Unfortunately, the PhD Council did not win the welfare award 😞

But we are very pleased to hear that Kirsti Strøm Bull was awarded the price and we congratulate her to it!

### **4) Takk for oss!**

It is time to hand over our duties to the new members of the PhD Council who were elected at the general meeting at the end of October. We wish Daniel Arnesson, Anders Narvestad, Olaf Halvorsen Rønning, Johann Ruben Leiss and Sofie Høgestøl all the best with their work in 2015!