**PhD Council Meeting**

1 March 2021, Zoom

**Present:** Rose Boyle, Emma Brandon, Hanna Furuseth, Martine Lie

**Agenda**

1. PFF meeting 3. March, Rose attends.

* Orientation from last meeting regarding course guidelines for lecturers.
  + Pushback from course lecturers at last meeting about encouraging course lecturers to suggest essay ideas and discussion on formulation suggesting that they give more in-depth comments
* Action plan on career support.
  + Hanna and Trygve suggest including it in mandatory PhD courses
    - Hanna mentioned course at the Social Sciences faculty
    - Emma and Martine mentioned that there is a mandatory course on dissemination
  + Martine and Rose brought up that career issues in criminology are very different than in law
  + Trygve gave comments through Martine
    - He understands the external job market but would like to learn more about the internal academic job market
    - Wants to know:
      * How to apply for projects?
      * What is valued in academic hiring?
      * How important is publishing and other forms of dissemination?
      * How important is the quality of the thesis?
  + Rose mentioned how criminology is very academia focused
    - She would like to know about other post-PhD career options
    - Permanent jobs in academia are rare so other job options are necessary
  + Rose suggested an introduction to issues in Norwegian academia for people with degrees from other countries
  + Rose talked about importance of highlighting mentorship program to answer these types of questions
  + Suggestion that people who have just finished their PhDs speak at career events as part of completion grants and discuss more practical PhD and career issues
  + Emma discussed issues of international law v. domestic Norwegian law/academia
    - How much can Norwegian academics give advice on international law?
    - Mentioned PluriCourts’ Publish and Flourish seminars that have stalled because of COVID but may be useful in answering many concrete career questions
* Other cases to discuss?
  + Hanna brought up question of why current PhD position posting requires application in a Scandinavian language instead of English
    - Issue of having to teach basic Norwegian classes
    - But just because you have to teach in Norwegian that doesn’t mean your application or thesis will be in Norwegian
* Would we like to add something to the case list (for this or future meetings)?
  + Systematic evaluation of the PhD courses taught at the faculty.
* <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/ledelses-og-utvalgsmoter/pff/moter/2021/PFF%20030321/sakskart.html>

1. Update from board for research organisation meeting (16 February) and communication of info on upcoming survey to PhD/postdocs.Feedback on survey draft?

* Rose reports
* Said economy/budget was tight so need to reconsider funding of research groups
* Rose said that research groups can be very useful sources of funding for applications and open access publishing
* Funding for research groups has been extended to end of 2022
* Discussion of draft survey on research groups to be sent out to all scientific staff
  + Martine found it confusing as it was hard to tell what questions were about research groups and what were about general research organization
  + Martine and Emma wanted more information on the current organization so that they could actually answer the survey questions
* Hanna has had very different experiences with different research groups
  + During her Masters, she worked with Centre for European Law which is a research group and it was a nice research environment
  + Currently part of a research group that has had to deal with Covid issues
  + Another research group she’s in isn’t active at all
* Rose and Martine raised question of who should organize the groups
  + All groups are organized differently
  + Some use Research Assistants to help with admin
  + No funding for organization/admin

1. Update on Faculty Board meeting (later the same day).

* Martine reports
* Economy/budget is good because of COVID and because the Faculty has hired fewer PhDs than expected
* Concerns about loss of funding when PluriCourts ends and the need to have another Centre of Excellence
* Discussions of a very general and broad faculty strategy

1. Meeting with UiODoc (2.3)

* They reached out to Rose to discuss meeting/collaborating with us
* Meeting on March 2nd at 2:30
* Emma will attend and Martine and Hanna may join if they can
* Meeting just with representative(s) of UiODoc
* Specifically want to reach out to international researchers and PhDs

1. Need for evaluating essay requirements? <https://www.jus.uio.no/forskning/phd/kurs/retningslinjer-essay.html>

* Brought up at PFF meeting as solution to issue of having lecturers suggest essay ideas in PhD courses
* Council agrees that it is not necessary to evaluate them because the essay requirements are not the problem

1. Update on funding.
   * Lovsamlingsfondet is still an opportunity!
     + Next deadline in May.
     + Council agrees that this is the most useful source
     + However, there are still questions of whether we need funding given that COVID has made it impossible to host events
   * Funding from the faculty/ departments might still be a step towards formalising the council? Thoughts on this?
     + Hanna brought up issues of rules that come with department funding
     + Martine said that formalizing is useful to ensure that someone from the PhD Council will be on the Faculty Board and ensures our representation in various other (temporary) committees. However, this cannot be guaranteed anyway due to election regulations.
     + But, in practice, these haven’t been issues
   * What about other sources?
     + Hanna’s sources were not useful
     + Rose checked out DNB funding but it is only for legal research
2. Digital presence: discussion
   * The council website is outdated and has several broken links (especially under “sources of funding”). What should we do with this? <https://foreninger.uio.no/stipendiatradet/>
     + Remove the outdated parts and keep it going as a publication site for meeting minutes etc.?
     + Agreed to remove those pages
     + Consensus that not more needed on website
   * Facebook group for the council is established. Is it ready to be “launched”? <https://www.facebook.com/groups/685237078833805>
     + What about this “competing” group? <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1423741617849571>
     + Hanna will get in touch with admins of competing group and ask them to change name to something like “Previous PhDs at UiO Faculty of Law” so that it isn’t confusing
     + Launch new Facebook group and invite everyone
   * Welcome mail to new PhDs–update: Trygve has authored an excellent mail.
     + Emma will proofread the English
     + Hanna will send out the email when it is ready
3. Other ideas? E.g. some sort of digital event, or are we all Zoom fatigued..?

* Digital event with recently-completed PhDs – Emma
  + Zoom event at the end of March
  + With Johan Wibye from PluriCourts and post-doc from criminology
  + Have them talk about the end of their PhDs and their transition to their new jobs
  + Let people ask any questions they have about the PhD process and the post-PhD job search
  + Hanna would like to know about how to network during COVID
  + Emma will reach out Johan and Martine/Rose will reach out to criminology post-doc

1. Dinner with the former council
   * Not possible with the new guidelines

**Action items**

* Rose and Emma (and possibly Hanna) attend meeting with UiODoc on March 2, 2021
* Emma updates website
* Hanna gets in touch with admin of other PhD Council Facebook group
* Emma proofreads English welcome email to PhDs
* Hanna sends out welcome emails
* Emma contacts Johan about digital career event
* Martine/Rose contact criminology post-doc about digital event
* Emma plans digital event

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am by Martine Lie.

Minutes submitted by: Emma Brandon