

## PhD Council Meeting

13 December 2022, Domus Media

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**Present in person:** Trygve Losnedahl, Laura Letourneau-Tremblay, Elsabé Boshoff, Rose Boyle.  
Dinie Arief joined over Zoom.

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### Agenda

1. Feedback on Faculty Board meeting
  - Trygve attended the Faculty Board meeting and provided feedback on the matters of relevance to the PhD Council, including the faculty budget and annual strategic plan, including the decision to create new scientific positions, including 2-3 full professors and 2-3 associate professors.
  - A positive development has been the institutionalisation of the “buddy system” for new employees.
  - The faculty is also working towards increasing the number of Phds and Postdocs.
2. Meeting with the Deans 14/12/2022
  - Trygve will meet with the Deans of the faculty to discuss some areas of concern for PhDs, and will highlight core areas:
    - Regarding onboarding, two concrete ideas: (1) should make welcome booklet like Pluricourts which give PhDs all necessary information when they start and (2) the need for newly employed PhDs to be contacted before they start, to identify their teaching capacity and match it with teaching needs, from the first semester of their arrival.
    - It was proposed one way to ensure good allocation of teaching opportunities is for a Netskjema to be sent to all PhDs each semester when teaching duties are being allocated, in which they can indicate their teaching interest for the next semester. This will give the faculty a good overview of the capacity and also give PhDs an overview of which courses they might teach on. PhDs can then tick the boxes of which courses they would be interested in teaching.
    - Another issue is that the driftsmiddler for PhDs are too low and (1) should be increased, (2) there should be a more open approach (excluding rather than including what cannot be funded from it), (3) that all PhDs should be able to have their amount roll over to the next year. The Deanship to indicate how this could be addressed: by the deans or if decided by the departments, if they would support the proposal from the PhD council. Reasons for increasing for PhDs: other permanent staff have a better overview and understanding of different funding mechanisms and more opportunities for applying for funding than PhDs.
3. For follow-up by the next Council
  - Proposals made this year, particularly on on-boarding of new PhDs, the implementation of which should be followed up by the new council, for example ensuring that the welcome meeting for new PhDs is held every semester.
  - To follow up on the issue of allocation of teaching responsibilities, as well as issues of remuneration, improving Friday lunches and ‘lønningspils’.



- Would be good to set up a meeting with the new PhD Coordinator once they start working, to identify areas of concern which could be addressed together:
  - the fact that some externally funded PhDs are not included on the stipendiater mailing list.
  - The new website, after being updated some of the links no longer work and lose access to information – the website should be checked and broken links fixed. Should be kept updated.
- To find out how to edit the PhD Council website, notably on changing the very gloomy banner on the PhD Council website.

#### 4. AOB:

- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting to be finalised.
- Budget of the PhD Council to be finalised and handed over, and necessary claims for expenses from the General Meeting to be finalised (Trygve & Laura).
- Handover of the work of the Secretary and Treasurer will be conducted between the current PhD Members (Dinie & Elsabe) to the new PhD Members (Naureen & Sandra) in January 2022.

Minutes submitted by:        Dinie Arief and Elsabé Boshoff