**PhD Council Meeting**

27 March 2023, Castbergs bibliotek

**Present:** Tomas Tobiassen, Sandra Pedersen, Trygve Losnedahl, Maja Vestad, Daksha Sriragulan, Pernille Sandberg Drtina. Absent: Naureen Rahim on research stay

1. Agenda and minutes
   1. No comments
   2. Sandra to leave the meeting a bit early to take part in a PhD-meeting at NCHR.
2. Orientation from PFF (Maja/Sandra)
   1. Orientation was given by Sandra who attended the PFF-meeting in Majas absence.
   2. A topic was a coming external evalution of the PhD-program. We discussed that Maja in coming PFF-meetings asks for the PhDs/PhD-Council to be included in the work where appropriate, e.g. in a working group and in developing the mandate.
   3. Another topic was extensions. PFF in the last meeting decided not give reason/justification for their decisions on extensions. Maja to ask whether PFF has considered if a decision on extension is an “enkeltvedtak”.
   4. In the coming meeting, PFF will assess five applications for entry to the PhD-program from external PhD-candidates.
3. Orientation from Faculty Board meeting (Tomas)
   1. 75 MNOK in surplus for 2022 for the faculty. Plan to spend it by 2025. Excess energy cost is somewhat under control.
   2. Faculty is still behing on phds funded by “basis”. Target is >40, but reailty is around 25 phd
   3. Discussion on applications from external candidates to be included in the PhD-program. A general trend is an increase in phd funded externally, through BI, Politihøyskole, etc. and in næringsphd and offentlig sector-phd through Forskningsrådet. The faculty is gathering knowledge and is starting to look into potential issues related to this development. PhD-council does not have strong views on the development as of now, except that is should not be used as an excuse to not reach the target of phd funded through “basis”.
4. Orientation from meeting with Oda (Tomas/Trygve)
   1. Orientation given. Two topics with Oda was onboarding and approval of the course JU9503 on International Seminars. Since Tone Wærstad is responsible for approving applications JUS9503 and has been on leave from work for a long time, there is a back-lod.
   2. Decided that Maja should ask PFF to appoint a “deputy” for Tone to handle the back-log.
   3. Decdid Tomas to follow up with Oda on:
      1. Whether she has had start-up conversations with phds that started between Gøril and Oda, or just the newest ones.
      2. Designation of mentors through the (still wuite new) mentorship program that was extended to all phds, not only female phds. Many PhDs experience that they ask for mentors, but mentors are not appointed.
      3. Confirmation of received applications for extensions and other applications, e.g. JUS9503 approvals. Alternatively organize such applications in forms with automatic receipt of submittal.
5. Initiative to change the midway assessment, based on concept note by Annichen. See also <https://www.jus.uio.no/english/research/phd/resources-tools/midway-assesment/midway-assessments.html>
   1. PhD Council is positive to suggest PFF to make amendments about:
      1. Have two mid-way evaluators
      2. Ask the evaluator(s) to provide written comments before the public assessment
      3. Voluntary to have the assessment open to public or not
      4. Alternative format/agenda with a public presentation first and subsequent comments ex auditorio, before the meeting is closed/limited to the phd candidate, supervisors and mid-way evaluator(s).
   2. Decided that Pernille and Trygve prepares a concept note to be presented at next PFF.
6. PhD Council dinner (Tomas)
   1. Tomas to return to the issue on the other side of his mid-ways and easter.
7. Misc.
   1. Daksha will need a stand-in for LiMU and Valgstyret from August (maybe before). Decided that it will be handled on e-mail/in the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Trygve Losnedahl