

## PhD Council Meeting

30 March 2021, Zoom

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

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### Agenda

1. PFF meeting 7 April, Hanna attends.
  - Orientation from last meeting.
  - Will forward next meeting's cases next week to the Council for discussion over email
  - What should be our main points for the "PhD Council's cases"?
    - Systematic evaluation of the PhD courses.
      - Evaluation after every course
      - PhDs express dissatisfaction with courses but faculty members are uncertain if this is just a few people complaining or a more systematic problem
      - A systematic evaluation is important to see if this is a systematic problem, and to further improve the courses
    - COVID-related extensions
    - Mentorship program for PhDs
      - Should be expanded to men
    - Action plan on career support. Not the most pressing from our perspective? Note to PFF:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v0MwPCC4Nzi6Jt5SGvviPk7CLtKX9SQIUOqcy4b-Rpk/edit>
      - Include issue of a lack of career opportunities for internationals (also potentially relevant for LIMU)
      - Hanna will send the notes to PFF so that we don't spend too much time on it in the meeting
    - Note to PFF on suggestions for digital PhD courses spring 2021:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QInpQIEj\\_l8xUAgtC3K3bEmKUaoQCRnS-4lbnXBXuQE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QInpQIEj_l8xUAgtC3K3bEmKUaoQCRnS-4lbnXBXuQE/edit)
      - Hanna will send the notes to PFF so that we don't spend too much time on it in the meeting
  - <https://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/jus/ledelses-og-utvalgsmoter/pff/moter/2021/index.html>
2. Thoughts on meeting with Gørill and Vibeke?
  - Hanna recently heard from Gørill that her intention was to meet with all PhDs not the PhD council



- Having all of the PhDs meet with them could be useful to express our concerns about COVID-related issues like extensions
  - We should encourage PhDs to participate and raise any concerns
  - Should be a separate event from the upcoming career event so that PhDs feel free to ask all kinds of questions at the career event
  - Hanna will email Gørill and Vibeke to set up a meeting
3. Update from committee on the national seminar?
    - Trygve will update at later PhD Council meeting
  4. Update from Faculty Board meeting 1. March.
    - The Faculty has been slow in hiring PhDs and PostDocs to reset from bad economy a few years ago
    - They are working to get back up to regular hiring numbers
    - Other members of the Board are unhappy about slow hiring because the economy is going well now
  5. Update from meeting with UiODoc (2.3)
    - UiODoc is organizing an event with representatives of PhDs at the various Faculties at UiO and will invite us when that is organized
    - UiODoc was curious about how we've been dealing with the pandemic and how much of a voice we have in meetings with the Faculty
    - They will contact us if they want more information or to collaborate with us
  6. Orientation regarding observer position in CELL board
    - They emailed Martine to ask if we want to send a representative to their half-year meetings
    - We will see when they send out the agenda for the meetings if it is relevant to us to attend
  7. Digital outreach:
    - Any feedback on the welcome mail to new PhDs?
      - only one
    - Zoom event with recent PhDs: update from Emma
      - Event will be at 3 pm on April 13th
      - Emma has heard back positively from Johan Wibye (PostDoc at PluriCourts) and Rune Ellefsen (PostDoc at IKRS) who will be the main speakers at the event
      - Emma will send email to all PhDs about event today with a calendar invite and a Zoom link
  8. Dinner with the former council
    - Postpone further?
      - Yes

If time:

1. Discussion: Several PhDs expressing dissatisfaction with working conditions et al. - what should the Council's role be/what can the Council do, with regards to both assistance in individual cases and collective issues? What if any recourse do we potentially have in these scenarios?
  - Generally covered in discussion of PFF meeting
2. Should we give any feedback on Strategi 2030?  
<https://www.jus.uio.no/om/strategi/strategisk-plan/strategi2030/>
  - Not discussed

### **Action items**

- Hanna emails our notes on career support and digital PhD courses to PFF representatives
- Hanna emails PFF (with Rose in copy) about registering our disagreement with last meeting's decisions on extensions
- Hanna emails Gørill and Vibeke about PhDs meeting with them
- Emma sends email invite to all PhDs about upcoming event, posts it on the website, and posts it on the Facebook page

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am by Martine Lie.

Minutes submitted by:        Emma Brandon