

Minutes of meeting, The PhD Council ('Stipendiatrådet'), 17 February 2016

Present: Daniel Arnesson, Henriette N. Tøssebro, Natalia Torres Zuniga

Information from representation at Faculty bodies

Faculty Board

It has only been introductory meetings with little of relevance for the PhD fellows. For your interest, statistics was presented on the time it took for PhD Candidates to complete the PhD, as part of the progress indicators for the Faculty. The statistics can be found [here](#).

PFF (*supplemented after the meeting*)

Many of the progress reports from some Institutes have been delayed.

The international PhD candidates are reportedly to a slightly lesser degree taking part in the academic and social activities of the institutes, but no measures to improve this has been suggested. The PhD welcomes initiatives on this matter.

There was a suggestion to implementation of a formalized buddy-arrangement for new PhD candidates, and improved information about the program.

There are reported problems with the administration of the PhD program, with lack of response for the administration to PhD candidates' questions and concerns.

The implementation of a quality control system for the PhD educational program has now been made into a more specific plan, with evaluations of the educational and research (thesis) components. In addition, a larger periodical (every 6 years) review of the PhD program will be conducted with the first scheduled for 2018.

LiMU (*supplemented after the meeting*)

There were discussions on the implementation of the previously approved action plan for improving gender, minority groups and disability focus at the Faculty. Follow the links to see the Norwegian version of the [Action Plan](#) and the [Implementation Strategy](#).

Decisions

The PhD Council:

1. aims to have the General Meeting in the beginning of June and apply for funds from Lovsamlingsfondet for this event. The aspiration is to combine the meeting with a seminar on presentation skills.
2. decides to follow up on the issues PhD Candidates are facing with the administration.
3. decides to hold the next PhD Council meeting on 12 April, 2016.