

# TODOS Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 2011-09-19, 14:00

Place: Department of Community Medicine

Referent: Ranjan Parajuli, Melania Borit

Present: Ralph Kube, Melania Borit, Lene Østvand, Ranjan Parajuli, Henry Pinedo, Cornelio Roberto Belloti

Topics

Follow up:

1. Debate on supervision: Everybody agreed this was a good platform for PhD students, administrations and supervisors to express their views. We discussed about cultural difficulties for foreign PhD students and the ways for integrations. Ralph will write/call Ute Vogel if we can integrate international PhD students in the welcome program arranged by the International Office.
2. Meeting with Morten Hald (Dean NT fak): Melania and Ralph informed the board about the meeting with Morten Hald. Items on the agenda were establishment of soft-skill courses (max. 1-3 ECTS), teaching courses for PhD students with 4 year contracts counting as pliktarbeid and improvement of the rate of medarbeidersamtale at the individual departments.
3. Info brochure: Board members had no critical comments except Henry Pinedo wanted to be more specific to clarify whether PhDs are students or employees. It was agreed that all corrections for a future revision of the brochure will be collected in the Dropbox folder of the brochure.
4. Deans' meeting in August, 2011: Melania discussed the summary of deans' meeting on 23-24.08.2011 which she was informed about by Pål Vegar.

Information on this meeting was also distributed on the Board's mailing list.

- All deans were positive for UiT to organize a course for PhD supervisors. However, they don't intend to involve supervisors in planning, but only administration people and in some extent TODOS (they'll consider our suggestions when designing the course).
  - The deans agreed that all faculties have to provide teacher training to their PhDs that are teaching, therefore UiT central administration will design a general course that will be available soonest autumn 2012.
  - The deans were worried that too few PhDs are travelling abroad. This problem is connected to bad supervision and they hope the problem will be solved after improving supervision.
  - The deans were very also worried about poor integration of PhDs in research groups. Again, this issue was connected to bad supervision, and the same solution as above will apply here.
5. Social Committee meeting (fall semester events): Lene briefly informed the board about different social activities that are going to be organized in the autumn semester, 2011. PhD movie will be shown on 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 16:00 pm in big auditorium at MH, plan 6. The committee plans to organize one major social activity per month. Trips under consideration are to Tromsø Villmarkssenter and sport activities as hiking. Christmas dinner will be organized in the end of November or beginning of December. 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 will be day out in town for a beer for PhD students. Information for these activities will be announced on Tavla and Facebook.
6. Logo: Henry will work together with Lene to arrange the Logo contest. The anticipated deadline for the contest is 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2011.

Debate Items:

1. HSL\_fak hearing letter (deadline: 20.09!): The letter to HSL faculty was discussed and approved upon. The letter was sent to the research pro-dean of HSL, Eva Braaten and Helen Sagerup.

2. Strategy for establishing soft-skill courses at NT faculty: It was agreed on that we will present our case at the department leaders meeting and in a formal letter simultaneously. The development of a strategy and formal letter is deferred to the Academic Committee.
3. PhD Movie screening: Lene informed the board about the PhD movie which will be shown on 21<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 16:00 pm in the big auditorium at MH, plan 6.
4. Letter to UiT central administration regarding supervision (based on the survey, the debate and the review of different approaches at other universities): An official letter will be written by the Academic Committee until week 41. TODOS Board will have to decide then on the final format of this letter.
5. Roberto Belloti resigned from his post. His post will be taken over by Henry Pinedo immediately. Henry will be given a budget from this year to start his duty as accountant.
6. Meeting with new PhD students: Lene informed about the programme which will be organized on 6<sup>th</sup> of October at 20:00 pm at Driv. Short presentation of TODOS will be given. Short informal speech will be given by Ralph. The speech will include general orientation to new place, society and work. Invitation mail to all PhD students should be sent by central administration.
7. Meeting with temporary employees' representatives: elections for new TER are taking place at NT 23 – 29.09 and at BFE 10-14.10. Therefore the meeting will be postponed until all the elections are finished. He also informed the board that the university newspaper "Utopia" will write about TODOS in the coming issue.
8. Newsletter: it was decided that only general PhD candidates interest news should be published in the newsletter.
9. Budget: it was decided that if there is enough money in the budget, a certain amount should be spent on printing the information brochure.

Next board meeting will be decided democratically by doodle in week 41.

