

## TODOS Board Meeting – 25.09.2013

**Time:** 14:30 – 16:30

**Place:** NFH B-066

**Attending:** Melania Borit, Thibaud Freyd, Ranjan Parajuli, Sandra Ronai (referent), Erlend Dancke Sandorf.

**Notice of absence:** Konstantinos Antypas, Lina Stangvaltaite, Lene Østvand.

### **Agenda:**

#### **1. Give-aways (Erlend)**

TODOS had previously ordered several promotional materials/give-aways (pens, reflex bands, T-shirts for the Board members etc). The order is now completed; we received the give-aways and will use them for future events.

#### **2. Report from ALD 2013.**

All the Board members give their opinion on the breakfast seminar *Are you fit for a job in Academia?*, that TODOS has co-organized for this year's Arbeidslivsdagen event (09.09.2013).

Once again, it was proved that the breakfast format is successful – a fact supported by the large number of participants: 120 registered, of which around 100 actually took part (out of which around 20 were master students)..

Concerning the food, we can observe that wraps were more popular than baguettes, and that food in general seemed to be popular even to people just passing by and not interested in the event. To avoid this in the future, it is suggested to serve the food inside the auditorium next time, so people will gather there from the start – this strategy could also lead to easier socializing opportunities between the PhD candidates.

The speakers were, on the whole, good, and the diversity of their backgrounds and presentations was a plus for the event.

One complaint that was received from participants regarded the way the hour of the event was written on the poster; from now on, both the hour of the event and the hour of the pre-event breakfast will be written on posters equally big, so people are not confused again.

Another improvement for future events: there will be ropes to hang the TODOS banner. Ranjan volunteered to find and buy the ropes.

Thibaud (who was the photographer at the event) suggested that TODOS should buy a good camera to be used for all activities. Melania supported the idea, saying that all serious institutions have a camera. The Board decided to re-address the issue in December, and decide whether or not to buy a camera, based on special offers and the situation of the budget.

Ranjan shares an idea for a possible future event on a similar topic: to invite a person from the University to speak about their recruitment strategy and the qualities they look for when hiring a researcher.

### **3. Letter internationalization**

Following the meeting that Melania, Thibaud and Sandra had with AFU representatives Pål Vegar, director, and Sølvi Anderssen, vice-director, TODOS will send an official letter asking for the creation of a working group that will deal with providing useful information to international PhD candidates at UiT. Thibaud started the letter, Sandra will revise it, and all other Board members are invited to offer suggestions. The person who will represent TODOS in the working group will be Thibaud.

### **4. Research Strategy Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (Erlend) + PhDs representative.**

Erlend represents TODOS in the newly-created Research Strategy Committee of UiT. This committee comprises the pro-rector, pro-deans for research from each Faculty, as well as representatives of students and PhD candidates and has an advisory role for the pro-rector for research. Some of the topics discussed within this committee are relevant for PhD candidates, so Erlend will keep the Board up to date.

### **5. Likestilling Committee PhDs representative: Rannveig Grøm Sæale**

Melania informs the Board that TODOS has to find a person to represent the PhD candidates in the UiT Gender Equality Committee.

### **6. PhDs representatives in UHR's working groups**

UHR (the Norwegian Council for Universities and University Colleges) is a good place to lobby in favor of the problems of PhD candidates. SiN already does this, by having a

member in the Research Committee of the UHR. Nevertheless, since UHR has several working groups where PhDs should be represented and the SiN Board does not have the necessary human resources to cover all these group, and it would be useful for SiN if the local organizations, like TODOS, will help finding people for these working groups. The Board discusses and agrees that more people need to be found and recruited, in order to have representatives in all the relevant committees and working groups, both at local and national level.

#### **7. Course for TODOS, TER and FUR (Erlend & Melania)**

Erlend updates the Board with respect to the progress that has been made in organizing the course for representatives. Details will be made public closer to the event.

#### **8. Brochure (Sandra)**

The work for the new TODOS brochure is in progress as well. Sandra reminds the Board members of the responsibilities that they chose to take for the brochure, most of which have been already fulfilled. We want to have 50 copies of the brochure printed and ready before the meeting with the new PhD candidates (10.10.2013)

#### **9. The TEKNA seminar (Lene & Melania)**

TODOS will co-organize a seminar with TEKNA on 22.10.2013. The title is "You got a PhD – now what?"

#### **10. Cross-cultural understanding seminar, November 2013 (Melania)**

This event was planned during the meeting with AFU as well. At the moment, TODOS is waiting for a response from AFU in order to see if and how this seminar will take place.

#### **11. Christmas Party (Lina)**

Since Lina is not attending the Board meeting, this issue will be discussed again at the next meeting.

#### **12. Budget 2013 + 2014 (Melania)**

Melania has filled in the table with the budget for 2013, as well as a draft for the budget for 2014. The other Board members have read the document and agree with what is

written.

### **13. Recruitment of TODOS Board members and representatives**

The Board acknowledges that it is difficult to find PhD candidates interested in being in the Board and/or being representatives in various committees or working groups. The new Board will be elected during the Annual General Meeting (27.11.2013). Some of the current Board members want to continue to be in the Board, while others cannot be elected again, because they will be graduating. In this case, the Board needs to actively recruit other people to take their place.

Erlend suggests that the Annual General Meeting (as well as all the future events that already have a fixed date) be advertised in the TODOS newsletter. His idea is welcomed by the others, and it is decided that, from now on, every newsletter will start with a list of future events, so people can know about them in advance.

### **14. The Forskerforbundets stipendiatseminar (31.10 – 01.11, Losby)**

The Board decides to sponsor one or two PhD candidates (one TODOS Board member and one other PhD candidate) to take part in this seminar. The event will be mentioned in the TODOS newsletter, and the people who want to go will have to speak Norwegian and to provide a short statement of intent in order to be selected, and to offer a report when they come back. In return, TODOS will pay for their plane tickets and accommodation.

### **15. The Forskerforbundets forskningspolitisk seminar (05.11, Oslo)**

The Board decides to sponsor two people (one TODOS Board member and one other PhD candidate) for this seminar as well, under the same conditions as above. Erlend is thinking of going.

### **16. Alumni TODOS**

Melania suggest the creation of an Alumni list for people who have been in the TODOS Board in the past. The Board agrees, and decides to create a mailing list. The alumni who want to be included will be invited at a dinner every year, and will receive a biannual newsletter about the activities of TODOS. Melania will make the list with the members of the previous Board and e-mail the IT department to request the mailing list.

## 17. Others

Several issues are discussed:

- a. The meeting with the new rector team – some of the TODOS Board members will meet with the new UiT rector and pro-rectors on Monday, 30.09.2013.
- b. The introductory meeting for new PhD candidates will be organized by AFU on 10.10, in Hiet (ADM building); Erlend will hold a short presentation about TODOS, and the participants will receive give-aways and copies of the updated brochure. Sandra and Thibaud will join Erlend.
- c. The Bowling Night for PhD candidates will take place on 03.10.2013; the event was organized by Thibaud, Sandra, and Eirik Eriksen, who is a volunteer in the Social Committee.
- d. Erlend shares another idea for a possible future event: a seminar about publishing in open access journals, organized in collaboration with the University Library. Melania suggests extending the theme to academic publishing in general (publikasjon indikatorer, the classification of research journals, how to get published, but also open access journals). Since some other researchers might be interested in the topic, this could be a bigger event, for the University as a whole, not just for PhD candidates. The new Board will have to decide about when and how to organize this event.
- e. TODOS needs a contact list with all collaborators and persons of interest – Melania will provide the list of people, while Thibaud will find their pictures and contact details.