

## **TODOS Board Meeting – 24.03.2014**

Time: 12:15

Place: MH U8.215

Attending: Erlend Dancke Sandorf, Sandra Ronai, Rajesh Shigdel, Ekaterina Korshunova, Thibaud Freyd, Lindis Merete Bjoland (referent)

Agenda:

### **1. Activity updates**

#### **a. Board game night (Lindis)**

Update on the planning of the event. Since a smaller amount of finger food was ordered to start with, it was decided that if people run out of finger food and want more, we can order some more. Someone needs to bring games, and we will check what games they have at Bodega and borrow some from them. Few people signed up for the board game night, and a short discussion followed on what type of events PhD Candidates would like to attend. Otherwise, everything else is ready for the event.

#### **b. TODOS & Naturviterne (Erlend)**

Naturviterne will sponsor this event and it is going to be a breakfast seminar on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April. Professor Tove Dahl from the Psychology department will hold a seminar on procrastination. Together with a group of other people from her department she is currently working on a research project on the nature of procrastination. In the seminar Tove Dahl will talk about procrastination for PhD Candidates and how to avoid it. The room next to the library has been booked for this event. Advertising will start this week, and there was a short discussion on how to advertise for the event.

#### **c. Academic Writing Seminar (Sandra)**

About 35 people attended the event. The Board is satisfied with the seminar and the speaker was good. The food for the event was sufficient. Sandra suggested that we should send a feedback questionnaire after the next

event.

## **2. The PhD Candidate Survey**

Erlend informed the Board about the suggested survey design and explained the different parts of the survey. The PhD Candidate survey will be sent to all PHD candidates. The Board discussed the content and the order of the different parts of the survey. All members of the Board will review the survey design before the survey is made. Lindis will be in charge of typing in all the questions to the survey software after all Board members have reviewed the survey design. The Board decided to ask the volunteers if they could pilot the survey. The survey should take maximum 10 minutes to complete. The questions will also be sent to the rector team before the survey is sent out to all the PhD candidates. To advertise for the survey, the board decided to offer a prize (worth maximum NOK 250 or two movie tickets) to participants who join the survey.

## **3. Letter to lobby for Psychological counselling for PhD Candidates**

SITO offer psychological counselling for students (including PhD candidates not employed by the university). PhD candidates employed by the university are not entitled to use this service. Some of the departments also have contact with psychological counsellors. The Board (Erlend) will look into this problem, before we decide to move further with this. Also, it was suggested to arrange a seminar on how to deal with PhD-related stress.

## **4. TODOS Goals**

Sandra suggested that TODOS should have some goals. These goals should be quantifiable and measurable. Examples of such measurable goals could be the number of people who like our Facebook page, or the number of people showing up for the events. Erlend thinks that it would be interesting to present these goals at AGM. One goal could be that TODOS should arrange one event per month of the academic year. Rajesh suggested that one of these events could be a grant writing seminar. However, less than 20 people showed up for the Marie Curie grant event. Another goal could also be to make TODOS reach more PhD Candidates, and try to

measure the popularity of TODOS. We should also put the PhD candidate guide on the new TODOS webpage, and make a page with all the courses and a list of PhD candidate representatives. Thibaud suggested that a goal should be to make TODOS the “go to” organisation for PhD candidates at UiT.

### **5. Giveaways (Ekaterina)**

The board discussed several options for new giveaways suggested by Ekaterina. In the end we decided to order reflex bands and white buffs with the TODOS logo. In addition we will order a vertical roll-up banner.

### **6. SiN Board Representative**

TODOS need a new SiN Board Representative before the SiN AGM in the beginning of May. The members of the Board decided to consider whether any of them are interested in being the TODOS representative in SiN.

### **7. Brochure (Sandra)**

Sandra gave the Board an update on the brochure. The procedure for booking meeting rooms has been changed, and the explanation in the brochure needs to be updated. Erlend explained the new procedure for booking meeting rooms through outlook. Classrooms are booked the same way as before. The link on adapted education does not work anymore, and this will therefore be taken out of the brochure. The information about SITO also needs to be changed since SITO merged with Studentsamskipnaden i Finnmark (SiF). Since the Chair of Academic Affairs who was elected on the AGM has cancelled his PhD position, TODOS does not have a Chair of Academic Affairs. The Statutes do not include anything on what to do if anyone withdraws from the Board. The Board will suggest a change of statutes to the AGM, where a sentence is included on what to do if one of the members withdraws from the Board. Until the next AGM, the Board decided that Lindis will take the role as the Chair of Academic Affairs. This will also be included in the updated brochure.

### **8. Other**

- Ekaterina is interested in representing TODOS at the Research Education Conference

in Stavanger.

- The new webpage was discussed. Everyone agrees that the new one looks good. Some minor changes will be made (for instance the amount of whitespace will be reduced).
- Ekaterina will make a poster for the summer barbecue.