

Report from the FODOS board meeting 17.04.2013

The meeting took place in the yellow room in the ecology building on April the 17th 2013. The following board members were present: Daniel Mania (temporary leader of the FODOS board; IKBM), Marian Schubert (leader of the Academic Committee; IPM), Oscar Iheshiulor (leader of the Social Committee; IHA), Kyle Elkin (1st deputy; IPM) and Ashish Shah (2nd deputy; IKBM). Besides that, the following people were also present: Ellen Stenslie (PhD representative in the Ethics Committee; Noragric), Cecilie Ødegård (NOVA network representative; IHA), Hans Nicolai Adam (former member of the Academic Committee; Noragric).

1. Welcome and election of the permanent FODOS leader

Temporary FODOS leader Daniel Mania wished everyone welcome and proposed that Hans Nicolai Adam and he himself share the FODOS leadership equally, until the next AGM in the beginning of 2014, or until another leader can be found and elected. The proposition of two people who share the leadership was necessary, because both candidates will finish their PhD education in the end of 2013 (Daniel) and in 2014 (Hans). No other candidate was available.

The proposition was accepted and all people present voted in favor. Therefore, Hans Nicolai Adam and Daniel Mania share the position of the leader of FODOS from today on.

2. Affirmation of Marian Schubert as leader of the Academic committee

During the AGM in April the 8th 2013, Marian Schubert was elected the leader of the Academic Committee under the premise that he would resign if Hans Nicolai Adam (stay abroad at that time) would take the position. Since Hans Nicolai Adam was now elected a board leader, Marian Schubert will continue as the leader of the Academic Committee.

3. Appointment of Chairperson

Daniel Mania was elected.

4. Appointment of a minutes-writer and two persons to sign the minutes

Daniel Mania was elected as minutes writer.

Marian Schubert and Kyle Elkin were elected to sign the minutes.

5. Discussion topic 1: Increase awareness of FODOS

Even though all PhD candidates are members of FODOS, only few know about our organization. The current information that is available publically is misleading or not informative to some. Therefore, FODOS decided to hand out welcome packages to every new PhD candidate. This welcome package, in form of a paper bag, should contain useful

items (like pens and notebooks with our logo on them), as well as a re-worked info brochure about FODOS.

The welcome package should be handed out by the administration of every department, as well as external companies, because only they get to know all new PhD candidates. It was noted that the greeting of new PhD candidates should be standardized (e.g. every new PhD candidate should be told to contact administration and get a keycard, etc.).

Daniel will contact the administration and ask about the current procedures in all departments and external companies.

If the welcome package will be too expensive for the FODOS budget, we will ask UMB to sponsor the welcome packages.

Marian will collect information that will be useful for newcomers, so that we can create a FAQ on our web page.

6. Discussion topic 2: Housing situation of PhD candidates

Several PhD candidates have complained about the housing situation. Quota PhD candidates are still treated like second class students by SiÅs. Stipend PhD candidates can afford private housing, but it is impossible to arrange for private housing without being physically present. Therefore, also stipend PhD candidates require guaranteed and pre-arranged accommodation for the first six months.

Marian will contact SiÅs and UMB administration to assert the current rights of quota and stipend PhD candidates regarding housing, before further actions will be taken. A meeting with responsible representatives from SiÅs housing, the student board and UMB administration will be planned.

7. Discussion topic 3: FODOS contact persons and PhD coordinators

The FODOS contact persons forward FODOS e-mails to all PhD candidates. It was suggested to involve them more and make PhD candidates aware that they can address FODOS contact persons, if they have issues. The same is true for PhD coordinators from UMB. Both groups will be invited to separate meetings by Marian and at least one of the board leaders will be present.

The availability of all contact persons has to be ascertained, and new contact persons have to be found if necessary (at least one person, Merete Wiken Dees from Bioforsk, is not available any more because she finished her PhD).

8. Discussion topic 4: Storage room

Our contract for the small storage room, that Marian organized from DSA, will end in June 2013 because the building will be demolished. Daniel will contact UMB administration and ask them to support FODOS by supplying a new storage room.

Date: _____ Minutes writer: _____
Daniel Mania

The minutes from this FODOS board meeting is in accordance with what actually happened at on April the 17th, 2013.

Date: _____
Marian Schubert

Date: _____
Kyle Elkin