

Meeting Notes

27.03.2019

Attending:

Pablo Ignacio Adolfo Duran Flores; Sergio Domingos Cardoso Da Rocha; Viktorija Viciunaite; Zoe Fretheim-Kelly; Sara Gaber; John Christian Gaby; Julia Del Carmen Naime Sanchez Henkel; Mariya Kelova; Anders Dugstad; Irene Namugenyi.

The meeting outline, prepared by Pablo Ignacio Adolfo Duran Flores, is given below in blue headings and black text, whereas the meeting minutes are in orange text.

The minutes were recorded by secretary Mariya Kelova and edited by webmaster John Christian Gaby.

SoDoC board meeting agenda

1. Adamstua Activities

- Writing center – status of the program

Minutes

Zoe presented an update on the Adamstua activities:

- With the help of two post docs, they have organized academic writing club. This new club will organize monthly meetings and weekly peer editing amongst PhD students. They had already the first session, which went really well and around 20 people attended. The two post docs that are guiding the sessions intend to continue until the campus moves to Ås. A small budget is allocated to cover drinks and snacks during the sessions.
- They are planning a barbeque in the beginning of May.
- In addition, the writing center has expressed interest in providing more sessions and seminars at Adamstua. So far, all the writing center one on one sessions have been fully booked.
- The library courses are now also provided at Adamstua as well.

2. Social committee:

Past:

- Ski trip: 8-10 March: travel reimbursement discussion

Minutes

- Sergio and Viktorija presented an update on the social committee activities, both past and planned.
- Sergio had organized a board game evening on 8th February with one drink per person and pizza. Many people were interested and many joined. Sergio is planning more board game evenings but without serving drinks and food – the idea is for people to play together and not to join shortly only for the food and drinks.
- There was also a bowling night in Ski and a one-day ski course. Twelve people attended and enjoyed the bowling night. The ski course was unsuccessful due to poor skiing conditions.
- Ski trip:
 - o Reimbursements for car fuel, ski equipment, food – Julia is organizing all the reimbursements.
 - o There were 35 people on the trip; the original plan was for 40. 35 people is a bit too many for everything to be well managed. A smaller group is preferable in this sense.

- The cabin could be different next time, as this was not very clean. For example, the hiking trip cabin could be a better choice, but it has to be booked very early.
- Discussion about compensations in case of unexpected damages or costs during SoDoC trips.
 - Who should compensate for damaged equipment, accidents, and fines?
 - We need to look into car insurance.
 - We should prepare some guidelines; however, strict rules can intimidate people.
 - Incidents which fall outside the scope of the guidelines can be resolved by discussion among the board at a board meeting.
 - We have to consider how to compensate those that will use public transport.

Upcoming:

- pay day gathering with an academic activity
- Holmekollenstaffeten + payday gathering in Oslo on a Saturday
- Family day?

Minutes

Upcoming activities in April:

- The academic committee is planning and will organize a pay day event with a casual seminar/presentation related to the topic of machine learning.
- In May is the Holmenkollstafetten. Sergio has registered a SoDoC team. We expect at least 15 people. After the event, he has reserved a restaurant in Oslo, where the participants and supporters can get together and enjoy. We need to promote the event and encourage people to join as supporters as a nice opportunity to experience the atmosphere around the event in Oslo. The idea was suggested to organize training runs in Oslo or Ås.

3. Academic Committee

- What is coming next?
- Committee has to define a plan of activities
- Define proposals for improvements to the PHI401 course (ethics)

Minutes

- Giorgia updated us on the academic committee by e-mail: For April, she is organizing a talk about co-authorship given by members of the Center for applied philosophy of science as part of the April pay-day meeting. Another speaker (suggested by Viktorija) can do a talk on machine learning and AI, and he might be more available in May.
- Other academic events and topics - Giorgia would like to initiate a talk about the sustainability of science: plastic consumables and waste management in laboratories and maybe also about how a university can support the Fridays For Future movement. She is looking for thoughts and suggestions for other topics.
- Christian suggested a talk about "Communicating complex topics in science". He has a contact of a professor that can present the topic.
- There was some discussion regarding how invited speakers might be compensated for their time. While it generally depends on the event, in some faculties they are compensated with 1000 to 3000 NOK per lecture.
- We need a team that will work to improve the PHI401 course. Julia will organize a survey and proposition and can look into finding more people to help her with it.

4. Gender & diversity

- The committee might want to pitch some ideas/concerns on this area of topic.

Minutes

- The gender and diversity committee role and goals were discussed. One of the main objectives of the committee is to promote more women to attain professorships. The board discussed the issue and came up with a suggestion to bridge the committee

with female researchers that have experience with the academic environment and advancement process and who are familiar with some of the issues. This could be organized by inviting them to speak at a committee meeting or by organizing a separate meeting/discussion. Viktorija and Christian have a few suggestions for female researchers that could participate and who may have valuable inputs.

- We should find information on the gender ratio within the PhD students. Christian suggested a useful web page about gender balance statistics for academics in Norway - <http://kifinfo.no/en/content/statistics>.

FU committee

- Implementation of DORA at NMBU and SODOC – Discussion

Minutes

- Short discussion on the FU committee work and organization including the role of the PhD representatives

5. PhD Orientation Day (April 10th)

- Pablo and Sergio (?) are going

Minutes

- Sergio cannot attend, so Viktorija will join Pablo
- We have to define what we want to improve and how. R&I office is interested to work with us on this. What have discussed in the past - to make it more fun, to have it for an entire day. We can ask during the orientation day about how to improve it.
- Another suggestion is to take the students around campus to relevant locations (such as the library, instead of bringing people from the library to the orientation day meeting room).
- Another option is to organize a survey for how to improve it. However, given that too many surveys can make people less keen to respond, we should combine the questions regarding improvement of the orientation day and the PHI401 course into one.
- We could also ask for a course evaluation, just as other courses in the university have, both for the orientation course and for PHI401. However, we should do it constructively such that improvements are implemented, rather than simply focusing on identifying the shortcomings of the courses.
- The university has also started to organize orientation days for new employees. Those should be useful for PhDs that have an employment contract.

6. Financials

Board compensation (Sara should elaborate on this)

- We have to define internal policy on board hours compensation
 - Fixed compensations + definition of goals per committee?
- We have to do a formal request for more money

Minutes

- Discussion on the compensation to the board members for 2019 (“Tildelingsbrev SoDoc for 2019”)
- Allocation of contract extensions, differences with last year (some have allocated the same amount of hours to SoDoC for 2018 and 2019 but have received very different compensation).
- How are the committees compensating for working hours, specifically the Ethics committee?
- When a member is compensated with contract extension, the faculty has to cover the administrative costs.
- Summary and explanation of the Tildelingsbrev SoDoc for 2019 from Sara
- The R&I office would prefer that we make a proposition for the allocation of the budget in general and avoid detailed discussions every year. Mostly, which board positions have the most duties and are time consuming. In addition - how much working hours are expected from all SoDoC board members.
 - To qualify for compensation by contract extension one has to have at least 20h of work.
 - For 2019 the core board members, which usually qualify for extension either will be finished or are external PhDs and this have to be considered when proposing compensations plan.
 - The R&I office suggestion for 2019 is: 1 month extension for the leader and rest is divided among four core members accordingly - 0,7;0,7;0;3;0,3.
 - The board at large should be compensated according to contributions and not based on hours spent on meetings.

- o We can request a larger budget because the SoDoC memberships have increased in number during the last years – there are more PhD students, post docs and researchers, and this also translates into more people attending events and more events. Accordingly, there are more costs and time spent organizing events.
- o We should plan another board meeting in the next days to discuss only compensation and to prepare propositions for the R&I office.
- o We can request NOVA representatives to be compensated separately.
- o Julia will draft a proposal.

SODOC scholarship/grant

- Team to draft guidelines

Minutes

- We should ask Gabriel if he would like to draft a proposal.

Further points on the agenda were not discussed due to lack of time. For future considerations – the first points on the agenda receive the most attention and time.

7. Miscellaneous

Diffusion of SODOC

- Last meeting a poster (?) was proposed – it has to be defined a team to do this
- Team to make the SODOC brochure/website (decide)
- Emails are possible to be retrieved. Webmaster is checking whether is allowed.

SODOC Facebook page

- We have to define who has the responsibility of moderating and accepting/rejecting requests.

Minutes

- Christian will be in charge of FB for approval of requests.
- To discuss – should those that have finished their PhD still remain in the FB group?

Library discussion

- We might want to define some proposals/observations with regard to the library development plan – but there is not much time and documentation is in Norwegian.

8. Meeting with Pro-rector

- Start discussing agenda for the meeting with the rector/pro-rector
 - o Possible topics: library, SODOC compensations, supervision if PhD, time frame, ethics course (other topics from the survey?)
- Time is limited so we should develop a few topics into a proposal.
- It is best if it is not the same as in FU.

9. Meeting with representative of temporary NMBU employees

- Comment about what is currently going on.

10. “Constitutional” changes (if there is time)

- Discussion: Define SODOC as non-ideological/politically independent instead of non-political.

- Who are members of SODOC? – in practice temporary researchers are permitted to participate in activities but they are not stated as members.