

Attending:

Sara Gaber; Giorgia Carnovale; Aleksander Hykkerud, Ana Maria de Lera Garrido; Irene Namugenyi; Julia Del Carmen Naime Sanchez Henkel; John Christian Gaby; Pablo Ignacio Adolfo Duran Flores; Mariya Kelova; Sabina Sibcic; Sergio Domingos Cardoso Da Rocha; Zoe Fretheim-Kelly, Reina Jochems.

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

May 21, 2019

1. SiN AGM

- Irene, Sabina and Aleksander are going.
- What topics do we believe are important at the national level? Quota/Norad students? Open Access?
- Aleksander knows what has been discussed before and on what we could focus.

Minutes

- Aleksander presented an overview of SiN, SiN's current agenda as well as that from last year, and what is to be expected at the AGM.
- For the first time SiN is inviting students from all Nordic countries.
- There was discussion about the implications of Plan S (journal open access) implications for researchers and our own position to be taken at SiN's AGM
- Points to bring to SiN
 - There was discussion about the division of the researchers and lecturers into different positions: currently, the policy is that post docs and temporary researchers are barred from teaching and receiving remuneration or extension for their time spent teaching because the ongoing need for teaching services could serve as a basis for them to qualify for a permanent position. What responsibilities or situations would qualify an existing employee for a permanent position, and how does that ultimately affect the work and career advancement possibilities for temporary researchers who need to demonstrate teaching qualifications in order to succeed in being hired for an academic post?
 - How would changes in journal access and the on-going negotiations affect our work?
 - Plan S principles and their implications for researchers
 - Rectifying the inequality among PhD positions (Quota, Norad) – different salaries, different status

2. Board compensation

- SU, G&D and NOVA are not compensated (NOVA only the AGMs).
- Decide if we will request money from R&D for this.

Minutes

- There was an extraordinary board meeting in April regarding compensations. SoDoC board and events are financed by SoDoC's budget, but the participation of PhD students on committees at the university or at the national level should be compensated separately – either by the university or by the organizing institution.
- The PhD members in the Equality and Inclusiveness Committee are not compensated for their time spent working on behalf of the committee.
- The same is true for the NOVA representatives; however, they have their travel and accommodation covered as well as compensation for the hours they spent at the AGM meeting, but not while working on other, related tasks. On a side note – NOVA is changing and there might be differences next year.
- Prior to the election of PhD members for those committees, the candidates should be clearly informed whether they will be compensated and how.
- Based on the meeting, a letter to request a budget increase is being prepared by SoDoC to be presented to the R&I office.
- Note from Julia - We should be a bit more cautious on spending for social activities as we already spent 60 000 out of 80 000 (the biggest expenses were the ski trip and Holmenkollstafetten). We can consider spending from the surplus.

3. Miscellaneous

- SoDoC poster (review by the board)
- Grant rules (review by Pablo)
- Letter to R&I requesting money (review by Pablo, the review by Sara)
- Status of SU committee – Eva is back but not yet updated
- Designate a person to design hand out – Reina can do this

Minutes

- Reina made the poster, which was well-received by the board with the suggestion that more photos be added. Sara will send the SoDoC logo in better resolution. In the blank space for listing a contact person, we should list the the SoDoC board member or other SoDoC contact in the department where the poster will hang.
- Grant rules - Gabriel has sent a draft proposal to Pablo.
- Status of SU committee – Eva is back but not updated.
- In addition – An update on the person that has contacted SoDoC with an administrative / legal problem. The issue has been followed up by Sabina and is now resolved.

4. Social committee:

- Holkenomenstafetten: Something to report?
- Future events?

Minutes

- The Holmenkollstafetten event went very well and included many participants. However, it is an expensive event and is not broadly inclusive. Thus, consideration should be made as to whether it is appropriate to have it as a regular annual event.
- Upcoming events:
- Adamstuen BBQ on June 6th. This year there will be no separate spring BBQ in Ås, so everyone is welcome to join the one in Adamstuen.
- Another board game event.
- Sergio is considering once a week regular lunch gatherings for those that are here in the summer.
- Cabin trip in the autumn – this should be booked very soon. At the next meeting, we should decide on the time and location.

5. Academic Committee

- Any upcoming events?
- Survey ethics course

Minutes

- Giorgia provided a brief plan of the upcoming activities as well as a list of tentative topics and speakers:
 - o June 6th – Workshop: Roles and Responsibilities within the PhD. Arild Stavne and Tim Richardson – The date will change as it is currently scheduled at the same time as the BBQ at Adamstuen
 - o Aug/Sep– Seminar: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. Mike Reiss (to be confirmed)
 - o Aug/Sep: Writing the Kappe - Tim Richardson
 - o Oct/Nov: Workshop: Scientific Communication and Presentation Skills (Rani; UiO professors; Kathrine Frøslie-Statistikk)
 - o Oct/Nov: Publishing discussion/workshop
 - o Dec/Jan: Teaching and Supervising
 - o Dec /Jan: Career Orientation and Academic Entrepreneurship. We are still looking for speakers. There is a career center at NMBU, but the person for PhDs is currently on a sick leave. Former PhDs including current postdocs can be invited for a short talk or discussion on how they secured their employment.
- There will be no SoDoC activities during August
- Several people requested the Writing Week again, so should we repeat it or leave that role to the writing center? Writing Week 2018 was very successful, and many people benefited; however, it took substantial effort to organize it. Now the writing center is available, which was not the case before. They organize many similar activities including seminars and workshops. In addition, the Adamstuen writing club meets monthly. We can consider something similar at Ås campus. For example by having a post doc that can be present just to organize and facilitate the meeting.
- Could we plan a series of fixed yearly events with those professors and speakers who are willing to conduct a yearly workshop? (Writing, Publishing, and Managing the PhD could be pre-defined skeletons for the academic committee)
- Philosophy Course - Giorgia will organize a Facebook survey but will need some input in order to develop the questions, as she has not attended the course yet. The university should organize evaluation of the course, as it is the case for other courses. Sara will send to Georgia a list of discussion points regarding the course.
- SoDoC information leaflet.

6. Topics added by other committees

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

- Discussion: Define SoDoC as a non-ideological/non-partisan entity instead of non-political
- Who are members of SoDoC? – in practice temporary researchers are allowed to activities but they are not stated as members

Minutes

- There was discussion on the wording of the constitution and in particular how to redefine “non-political” – suggested were: non-partisan, non-ideological, politically independent. A text should be prepared and presented at the AGM.
- We need to redefine the SoDoC members in the constitution to include post docs (Tomohiro sent a file by e-mail with the constitutional amendments that he developed).
- There was discussion regarding which temporary research staff types should be eligible for membership in SoDoC and the criteria for determining eligibility. What activities qualify as research, and how may we integrate temporary research staff? Specific cases might be best considered individually and according to the planned event

or activity. Christian will discuss the issue with the representative of the temporary employees at his faculty – KBM.

- In addition, there was discussion about the roles of SoDoC as identified in the 2018 survey and how we can address the suggestions obtained from the survey. Does SoDoC intend to act as a mediator and a knowledge bank?