
**MINUTES OF SECOND BOARD MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 08, 2021 FROM 15:30 VIA TEAMS**

Members Present

- 1) Vinay Nannuru
- 2) Olga Mikhailova
- 3) Jesper Frausig
- 4) Bikal Ghimire
- 5) Hannah Marie Hernandez
- 6) Pawel Suliga
- 7) Ruchika Shakya
- 8) Anne Selven Kallerud
- 9) Prabin Sharma Humagain
- 10) Andrea Fernanda Vallejo Vargas
- 11) Yashwant Singh Yadav
- 12) Gard Frækaland Vangsnes

Agenda

1. Pandemic effects – Contract extensions progress
2. Social activities – update from Bikal and planned activities for the rest of year
3. Academic activities – updates
4. Summary on the discussion with the research department
5. Budget - 2021
6. Other issues and updates.

MINUTES

ACTION BY

MINUTE 1: Pandemic Effects

Challenges

⇒ International research stay delays:

- Those who would go for research stay delayed
- Projects under Norwegian Research Council not allowing research stays abroad

Vinay
Vinay

⇒ Extensions:

- Seems to be based on the funding and faculty
- “We had received an e-mail from the finance department to send in an application for corona related extensions of PhD students and postdocs and most of the PhDs at the VET faculty got an extension of 2 months (not for the postdocs). The deadline for it was 28 September 2020”
- There was also some possibility to get more than 2 months

All to note
Ruchika

Bikal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ But for those not finishing soon- for some it has instead been decided to be determined at their mid-term evaluations whether extensions will be approved (case-by-case) ○ Unclear of blanket extension offers, there is concern that it may be necessary to address the PhD and Postdocs who have started in 2020 that will likely be delayed but whose challenges may not be visible until later in their process ○ Extensions do not seem to be being granted for those without contract ending soon <p>Recommended actions</p> <p>⇒ Lack of clarity for process of extensions- students are uncertain about whether to go through supervisor to apply, what are the deadlines, and where is the information: is it possible to clarify?</p>	<p>Bikal</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>Bikal</p> <p>Yashwant</p>
MINUTE 2: Social Activities	
<p>⇒ Unclear based on re-opening plan- Bikal</p> <p>⇒ Weather dependent</p> <p>⇒ Discussion of proposed events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summer BBQ (end of May) ○ Bike Race (end of June) ○ Back to Uni BBQ (August) ○ Cabin Trip + Hiking (September) ○ Board Games (October) ○ Campfire (October) ○ Music Night (November) ○ Christmas Dinner (December) <p>⇒ These will be changed slightly in the interest of weather</p> <p>⇒ Expected Budget: 54,500</p>	<p>Bikal</p> <p>Bikal</p> <p>Bikal &</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>Bikal</p> <p>Bikal</p>
MINUTE 3: Academic Activities	
<p>⇒ Plan for writing workshops</p> <p>⇒ Concerns over Zoom fatigue and lack of participants</p> <p>⇒ Suggested to conduct workshops hybrid</p> <p>⇒ Discussion of proposed events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic panel debate (May) ○ Introduction to writing the kappe (September) ○ Non-academic career talk (undecided) ○ Norwegian course (potential, autumn) <p>⇒ Could market better- through the Uni and to have reminders</p> <p>⇒ Can offer more for the mental health seminar, this was a large seminar of a speech rather than a discussion- workshop or more participation</p> <p>⇒ Burden for some of the teachers to be mentors and helping because of the situation, Uni could provide more clear and deeper advice and assistance</p> <p>⇒ Counsellors (social workers) rather than the priest</p> <p>⇒ Would it be possible to have certain hours dedicated to PhD?</p> <p>⇒ It could be possible to start meetings with a check-in (personal) and work better to be there for each other</p>	<p>Yashwant</p> <p>Yashwant</p> <p>Yashwant</p> <p>Olga</p> <p>Olga &</p> <p>All to note</p> <p>Olga</p> <p>Prabin</p> <p>Yashwant</p> <p>Jesper</p>

MINUTE 4: Summary of Discussion with Research Department

⇒ Link to Khrono (https://khrono.no/phd-graden-skulle-vera-eit-studium-pa-tre-ar-men-tala-for-gjennomforing-viser-eit-anna-bilde/567954)- the three year restriction for PhDs is unrealistic	Ruchikya & Gard
⇒ Three years not possible particularly in pandemic, have been contacted by other organisations to pursue the contract extensions	Vinay
⇒ Status for blanket extensions: University council addressed with Ministry of Education and are waiting for a response	Gard
⇒ There seems to be agreement on behalf of the University that they are necessary, so it is more important to push the Ministry and the Research Council	Gard Gard
⇒ Why is the fieldwork for work at a university (researchers) not considered valid exception (considered academic)?	
Recommended actions	
⇒ SoDoc is recommended to write an article for Khrono on this issue to put pressure on the Ministry for funding (på norsk)	Gard
⇒ Could include interviews of PhD students and impacts, different from faculty to faculty and timeline placement of PhD	Olga
⇒ Concern needs to be for a mechanism to provide funding because it seems to be fact that all research is delayed	Gard
⇒ Narrative that PhDs will not only complete their research but be part of the solutions of challenges with the pandemic because of our expertise and experience	Jesper
⇒ Inconsistent messaging across faculties; if students should plan for pandemic or not, count on delays or not, and not be counting on extensions- this should be clarified for a consistent messaging regarding flexibility for PhDs	Gard & All to note
⇒ Not getting information from top nor bottom leading to high uncertainty, assumptions, and misunderstandings (governance)	Olga
⇒ Prorector- Suggested meeting of info communication across faculty	Gard

MINUTE 5: Budget for 2021

⇒ Not transferred yet	Olga
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MINUTE 6: Other Issues and Updates

⇒ None	
The meeting was adjourned at 17:00. The next meeting was not scheduled, will send doodle for 2/3 week May	

Signature

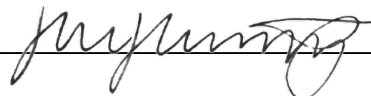
Date

Chairperson:



21 April 2021

Secretary:



08 April 2021