

Minutes from meeting in the Academic Committee (AC) FODOS on the 1st of February 2006.

Attendants:

Ronnie Babigumira, NOVA-member

Mari Sundli Tveit, University Board (US)-member

Tina Brinslimark, Research board (FON)-member

Elisabeth Olsen, Study Board (SN)-member

Andriy Kupyna , FODOS leader

Stein Joar Hegland, leader of AC

Aim of meeting

Exchange experience and knowledge of what is going on in the different UMB-bodies, and what are currently the most important issues?

Below are some main points brought up during the presentations of the different members:

Mari Sundli Tveit, University Board (US)-member, stressed that

-Meeting with the dean is important, and she is going to set up one during the following month if possible (see end of minutes for important issues for the meeting with the dean).

Other issues regarding the US:

-Number of PhD-students: UMB are getting more, but surprisingly some departments try to cut down the number or don't take advantage of the possibilities of having PhD-students.

-Mari thinks that one year in the US is too short, but we do not know what the university-law says. This is an issue that should be dealt with in relation to a review on the rights of all temporary employees.

-The Quality control system with main content the feedback seminars: bring it to the meeting with the dean! UMB said that they were coming into action one year ago, nothing happened yet

Tina Bringslimark, Research board (FON)-member said that the most important issue in FON right now is:

- The research schools: what should be the criteria's for a research school be? what is really a research school: Flagship- vs. Network-model. Why should we have research schools? Because it is the trend and it generates money, it is one way to organise research and research-education?

Other important issues mentioned by Tina:

- There ought to be courses for supervisors
- And they should be more aware of what their duties are.

Elisabeth Olsen, Study Board (SN)-member told that there had not been very many special issues regarding PhD-students this autumn, but she told us about some other interesting stuff:

- UMB is working hard on recruiting new students since there were too few last year.
- UMB is planning a new learning-centre in Tower-building. A very interesting concept including a more open access library, a canteen with longer hours, etc.

Other issues were:

- Students have been complaining because exam results come too late.
- Elisabeth thinks that an introduction-course for new PhD-student should be part of the quality control-system.

Elisabeth also brought up that there are many different ways of handling the (flexible) 4-year employment of stipendiats that the last university board approved.

Ronnie Babigumira, NOVA-member gave us some necessary update on what NOVA is and why it is important (check links at the UMB and FODOS-pages)

- Presently, NOVA is being evaluated, a report will be delivered this summer, and it may be important for the future of the NOVA-university.
- NOVA wants to get more non-national students attending the courses in other countries. Grants are offered, thus get out there! NOVA-courses are also open for students outside the cooperation network, but they have to pay.
- There seems to be a general decrease in PhD-students in Europe and to NOVA-courses.

Ronnie also gave an interesting comment that:

- Quota- PhD- students do not have the obligatory conversations that other PhD-students (the employed) have with their research leader/head of department. This is an important point for the 'temporary-employed-rights' - issue.

Andriy Kupyna, leader of FODOS, ended the meeting by refreshing our memories about the work that has to be done to get new board members for FODOS. AGM end of February!

Furthermore, we agreed on the end that I continue as leader of the committee, but that the initiative to have meetings should be more up to the members of the group.

My summary of the most important issues for the coming meeting with the rector, Knut Hove:

1. Quality control system: Feedback-seminars, introduction course, quality check of supervisors.
2. Four years of employment: some departments may actually go against the recommendation of the university board giving less without any flexibility.
3. UMB needs to go through the right of temporary employees, including quota-students, regarding the length of the US- term; the right to vote, social benefits (the International Committee might have additional information on this issue).

Yours Sincerely

Stein Joar Hegland

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1 of February 2006

Leader of the Academic Committee of FODOS