

Annual report for the PhD-committee at the Faculty of Humanities (Stip-HF), 2014

Stip-HF has had the following members in 2014: Terje Breigutu Moseng (AHKR, leader), Benedikte Fjellanger Vardøy (IF, secretary), Guro Sandnes (IF), Inga Henriette Undheim (LLE), Knut Melvær (AHKR), and Pål Berg Svenungsen (AHKR).

During the year we have conducted three surveys of the PhD-candidates at the Faculty of Humanities (these are available from our website, <http://stiphf.b.uib.no/>). These have primarily been meant as exploratory tools for use in our work for the rights of PhD-candidates, to see if something we've heard a lot of complaints about really is a widespread problem. However, since the surveys in some cases also uncovered unfavorable conditions, we've also produced reports based on them, and we have used these reports in our work with the faculty and the departments. The issues we have surveyed in 2014 are supervision, the mandatory course in the theory of science and ethics, and the roles of research groups and research schools in the PhD training at the faculty.

During the late spring and the summer we also reminded the deans of the faculty that if they are to have responsibility for the courses in transferable skills, they actually have to take responsibility for providing PhD candidates with at least a few choices. As a result, the deans organized two courses to be held during the winter of 2014-2015 in addition to the course organized by the humanities library. Stip-HF is still not content with the courses being offered, as the transferable qualities of some of them is questionable to say the least, and one of the tasks of the new Stip-HF should be to continue this work.

In addition, Stip-HF has taken part in arranging the start-up day for new PhD candidates at the faculty. We have had two informal lunches with the Dean and the Vice Dean of Research and Communication where we have been able to discuss issues relevant to the PhD candidates. Members of Stip-HF have also helped fill vacant positions in various governing and advisory bodies at the faculty when these bodies have had difficulties finding group B representatives. Stip-HF has also arranged some social meetings for the PhD candidates, like lunches, the Holiday Quiz, and "lønningspils", but there is a lot of room for improvement in our work with the social integration of PhD candidates. Some PhD candidates have also contacted us with issues they have experienced, and we would like to see more of this in the next year.

Bergen, January 22 2015

Stip-HF