

Annual report for the PhD-committee at the Faculty of Humanities (Stip-HF), 2015

Stip-HF has had the following members in 2015: Sara Kohne (AHKR, leader), Benedikte Fjellanger Vardøy (IF, secretary), Terje Breigutu Moseng (AHKR), Guro Sandnes (IF), Anna Blekastad Watson (LLE) and Jan Jacob Hoffmann (IF).

During the year we have worked on different tasks. We were invited by the faculty and university board on different hearings and contributed with comments on issues like the “Faculty’s new strategy for 2016-22”, the “Modification in the estimation of the period of service for PhD fellows” and the “Training of supervisors in research education”. In addition, we took the initiative to raise an issue for hearing on “Mentorsupervision for PhD candidates that lecture and examine”. This proposal was meant to secure that PhD candidates can get the possibility for instruction in lecturing by an experienced professional colleague. The note has been discussed by the faculty and was sent out to the departments with a recommendation to affiliate. In addition, we conducted a follow-up survey on last year’s evaluation of the supervising situation of PhD candidates at the faculty. This follow-up study is, like previous surveys, meant to be an exploratory tool and will be used in our work for the rights of PhD candidates. We have produced a report based on it, and the report will be used in our work with the faculty and the departments. Our notes and comments on different hearings and the survey report are available from our website, <http://stiphf.b.uib.no/>.

Throughout spring we visited the PhD candidates at the different centers and departments at the faculty and talked about their situation and mapped their special needs and wishes. During the spring and the autumn semester we have also had three informal lunches with the Dean and the Vice Dean of Research and Communication. In these lunches we have been able to discuss issues relevant to the PhD candidates. Main topics were among others the faculty’s responsibility in offering courses in transferable skills, the terms of duties for PhD candidates and we talked about research groups and -schools and in what way they could provide better conditions for PhD candidates.

We have discussed if Stip-HF should get a member of the national organisation for PhD candidates (SiN) and have tried to encourage PhD candidates at other faculties to gather and establish committees, since the Faculty of Humanities currently is the only faculty at the university that has a committee and an independent organ for PhD candidates (Stip-HF). We have also taken part in arranging the forthcoming start-up day for new PhD candidates and have arranged several social meetings for the PhD candidates, like the monthly payday beer, two lunches with Holiday Quiz and a pizza evening with movie screening. There is still a lot of room for improvement, especially with the social and political integration of non-

Norwegian speaking / international PhD candidates. We would like to continue with that in our work in the following year.

Bergen, January 2016

Stip-HF