

Administration Report 2014

The Board

The Board of the SULF Association of Doctoral Candidates (SDF) presents the following Administration Report for the 2013/2014 fiscal year. The Nominations Committee section includes a brief report on their activities.

During the year, the Board consisted of the following:

Jeanette Lindberg, Chair
Himanshu Kataria, Deputy Chair
Anna Ilar, Member
Christina Karlsson, Member
Signe Borch, Member
Simon Johansson, Member

During the year, Board operations have primarily been focused on international doctoral candidates and achieving equal terms and conditions. The Board has held meetings and communicated mostly in English. It has also worked to publish all information available via SULF in both Swedish and English.

Board meetings

The board has met:

- 16 December in Stockholm. Planning meeting and discussion with SULF Director Git Claesson Pipping and information from Jan Galdh on SULF Vision 2030.
- 20 January 20 in Stockholm. Planning for Contact Day. Lunch with SULF Chair Mats Eriksson and training of Board by SULF Head of Negotiations Robert Andersson on international doctoral candidates' situation.
- 27-28 March in Gothenburg (residential). Focus on SDF Vision Document, and Vision 2030 and a review of the Constitution and Facebook. SFS-DK Chair. Visits from Johan Svantesson Sjöberg and SULF Recruitment Manager Friedrich Heger.
- 17 March virtual meeting (Skype). Checklist prior to Contact Day and debate article.
- 27 May Stockholm. Preparations for Contact Day and planning of further work with SDF Vision Document.
- 15 August virtual meeting (Skype). Follow up of Contact Day, discussion on SDF Vision Document and preparations for AGM.
- 14 October in Stockholm. Training of the Board on pensions linked to the different forms of financing and discussion on how the issue can be developed in collaboration with the Saco Student Council. Visits from Johannes Danielsson, Chair and John Hagen, expert. Board meeting to finalise AGM documents.
- 26 November in Stockholm (planned). Evaluation of the year's work and preparations for the handover, plus follow up from the AGM.

Newsletters

Three newsletters were distributed in the spring term and two in the autumn term to all SDF members with registered e-mail addresses. Letters were sent in both Swedish and English. They contained current information from SDF and reminders of upcoming activities.

SDF in the media

Press releases

Comments concerning improved conditions for international doctoral candidates in connection with circular migration

<http://www.sulf.se/Om-SULF/Nyheter/Antligen-forbattras-doktoranders-mojlighet-till-permanent-uppehallstillstand/>

Universitetsläraren (magazine)

Reportage on Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg and SDF operations in 2014 in No. 1-14

<http://www.sulf.se/Universitetslararen/Arkiv/2014/Nummer-1-14/SULF-sektion-satter-fokus-pa-internationella-doktorander/>

Comments concerning the improved conditions for international doctoral candidates in connection with circular migration in No. 4-14

<http://www.sulf.se/Universitetslararen/Arkiv/2014/Nummer-4-14/Flera-forbattringar-for-utlandska-doktorander/>

Notice and brief summary of Contact Day No. 7-14

<http://www.sulf.se/Universitetslararen/Arkiv/2014/Nummer-7-14/Notiser/>

Debate article

Jointly with SFS-DK, SDF published a debate article in Svenska Dagbladet:

http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/utlandsk-doktorand-behandlas-ojamlikt_3657566.svd

Curie

Chair Jeanette Lindberg comments on co-authorship.

<http://www.tidningencurie.se/22/nyheter/nyheter/2014-08-26-vem-ska-raknas-som-forfattare.html>

Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg comments on the proposal on international doctoral candidate grants.

<http://www.tidningencurie.se/22/debatt/debatter/2014-10-07-replik-internationella-doktorandbidrag---en-befogad-efterfragan.html>

Doktorandhandboken.nu

Interview with Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg on the importance of the union and union membership as a doctoral candidate.

<http://doktorandhandboken.nu/attdoktorera/intervjuer/jeanettelindbergordforandeisdf.4.71c61723147ccee280e93.html>

Website

The SDF website has been updated with information on the union section, operations and Board presentations. The new information is available in both Swedish and English.

<http://www.sulf.se/Om-SULF/Organisation/Professionssektioner/SDF/>

Social media

Anna Ilar and Jeanette Lindberg have managed the SDF Facebook page. During the year, the number of people who liked the page increased by 67%. Contributions have been mainly written in English which opened up for increased dialogue with current, former and potential members. 54% of Facebook members are women. 54% of members are between 25-34 years of age.

<https://www.facebook.com/SulfsDoktorandforeningSdf?ref=bookmarks>

SDF cooperation

Equality for foreign doctoral candidates in Sweden

The Board has, via the SDF Facebook page, supported and disseminated information on manifestations for international doctoral candidates' rights.

Doktorandhandboken.se

The Board has contributed information for the updating of doktorandhandboken.se. Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg has also been interviewed for the website.

Politicians

The Board has supplied background information to Thomas Strand (Soc Dem) in preparation for an interpellation debate with Jan Björklund (Liberal) concerning the abolition of educational grants and scholarships for doctoral candidates.

Saco

Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg participated in Saco's University Forum on 2 April.

Saco Student Council

Jeanette Lindberg and Simon Johansson met the Presidium of the Saco Student Council on 21 January to brief and be briefed on operations.

Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg participated in the Saco Student Council Chairperson Network on 14 March.

SFS-DK

SFS-DK Chair Johan Svantesson Sjöberg visited the SDF Board and Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg has paid a corresponding visit to the SFS-DK Board. SFS-DK and SDF published a joint debate article entitled *Doktorand med stipendium – billig arbetskraft (Doctoral candidates on scholarships - cheap labour)*.

SULF

The Board has exerted pressure as concerns the issue of thesis supervision and, in consultation with Sulf Chair Mats Ericson, has published its intention to establish a working group including professors and doctoral candidate representatives.

Christina Karlsson participated, as the SDF representative, in SULF's Chairperson Network on 25 September.

Universitetsläraren (magazine)

Chairperson Jeanette Lindberg participated in a workshop concerning the redesign of the Universitetsläraren magazine.

Doctoral Candidate Contact Day

On May 28, a national Contact Day was organised for doctoral candidates interested in union activities. During the morning focus was on how a student can work for the local union association and the various opportunities available. In addition, doctoral candidate representatives from Stockholm University and Chalmers presented their views. After lunch the focus was on the situation of international doctoral candidates and what SDF can do, and is doing today, nationally and locally.

Finances

The Board requested SEK 133 000 but were allocated SEK 115 000. However, expenses have remained within the framework of the funds received. This is mainly due to lower levels of travel expenses as many Board members live in Stockholm and that costs for

the Contact Day were less than expected. The outcome is still preliminary since the costs of the recent board meeting, AGM, handover and collaboration with Saco Student Council are not included and the financial year is January-December.

	Operations	Budget	Outcome 13 Oct 2014
Membership activities	Contact Day AGM	SEK 50 000 SEK 10 000	SEK 5 184
Board operations	Meetings costs	SEK 58 000	SEK 30 287.7
Lobbying and advocacy	Saco Student Council, SFS-DK	SEK 15 000	SEK 2965
	REQUESTED RECEIVED	SEK 133 000 SEK 115 000	SEK 38 436.7

Nominations Committee

During the year, the Nominations Committee has consisted of Moa Ekbohm (Convener) and Anna Eskilsson. The Nominations Committee began its work in August and submitted a proposal for a new Board at the end of September. Contacts were primarily via e-mail and several candidates were contacted by the Nominations Committee after the SDF Contact Day. The Nomination Committee perceives that interest in SDF is greater than in the past due to the Contact Day which made SDF's operations visible to union members and doctoral candidates.

In conclusion

The departing Board would like to thank the members for the trust and confidence placed in them.