

# Management Report 2015

The Board of SDF, the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association, presents the following Management Report for financial year 2015 (up to and including 5 Oct 2015).

## The Board

This year the Board has consisted of the following individuals:

Jeanette Lindberg, Chair

Anna Ilar, Deputy Chair

Signe Borch, Member

Tony Thorström, Member

Victor Pressfeldt, Member

Martina Angela Caretta, Substitute

During the year, the Board's work has focused on doctoral candidate working conditions including language problems for international students, a report on thesis supervision has been presented, discrimination and harassment have been highlighted as well as the problems experienced by doctoral candidates on sandwich programmes.

## Board meetings

During the year, almost all meetings, for logistical reasons, have been held in Stockholm.

- 14 January: the first meeting contained a lot of discussion on structure and planning for the year and getting to know each other. The Swedish Higher Education Authority proposal for a new evaluation of doctoral studies was discussed and comments were submitted to SULF. Work began on collecting data for the Thesis Supervision Report.
- 27 February: primarily planning for Contact Day and discussions on the situation for doctoral candidates on sandwich programmes.
- 9-10 April: international meeting in Gothenburg where we worked with a submission to the Ministry of Education, motions to the SULF Congress and planning the Contact Day. SULF elected representative Freidrich Heger visited us to provide in-house training in the history and significance of SULF.
- 21 April, final preparations for Contact Day, planning for the autumn and completion of draft motions to the SULF Congress.
- 12 August: a Skype meeting essentially to decide which motions were to be submitted to the SULF Congress as well as the progress of autumn activities.
- 17 September: meeting where AGM preparations were made, the Government research bill was discussed as well as the Thesis Supervision Report and completion/closure of the year's operations.
- 21 October and 18 November, scheduled meetings.

## Newsletters

Three e-mail newsletters were sent out during the spring, and two in the autumn to all SDF members with registered e-mail addresses. The letters were sent in both Swedish and English and contained current information from SDF and reminders of upcoming activities.

## SDF in the media

### *Universitetslärares*

Jeanette Lindberg commented on the Swedish Higher Education Authority impact analysis of the increase in employed doctoral positions.

<http://www.sulf.se/Universitetslararen/Arkiv/2015/Nummer---2---15/Notiser/>

Anna Ilar participated in "Hallå där" in the first issue of the new Universitetslärares.

SDF supported the Eivind Torp debate article "*Vem äger rätten till doktoranders forskningsresultat*". <http://universitetslararen.se/2015/06/15/lagandring---om---upphovsratt---ar---onskvard/>

SDF authored a debate article concerning the language situation for non-Swedish speaking doctoral candidates.

<http://universitetslararen.se/2015/09/07/sa---kan---vi---bättre---inkludera---utlandsk---doktorander/>

Jeanette Lindberg commented on the language situation for non-Swedish speaking doctoral candidates. <http://universitetslararen.se/2015/09/07/spraket---hinder---for---manga---doktorander/>

Signe Borch commented on the situation concerning allowances/sandwich programme doctoral candidates. Universitetslärares will highlight their situation in two articles after lobbying from SDF. (Not yet published when AGM documentation was distributed)

### *Curie*

Anna Ilar commented in Curie on the internal and external debate climate in academia.

<http://www.tidningencurie.se/22/nyheter/nyheter/2015---02---03---otrygga---villkor---kan---fa---unga---att---tystna.html>

### *Written submissions*

Jointly with the Central Doctoral Candidate Council at Stockholm University, a written submission was sent to the Ministry of Education to highlight the language problem.

<http://www.sulf.se/Documents/Pdfer/Press%20opinion/Spr%C3%A5ksituationenforinternationelladoktorander.pdf>

During the year, SDF has worked to develop a report on supervision and how to supervise theses. This has, to some extent, been carried out in collaboration with the SULF Professor association. (The publication is expected to be completed October-November 2015, after the AGM documents are distributed).

#### Website

Our website has been updated with new Board member presentations, in both Swedish and English.

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

#### *Social media*

Facebook page. Between 1 December 2014 and 29 August 2015, the page's likes increased by 34%. Postings have, with few exceptions, been written in English which opened up for increased dialogue with current, previous and prospective members. 50% of Facebook members are women. 55% are between 25-34 years of age. We have marketed three postings.

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

### **SDF in cooperation**

#### *Saco Student Council*

Mail conversation has been underway with the Saco Student Council Presidium primarily on how they will be proceeding with the pension situation and cooperation around this issue.

Tony Thornström attended the Saco Student Council Members' Council on 14 February. Ingela Edlund, Second Deputy Chair of LO visited the Saco Student Council to brief them on the development of the trade union movement in Sweden and their position on the Swedish labour market. During the day a panel discussion was also organized between Magda Rasmusson, spokesperson for Green Youth, and Rasmus Törnblom, Chair of Young Moderates, who discussed the turbulent situation that characterised Swedish politics in 2015. Issues raised included gender equality, integration and education. A workshop was held on the theme international operations aimed at discussing how international businesses will be managed in the future.

Deputy Chair Anna Ilar attended the Saco Student Council Chairs' Network on 9 May. Chair Jeanette Lindberg participated in the Saco Student Council Chairs' Network on 18 September. This Chairs' Network has been rewarding and interesting, even if the others represent students at undergraduate/graduate level, it has been beneficial to exchange experience with the other Chairs.

#### *SFS-DK*

Jeanette Lindberg had been invited to a meeting of SFS-DK on 15 January. However they changed date without notification. Contact has been difficult as they have had no Chair up until 1 July. New contacts and new discussions have been held with their new Board

including Jeanette participating by link and introducing us at their startup meeting. During the autumn discussions have been held concerning the new research bill.

### *SULF*

Jeanette Lindberg attended the SULF Chairs' Network on 24 September. Issues discussed included the research bill, local activities and recruitment. Jeanette was also asked to present SDF activities on their Facebook page.

SDF has provided comments on the referral concerning Vision 2030.

### *Swedish Higher Education Authority*

The Swedish Higher Education Authority has proposed a new evaluation model for doctoral studies. SDF has submitted its views to SULF which have been included in the SULF response.

<http://www.sulf.se/Press---opinion/Remissvar/Kvalitetsutvardering---av---utbildning---pa---forskarniva/>

On 16 April, Jeanette Lindberg also participated at the reference group meeting for the evaluation of doctoral studies.

### *Management study*

Martina Angela Caretta participated as a representative of SDF in a focus group concerning the study of management functions of universities which is underway. Issues discussed included boards and management within universities: what do they look like? What are their advantages and disadvantages? Is there a collegial system or not? What could be improved? Martina provided briefings on doctoral candidate representation in the various university bodies.

## **Doctoral Candidate Contact Day**

On 22 May a national Contact Day for doctoral candidates interested in the union was organized. A total of nine representatives participated, all from different universities. This year's theme was discrimination and harassment. The SULF representative Mari Willart, Lund University Doctoral Candidate Representative Alexandra Popovich and Stockholm University Gender Equality Coordinator Christian Edling gave presentations on how they work with, and have encountered, discrimination, harassment or unfair treatment of doctoral candidates.

The day continued with a workshop where cases were discussed, as well as issues concerning the legal support available and the measures that may be taken. The day concluded with social mingle and exchange of experience. Participants received an e-mail afterwards containing a summary of the workshop documentation and other related information.

## SULF Congress

The Board has written five of its own motions to the SULF Congress and jointly authored a motion with SULF-GU and one with the SULF Lecturer Association. SULF has carried out a motion dialogue in which feedback has been received from the SULF Board on draft motions before they were submitted in their final versions.

## Finances

The Board requested SEK 115 000, but received SEK 105 000, however this financial framework has been maintained. Outcome is calculated as per 5 Oct 2015 and is so far only a preliminary figure as costs for the latest Board meeting, AGM and transfer to the new Board have not been included plus that the financial year is January-December.

	<b>Operations</b>	<b>Budget SEK</b>	<b>Outcome 5 Oct 2015 SEK</b>
<b>Membership activities</b>	Contact Day	25 000	12 657
	AGM	10 000	
<b>Recruitment</b>	<i>Part of Contact Day operations plus locally at the universities</i>		
<b>Board operations</b>	Meeting costs	50 000	34 611
<b>Advocacy and opinion building</b>	Saco Student Council	13 000	2 766
	SFS-DK	7 000	2 000
	Marketing	2 000	368
	Other entertaining	10 000	
	<b>REQUESTED RECEIVED USED</b>	<b>115 000 105 000</b>	<b>52 402</b>

## Conclusion

The retiring Board would like to thank SDF members for their confidence and support.