Danish Development Research Network

FAU-DDRN 9th General Assembly 4th December 2013
December 4, 2013 – 16:00-17:00 – Copenhagen Business School

Chairperson: Arne Wangel
Rapporteur: Lucy Gregersen

Agenda:
1. Election of chairperson and secretary
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Report by the board
4. Presentation of accounts
5. Proposals received to be discussed and/or be presented
6. Presentation of working agenda for the forthcoming year
7. Presentation of budget proposal for the forthcoming year
8. Election of board members, substitutes, treasurers and auditors
9. Any other business

Ad. 1 Election of chairperson and secretary

Lone Frederiksen (LF) and Lucy Gregersen (LG) were proposed as chairperson and secretary and approved.

Ad. 2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by all participants.

Ad. 3 Report by the board

A participant questioned the outcome of the DANIDA CSR application. Arne Wangel (AW) presented that it was not successful and asked Søren Jeppesen (SJ) about the outcome of his involvement of his and FAU’s participation in DANIDA CSR applications. SJ noted that they were successful with one application from CBS, which was created in collaboration with Care Denmark.

Ad. 4 Presentation of accounts

Consolidate the working groups. One idea is also to have a series of after-work-seminars as a run up to the conference. Once the theme has been confirmed for the conference, we could organise a series of seminars over various aspects of the theme.

AW presented that the DDRN is yet functioning at a ‘low level’ and that FAU are moving towards a somewhat similar situation. It is planned that we will continue collaboration with them.
**Ad. 5 Proposals received to be discussed and/or presented**

No proposals were received to be discussed or presented.

**Ad. 6 Presentation of working agenda for the forthcoming year**

LF suggested that a separate working group should be set up to further develop DDRN’s current work with South students and thus kept separate from the previously discussed working group on fundraising strategies. NQ supplemented in relation to working groups, that though most are active, maybe the description should be changed from consolidating to reactivating. AW also noted that the current conference plan may help reactivate a number of the working groups. During spring, it might be possible to arrange after-work seminars in collaboration with CBS, AAU and UN City as venues DDRN can use free of charge. SJ commented, building on what NQ said that the conference could be an opportunity to announce a call, and present these working groups to members. Thus we can discover which working groups there are shown interest towards, and may be reactivated. DDRN and the Board should be active in following up on this. The conference can provide a few days for the working groups to meet in.

**Ad. 7 Presentation of budget proposal for the forthcoming year**

Ransom Lekunze (RL) asked what DDRN’s strategy for future fundraising was. AW commented that there is research communication fund from the Danish Lottery, which DDRN previously has applied for. Though the previous application was unsuccessful, DDRN could attempt this again. The deadline for the application is February 2014. The ideas for an alumni network could be considered as a starting point here. RL noted that DDRN’s fundraising targets are too large, and smaller funding sums and smaller companies could be targeted. Companies conducting CSR is an alternative way, could possibly be engaged. They could be invited to some of our events, so they can see our efforts. This could be an enticement to sponsoring some of our conferences or seminars. 5000-10000 DKK could be a standard small sum to request.

Matthew Cashmore (MC) suggested, depending on the size of the Board, a working group could be established around this strategy. Thus DDRN can systematise our focus and actions, as to be able to optimise on ideas to run with in 2014.

SJ commended MC and RL’s ideas and further noted that the possibility of membership fees should be looked into. DDRN could draw inspiration from how EADI functions. This might also be simpler than RL strategy, where we could spend many hours chasing small amounts. DDRN has 66 private sector members, if these could pay 100-300 DKK each, which could also solve our problem. AW commented that this has previously been on the agenda, and that the outcome was that the administrative cost of receiving the fees would be too high. Though it could be looked into whether the UNEP Risoe Centre might give LG more hours to administrate this. SJ suggested that a starting point could be to target DDRN’s private sector members, which could minimise the administration costs. It is worth noting that full time employment on checking payments is not feasible.

**Ad. 8 Election of board members, substitutes, treasurers and auditors**

MC and RL are elected for 1 more year. Thomas Nielsen, AW and SJ wish to stand for re-election. Any new participants who wish to stand for election?

Moses Mengu and Fred Chalula were proposed as members of the Board and were accepted.
NQ and LF did not wish to stand for re-election, and were thanked for their activity in the Board. JMC, KPR and HYF, whom were not present at the GA, do not wish to stand for re-election either and are equally thanked for their activity.

LF will finalise the accounts for 2013, until the next Board meeting, so the new treasurer can receive these.

**Ad. 9 Any other business**

SJ noted that his participation in the Nordic Conference in November 2013, was very encouraging. The Nordic Scene should also be a focus of DDRN in the coming year, especially in relation to many previously mentioned work plans. There are a lot of possibilities for the Nordic element here. In terms of funding possibilities, there are network funds at a Nordic level available, DDRN could apply for.

AW proposed that an after-work seminar could be arranged in January, for those who participated in the Nordic conference. There could be various discussion points from the conference and on actual discussions going on in the Nordic area. We could invite attendees of the Nordic Conference to come and summarise the discussions from the conference. SJ further commented that the new Danish minister, Rasmus Helveg Petersen, and Tove Degnbol from DANIDA could also be invited. NQ suggested that we could try to find a link to the Conference's key presentation and load it to the DDRN website, as activate the website.