



SFDN annual report

June 2004 – May 2005

The inaugural General Assembly of the SFDN as an official Association was held on the 8th of June 2004. The following report describes activities carried out during the first year.

1. Official and internal documents

The statutes were approved at the first General Assembly and can be consulted on the website.

A paper presenting the role and responsibilities of the SFDN Board was completed in October 2004.

Lists of institutional and individual members are regularly updated.

A poster “Just starting” announcing the creation of the association was put together as were some flyers describing objectives and activities.

2. Membership

By April 2005 9 institutions had signed up as institutional members. The following centres were granted institutional membership by the board:

- Centre de Recherche et d'Appui pour la Formation et ses Technologies (CRAFT), EPFL
- Didaktikzentrum (DiZ), ETHZ
- Akademische Personal- und Lehrentwicklung, UniBas
- Hochschuldidaktik, UniBe
- Centre de Didactique Universitaire et Nouvelles Technologies et Enseignement, UniFr
- Formation & Evaluation (FormEv), UniGe
- Centre de soutien à l'enseignement, UniL
- Hochschuldidaktisches Zentrum, UniSG
- Arbeitsstelle für Hochschuldidaktik (AfH), UniZh

Individual members added to members enrolled through institutional membership comes up to 42 people (Appendix 1).

3. The board

The board comprised of Nicole Rege Colet (president), Pam Alean-Kirkpatrick (vice-president), Sarah Shephard (treasurer) and Gerhild Tesak (secretary general) met twice on the 15th of July and the 28th of September 2004. At the last meeting, due to a heavy workload, Gerhild Tesak resigned from her position as Secretary general. As none one was prepared to replace Gerhild at short notice, the position remained open during the rest of the year.

The board worked on finalising the statutes and completing internal documents, i.e. the roles and responsibilities of the board. It supervised the creation of the website, the poster and the flyers. It established official contact with the CRUS in order to be informed on events and decisions linked to developing higher education in Switzerland. It organised the SFDN meetings and the annual general assembly and informed on all SFDN activities open to members.

Regular e-mail contacts enabled the board to work on various projects without having to meet.

4. Website and logo

The SFDN website was launched on the 1st of September 2004. The logo was designed and adopted by the board during the summer. The website offers simple information and access to:

- Objectives and aims of SFDN
- Activities carried out
- Composition of the board
- Contact
- Individual and institutional members
- Official documents and framework documents
- Specific information on current activities

5. Meetings

The SFDN held one meeting other than the General Assembly on the 26th of October 2004. Bernadette Charlier from the University of Fribourg gave a presentation on research, training and coaching by the Centre de didactique universitaire et nouvelles technologies de l'enseignement.

6. Activities and events

The IUT conference held its annual conference in Bern from the 12th to 15th of July. Manfred Kuenzel, from the University of Bern and Bernadette Charlier, from the University of Fribourg, were members of the

scientific committee. Pam Alean from the University of Zurich was able to get a slot and present the first SFDN poster.

The CRUS organised the 4th National Bologna Conference on the 20th of September 2004 in Zurich. SFDN was able to put up a poster and hand out flyers

FormEv from the University of Geneva organised a workshop with Lynn McAlpine from Mc Gill University, Montréal on Reflective practice on the 23rd of November 2004. 11 people attended a very intensive course focusing on personal philosophies guiding work and scenarios for faculty development.

On the 13th of April 2005, the Didaktikzentrum of the ETHZ organised a site visit for SFDN members. 19 people attended the event and were able to discuss controversial issues such as grading and estimating student workload and to take part in a provocative debate on the irrelevance of faculty development in a research led university.

The CRUS organised a workshop on the 20th of April 2005 on modularisation and learning outcomes given by Jenny Moon from the University of Exeter. 5 places were available for SFDN members who immediately seized them

The ETH Zürich, the Pädagogische Hochschule ZH, the University of Zürich and the Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur organised a conference on *Writing–Thinking–Learning, Writing at Universities* on the 20th of May 2005. Sarah Shephard was able to make a short announcement about the SFDN in the Plenum of the conference, inviting people involved in Hochschuldidaktik to become members.

7. Networking

The SFDN applied for membership to the International Consortium of Educational Development in higher education (ICED). The application was accepted and SFDN is now a full member. As a result, the president was invited to take part in the 2005 ICED Council Meeting in Rijeka. This information arrived too late to be taken into account.

8. Next steps

SFDN has experienced an interesting first year as an official association. Efforts were put into getting recognition by other groups and getting on the map of Swiss higher education in order to be informed on work carried out and take an active part in it. A particular link with the CRUS was established and should develop over the coming period.

Focus can now go on the type of activities and events that meet the members' requirements and bring together the community.

Nicole Rege Colet
President for SFDN
May 2005