



SFDN annual report

June 2005 – May 2006

The following report gives an account of the 2nd year of activity of the SFDN as an association. Things slowed down considerably during this second year but activities are expected to pick up in the coming months.

1. Official and internal documents

No new official documents were produced in the last period. The statutes and the two framework papers remain the same and are accessible on line.

The paper on “Role and responsibilities of the SFDN board” has recently been modified in order to take into consideration the latest decision on workflow and communication introduced by the current board members.

Throughout the year, the institutional and individual members lists were upgraded and put on line.

2. Membership

At present, SFDN comprises 10 institutional members. Since last year, the University of Neuchâtel represented in the network by Edouard Paulino has founded its faculty development centre and applied for membership. Many changes have been made to the list of members as people changed jobs and newly hired faculty developer were added to the list of their faculty development centre. In all, the network now comprises 45 people enrolled through institutional membership. Gabriel Eckert from the University of Applied sciences of Western Switzerland, formerly of the EPFL, and Susanne Obermayer from the CRUS have become associate members.

3. The board

For the past year the board consisted of three members: Nicole Rege Colet as president, Pam Alean-Kirkpatrick as Secretary General and Sarah Shephard as Treasurer. The position of vice-president remained vacant for lack of candidates.

Pam Alean-Kirkpatrick decided to resign from the board for the end of this mandate. For the time being no one has come forward for election as a new board member. This point will be debated at the next General Assembly on the 23rd of June 2006.

Work was essentially carried out via e-mail. The board held a meeting in Bern on the 9th of February 2006. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future of the SFDN and to consider the possibility of closing down the association due to the little interest shown by members and various critiques addressed by some members.

The proposal of closing down the association was suspended for the mean time until more information is available on national initiatives and support to faculty development in higher education institutions. The board decided to put more focus on improving the flow of informal information and communication between members and on improving contacts on an international scale. In particular, it was decided to make the general assembly a more attractive event and to introduce a news letter to keep everyone informed on the latest developments in the world of Swiss faculty development

4. Communication

Website

The board decided to keep the website as lively as possible and to update it at regular intervals: this is done at the beginning of each term.

Poster

A new SFDN poster was produced and will be handed out to members present at the General Assembly of the 23rd of June 2006. The poster will be hung up at the ICED Sheffield conference in June 2006.

Mailing-list

The SFDN mailing list is also available on line and can be used by members for sending out all kinds of information: forwarding interesting articles, invitations to workshops, conferences, meetings and events linked to faculty development

Language policy

Since English seems to be a problem for some members, in particular during the General Assembly, the board suggests that English remains the official language of SFDN but that contributions can be made in French and German in all meetings including the GA.

6. Activities and events

The AIPU held its annual conference in Geneva from the 12th to the 14th of September 2006. This edition was organised by the faculty development centres of Western Switzerland. In all 300 people attended and 150 communications were given on topics such as curriculum reform, quality assurance, international cooperation and distance and flexible learning.

SFDN was allocated places for the CRUS ECTS workshop on ECTS and student assessment held on the 25th of November 2005. Balthasard Eugster was invited to give a presentation on pedagogical issues related to assessment and the ECTS system.

CRUS held the 5th National Bologna Conference on the 8th of March 2006 in Lausanne. SFDN was given several places for members who were not included in the list of their university representatives.

SFDN members were also invited to the conference organised this time by KFH/CSHES on the topic of Bologna process.

Pam Alean-Kirkpatrick will attend the ICED conference from the 11th to the 14th of June 2006 in Sheffield on **Enhancing Academic Development Practice: International Perspectives**. She will be able to present the new SFDN poster and represent the network.

5. Networking

The CRUS ECTS network includes a SFDN representative. The position was held by Balthasard Eugster from DIZ until he was invited to join the CRUS ECTS steering committee. Natacha Durand has accepted to stand in as the SFDN representative at the next GA.

ICED will be holding its next council meeting in Sheffield shortly before the conference in June 2006. As a member, SFDN can take part in the meeting. Initially, since Pam Alean-Kirkpatrick is attending the conference, she accepted the idea of representing SFDN. However, the extra costs involved in order to attend and a lack of precise information of the agenda of the meeting made the meeting less attractive and the idea was abandoned. Still regarding ICED, SFDN was given a vote for the election of the next president. A choice of three candidates was given and the vote went to Suki Ekaratne after consulting with other members more familiar with the candidates

8. Next steps

The next big event in motion is the workshop that will be given by Keith Trigwell on the 21st of November 2006 in Zurich. More details will be given during the G A.

The board suggests planning another site visit such as the one organised by DIZ of ETHZ in April 2005.

The next General Assembly has already been planed for the 20th of June 20076 and will include a boat trip on the Thunersee.

More information about regional symposia and international conferences should be shared amongst members of the network.

All suggestions for strengthening communication and sharing practice within the network are welcome and will be examined and supported by the board.

Nicole Rege Colet
President for SFDN
May 2006