



# **SFDN annual report**

**June 2006 – May 2007**

The following report contains a short account of the 3rd year of activity of the SFDN. Activities are still modest and the SFDN network is operating on a slow mode. For the time being there is no sign that activities might pick up or promises of exciting developments.

## **1. Official and internal documents**

No new official documents were produced in the last period. The institutional and individual member lists are regularly upgraded and put on line.

## **2. Membership**

At present, SFDN comprises 10 institutional members. Many changes have been made to the list of members as people changed jobs and newly hired faculty developers were added to the list of their faculty development centre. Newcomer Denis Berthiaume was appointed head of the University of Lausanne's centre after Jacques Lanarès became vice-rector for the University. In all, the network now comprises 46 people.

## **3. The board**

Three people comprise the board: Nicole Rege Colet, University of Geneva, as president, Bernadette Charlier, University of Fribourg, as Secretary General and Sarah Shephard, ETHZ, as Treasurer.

Work was essentially carried out via e-mail and telephone conferences. The meetings focussed on preparing the budget, deciding on activities to support and preparing the 2007 General Assembly.

## **4. Communication**

### **Website**

The website is updated at regular intervals, at the beginning of each term, and provides useful information for members. The website is currently hosted by the University of Geneva. The new policy in Geneva regarding editing websites introduced late 2006 means that the SFDN website

will probably have to be hosted elsewhere. The University of Fribourg will probably take over the job.

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. Unfortunately very little communications are shared out this way.

## **Language policy**

English remains the official language of SFDN but contributions are made in French and German.

## **5. Activities and events**

The 2006 General Assembly was organised for the first time as a formal and social event. It was held at the Gurten in Bern and members were invited to start the day with a lunch. Socialising was encouraged to promote networking and sharing information. The day ended with a presentation from Manfred Künzel from the University of Fribourg on «*Faculty development in Switzerland - 10 years from now*»

The CRUS ECTS network organised a workshop on *Learning Outcomes and modules*. Bernadette Charlier from the University of Fribourg gave a presentation and several members attended the day. SFDN was allocated 4 places.

The main event of the year was the workshop organised by Pam Alean in Zurich: *Using Relational Research in Faculty Development: a perspective from Keith Trigwell*. In all, 17 people took part in the workshop held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2006. Keith Trigwell organised work in small group discussions and handed out research material for analysis. He gave a very good presentation of his latest research results and encouraged the participants to think how this could impact on their work as faculty developers. Everyone enjoyed the full day's work and discussions and was delighted to be able to share knowledge and experiences with an internationally recognised expert. Many thanks go to Pam for the excellent organisation including the social events that went with the workshop

The ETHZ proposed to organise a SFDN Satellite Symposium on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March after the DiZ ETH Bologna Conference on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of March. The scheduling for the Saturday afternoon presented a few problems for most SFDN members and the Symposium was therefore postponed. Several members did attend the Bologna Conference.

Taylor and Francis contacted Nicole Rege Colet to inform the SFDN members that a special rate was available for the International Journal of Academic Development. A leaflet was sent around the member institutions. Most took up the offer and now have a subscription.

Dr. Maria Antoniou from the University of Brighton is conducting a research project on behalf of the Educational Developers in Ireland Network. She asked Nicole Rege Colet to fill in a questionnaire giving information on how the SFDN is organised and the activities it carries out.

## **6. Networking**

Natacha Durand is the SFDN representative for the CRUS ECTS network. The network has not had a meeting for several months the only event for the past year was the workshop mentioned above.

The next ICED council meeting was held in Turku on the 28th and 29th April 2007. As it was not linked to a conference and costs of travelling and accommodation were very high no one from SFDN attended the meeting.

Information regarding positions in the field of faculty or educational development and announcements for conferences were sent around using the e-mail list.

## **7. Next steps**

The main goal for the past year was to focus on disseminating information and sharing key information for promoting faculty or educational development activities within the SFDN. Unfortunately this objective has not been achieved and several members feel that information is retained so as not to interfere in institutional strategies. Obviously higher education institutions are competing in particular for federal funding with the coming 2008-2011 programme. The competition is hindering cooperation and joint ventures. It is also putting aside faculty developers from researchers.

The SFDN survives on the personal initiatives of a small group of individuals. Should these people decide to invest in other activities the network will eventually die out. This brings us back to a question that keeps popping up: should we maintain SFDN? This question will yet again be put to the members attending the General Assembly on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2007 in Gruyères (Fribourg). An intermediate solution would be to keep the SFDN alive and see how individual members want to use the network and the infrastructure for promoting and advocating collaborative faculty development work in Switzerland.

Nicole Rege Colet  
President for SFDN  
May 2007