



## **SFDN annual report**

### **June 2008 – May 2009**

The following report contains a short account of the 5th year of activity of the SFDN (corresponding to academic year 2008-2009).

#### **1. Membership**

At present, SFDN comprises 10 institutional members and 3 associate members. In all, this means the network comprises approximately 50 people. Full details of SFDN membership are available at <http://www.sfdn.ch/Members.html>.

#### **2. The board**

Four people comprised the SFDN Board during the period June 2008 until May 2009:

Denis Berthiaume (Université de Lausanne)	President
Helmut Ertel (Universität Bern)	Vice-president (until March 2009)
Sarah Shephard (ETH Zürich)	Treasurer
Eva Simeth (Université de Genève)	Secretary General (until January 2009)

Further to Eva Simeth's and Helmut Ertel's resignations, remaining Board members decided not to open these posts for renewal until the June 2009 General Assembly as the programme of activities had already been agreed upon for most of the 2008-2009 academic year.

#### **3. Website**

As per a decision taken at the 2008 General Assembly, the website was transferred to a private web site provider and its management granted to an external consultant. This was done to avoid problems linked with having the website hosted at the President's university, implying a change of location every time the president changed.

The new website address is : [www.sfdn.ch](http://www.sfdn.ch) and it is managed by Proxyweb (Ms Murielle Golay) for a flat annual fee of CHF 500.

#### **4. Activities and events**

The 2008 General Assembly was organised on the same basis as the previous assembly combining official and social activities. It was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Universität Bern and 15 members were in attendance. The morning session comprised a research-

based activity led by Professor Mieke Clement, from Katolieke Universitet Leuven, on a conceptual framework for describing and analysing faculty development activity. The afternoon session comprised the regular general assembly activities.

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Helmut Ertel (Universität Bern) organised a workshop, in Bern, entitled “The 6th CRUS Bologna Conference and its result: The Bologna process – student’s point of view and its consequences for faculty development in Switzerland”. The purpose of the workshop was to give us the opportunity to have a common reflection of the conference and to discuss what we can use for our daily work as faculty developers and as SFDN. Ten SFDN members attended the workshop.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Denis Berthiaume (Université de Lausanne) organised a workshop, in Zürich (in collaboration with ETH Zürich and Universität Zürich), on “The discipline-specific nature of generic attributes: Context and culture in teaching.” The workshop was led by Dr. Anna Jones, University of Melbourne, Australia. Nine SFDN members attended the workshop.

In October, SFDN submitted a position paper on the upcoming NQF as part of the CRUS-led national consultation on the topic. One of the ideas raised in the paper was to have a SFDN working group prepare a series of scenarios for the implementation of the NQF in our respective institutions. Since the NQF has not been officially launched, the SFDN working group has not been set up yet.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Ingrid LeDuc (EPF Lausanne) organised a workshop, in Baden, on “The Evaluation of teaching through student questionnaires”. Discussions, during the workshop, focused on both principles and practices surrounding the use of student questionnaires to evaluate the effectiveness of university teachers. Sixteen SFDN members attended the workshop.

## **5. Communication**

Information regarding developments on the national higher education front as well as announcements for conferences were sent around using the e-mail list.

## **6. Next steps**

The SFDN continues to pursue its goal of establishing a community of practice for faculty developers in Switzerland. The next General Assembly will be crucial in deciding upon the expansion of SFDN to members coming from non-CRUS institutions. It is felt that SFDN might benefit from expanding its membership in order to increase the number of participants at our events and, by the same token, provide a larger base from which to draw experiences to be shared amongst members.

Denis Berthiaume  
SFDN President  
May 2009