



Annual Report (2019-2020)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to communicate the ongoing activities of the organization from April 2019 to June 2020. The main work of the Board was focused on the preparation for ICED 2020, which was to be held from June 14-17, 2020 at ETH Zurich. Unfortunately, in March 2020, the decision to cancel the conference was made due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Board continues to work on a schedule of ongoing activities for the members and growing the digital presence of our organization.

1. Board Members

The SFDN Board is composed of the following members:

President – Ariane Dumont, Western University of Applied Sciences, Yverdon

Vice President – Roland Tormey, EPFL

Treasurer – Robert Kordts-Freudinger, University of St. Gallen

General Secretary – Rachel Plews

Board Member - Bernhard Lange, University of Lucerne

The SFDN board met regularly at least once a month, virtually and face-to-face, to discuss the upcoming activities and ongoing issues.

Roman Suter acts as the auditor to assist the SFDN Board with the financial activities.

2. Membership

For the 2019-2020 year, SFDN has 19 (+-0) institutional members and 47 (+10 compared to 2018-19) individual members for a total of 66 paid members.

3. Calendar of Activities

The Board published a calendar of activities for the 2019-2020 academic year in July 2019. Unfortunately, the transition to remote learning due to COVID-19 resulted in the cancellation or postponement of the majority of events during Spring 2020. The Board hopes to resume a complete program for the 2020-2021 year, with planning focused on virtual events due to the potential ongoing restrictions.

The following table presents the summary of the activities for the year.

| Activity | Date/Location | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| Site Visit - Glion Institute of Higher Education | September 13, 2019 – Glion Institute of Higher Education | Rescheduled from Spring 2019, but cancelled due to low registration |
| Abstract Writing Workshop (preparation ICED) | October 15, 2019 - University of Bern | 11 participants |
| Webinar - <i>To tweet or not to tweet? Twitter's potential for educational developers</i> Led by Karin Brown (ETH) | December 3, 2019 - Adobe Connect | 4 participants |
| Webinar - <i>Holistic academic development: Is it time to think more broadly about the academic development project?</i> Led by Ariane Dumont (HEIG-VD) | January 21, 2020 - Adobe Connect | Cancelled due to low registration |
| Webinar- <i>Explicit LABS</i> Led by Siara Isaac (EPFL) | March 12, 2020 - Adobe Connect | 5 participants |
| Webinar - <i>Designing Peer Assessment Exercises</i> Led by Eric Jentges (ETH) | March 23, 2020 - Adobe Connect | 9 registrations Postponed due to COVID-19 (first week of remote teaching) |
| SFDN Writing Retreat | April 1-3, 2020 WhitePod Resort (Valais) | 8 registrants Cancelled due to COVID-19 |
| Site Visit - University of Geneva | April 21, 2020 | Cancelled due to COVID-19 |
| Workshop with Kasturi Behari-Leak | June 10, 2020 - University of Bern | Cancelled due to COVID-19 |
| General Assembly | June 17, 2020 Virtual meeting | Virtual meeting followed by an online workshop led by Dr. Judith Boettcher |

3. Website & Member Communication

From May 2019 to May 2020, there were regular posts from the board and the members posts featuring information on SFDN events, information on other events that would be of interest to our members, job postings, and other general exchanges. Members are encouraged to continue sharing information through the website.

In addition to the website, the members received a monthly email newsletter from September 2019 to February 2020 which focused on various topics in preparation for ICED 2020. Web links to the various newsletters can be accessed below:

[Link to Newsletter September-October 2020](#)

[Link to Newsletter November 2020](#)

[Link to Newsletter December 2020](#)

[Link to Newsletter January 2020](#)

[Link to Newsletter February 2020](#)

4. SFDN Conference

There was not a scheduled conference for 2020 due to ICED 2020. The SFDN Conference will resume on 19 February, 2021 at the University of St. Gallen (HSG), organized by Robert Kordts-Freudinger, HSG's vice president, as well as colleagues from HSG's Institute of Business Education and Educational Management.

5. ICED 2020 Zurich Preparations

The SFDN Board worked extensively with the team at ETH Zurich on preparations for the June 2020 event. Ariane Dumont, Roland Tormey, and Rachel Plews were on the Organizational Committee with the team at ETH. We had monthly meetings either face-to-face in Zurich or in Bern, or virtual meetings 1-2 times a month.

In addition to overall conference planning and the support of the ICED 2020 SIG, SFDN was tasked with the organization of an interdisciplinary panel for a plenary session, as well as the organization and facilitation of the student ambassador panel.

Despite cancellation, the organizers and the ICED Board have decided to publish a conference proceedings. All accepted presenters and student ambassadors will be invited to contribute to these proceedings. Detailed information about submission was sent to all accepted presenters on May 18, 2020. The deadline for contributions is August 16, 2020 with a publication date set for November 2020.

6. Special Interest Groups

University Teaching Development

Currently the SIG has two active members –Monica Feixas and Ingrid Le Duc, which makes them wonder if the described above is more an inter-institutional collaboration based on mutual interests that is flagged under the name of a SIG. They have, for the last couple of years, been keeping the spirit of a working group but as it stands, the members feel they are stretching out the concept.

They are working on the validation of PHZ's self-assessment rubric made to assess teaching portfolios. The tool would be an on-going guide for candidates' completion before submitting it for promotion, it can also guide the assessment of the portfolio by a jury. In this aspect, their priority for 2020-2021 is to develop an electronic support for the self-assessment as well as to validate the rubric by applying it at EPFL and other interested institutions.

Once this work is completed, they would like to focus on the future of teacher education / teacher training in the wake of the COVID crisis: formats, options, lengths and tools, for example: self-paced, would a blended format could suit our audiences? What distinctions can prevail between polytechnics and universities of teacher education? What results? Can SFDN eventually create an offer?

ICED 2020

Karin Brown and Rachel Plews were co-coordinators of this SIG that was set up in anticipation of the conference in June 2020. There were over 225 participants (both SFDN members and ICED network colleagues) in the SIG who were tasked to help with the abstract review process. During the first call, there were 343 submissions which were reviewed by three separate reviewers for a total of 1029 individual reviews. Official numbers from the second call and the total number of accepted abstracts will be shared in a report from the ICED Organizational Committee. This SIG is considered closed as of June 2020 and all of the participants are thanked for their contributions.

Transferable Skills

The SIG was founded last spring with the aim to rethink training of transferable skills in Switzerland. During an Erasmus+ supported exchange with the Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca, Bernhard Lange was able to spend an intensive week collaborating with Italian colleagues, and network with French and Dutch colleagues from the M.I.R.V.A.-project. Apart from that, further explorations were not blessed with success due to outside circumstances: The site visit with the workshop on transferable skills, to be held at the Glion Institute of Higher Education with Martin Senior, was cancelled due to low registrations, the workshops at the DGHD conference in March and at the ICED conference in June were cancelled due to Corona. As soon as the Corona situation is over it is planned to get back to work, this time probably with a stronger focus on digital skills and how to realize training digitally.

8. Site Visits

The first site visit was planned for September 13, 2019 at Glion Institute of Higher Education. This event was cancelled due to low registration numbers. The second site visit, scheduled for April 21, 2020, was cancelled due to COVID-19.

9. Nomination of Ariane Dumont to the ICED Board

Ariane Dumont was nominated and elected to the ICED Board as Vice-President. She assumes her duties in June 2020. This is the first time in the history of ICED that there is a Swiss representative on the Board.

10. Next Steps

- Integration of new Board Members
- Creation of a task force to work on “virtual” site visits for SFDN members
- Call for 2020-2021 webinars sent out
- Programme for 2020-2021 to be published in July 2020