



Annual Report (2020-2021)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to communicate the ongoing activities of the organization from June 2020 to May 2021. In addition to the SFDN 2021 Conference in February, the Board delivered a series of virtual webinars for members generating opportunities for interaction, covering salient issues and providing insights into a range of digital tools and teaching methods to meet the needs of faculty in institutions teaching either entirely or partly in remote mode. This allows the board to continue to work on both providing activities for 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 – Marika Fenley, University of Neuchâtel

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

General Secretary – Ruth Pühr, Les Roches

Board Member – Bernhard Lange, University of Lucerne

Board Member – Rachel Plews, Northeastern University (USA)

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

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

2. Membership

For the 2020-2021 year (compared to 2019-2020), SFDN has 20(+1) institutional members and 38(-9) individual members for a total of 66 paid members.

3. Calendar of Activities

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the Board did not publish a calendar of activities for the 2020-2021 academic year. Instead, the Board focused on an ad-hoc series of virtual events (detailed below). In order to encourage maximum participation, these lunchtime webinars took place at 12h15 and lasted 45 minutes.

The Board hopes to resume a complete program for the 2021-2022 year.

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

Activity	Date/Location	Comments
Webinar 1: Robert Kordts on SFDN Conference	7 September 2020	9 participants
Webinar 2: HyFlex Teaching & Learning	10 September 2020	30 participants
Webinar 3: Panel discussion 'Fall 2020 Education Development Updates	30 September 2020	11 participants
Webinar 4: Digital Tools for Interaction	1 October 2020	12 participants
Webinar 5: What have we learnt (COVID-19)	3 December 2020	9 participants
SFDN Conference at University of St. Gallen	19 February 2021	63 participants
Webinar 6: Platforms for Social Interactions	18 April 2021	10 participants
General Assembly	28 May 2021 Virtual meeting	Virtual meeting followed by an online workshop led by Bernhard Lange

3. Website & Member Communication

From June 2020 to May 2021, there were regular posts from the board and the members featuring information on SFDN events, job postings and other information of interest to our members. Members are encouraged to continue sharing information through the website.

4. SFDN Conference

On 19 February, 2021, the Institute of Business Education and Educational Management at the University of St.Gallen (HSG) hosted the annual SFDN conference, under the theme "Cultivating an environment of experimentation in teaching and learning". With 63 participants, eight interactive sessions mostly conducted by SFDN participants and one wonderful keynote by Prof. Chris Steyaert (HSG), the conference was a success.

Given the COVID situation, the conference was held online, while building on innovative conference formats such as the DisqSpace and the Paper Discussion (with prerecorded presentations).

Presenters were invited to contribute to the special issue of the Journal for Higher Education Development (zfhe.at) which will make conference contents available for the future.

5. ICED 2020 Zurich Conference Proceedings

Despite cancellation of the June 2020 conference, the organizers and the ICED Board published conference proceedings in the ETH Learning and Teaching Journal in November 2020 (<https://learningteaching.ethz.ch/index.php/lt-eth>).

All accepted presenters and student ambassadors were invited to contribute to these proceedings.

6. Special Interest Groups

University Teaching Development

Monica Feixas and Ingrid Le Duc to update during the GA

Transferable Skills

Several activities planned for this SIG in 2020 (workshops at the DGHD conference in March and at the ICED conference in June) were cancelled due to COVID-19.

As soon as the current restrictions are lifted 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

No site visits were planned for the 2020-2021 academic year due to the COVID-19 situation. The Board hopes to resume site visits in the near future.

9. Next Steps

- Nomination and election of a new treasurer.
- Creation of a calendar of events for 2021-2022 to include a continuation of the successful webinars and a resumption of site visits.
- Call for 2021-2022 webinar contributions and site visit proposal

