

Deputy Rektor's report to the Board: Quarterly meeting, Copenhagen March 2018.

Events from January 2018:

Rektor on permisjon January through late February.

Abel national mathematics competition. 37 students participated in the first round in November 2017; 10 of these students achieved a place in the second round (11th January), 2 students subsequently invited to the Maths event at NTNU Trondheim, in April. Annually, the mathematics department actively promotes participation in this and the Italian and American competitions.

The five yearly IB Review process (last completed 2013) is underway: managed by the Diploma Programme Coordinator, staff teams are established and a series of meetings in diverse groups will be held towards completing the “Self Study” phase. The timing of the CIS accreditation process has been planned to complement this IB Review study, as the two requirements share much in common.

Øyvin Lund (University of Oslo) presented the annual Norwegian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law lecture to all students (a requirement of the College’s Red Cross Diploma); an impressive lecture, with Øyvin sustaining the attention of the full Auditorium through his one hour presentation.

Four students visited NTNU Open day, to explore possibilities for tertiary study; also, five students attended the University Day at Dale vgs.

Nyttårsbal 2018, this year held at Dale vgs; the annual student-managed “RCN’s Got Talent” event on Saturday evening DATE in the Høegh Centre; Exchange with Nordahl Grieg vgs – three students and the RCN teacher of Spanish ab initio;

Rektor candidates visited campus in week 5: candidates met with EMT members to ask questions on College structures and operations, lunched with staff and Student Council members – these informal kantine contexts enabling other staff and students to join as appropriate, toured about campus with EMT & SC members, and shown the Rektor House.

Gender Week, arranged by GAS & Feminist Club: presentations and seminars on Intersectional Feminism; Understanding gender categories incl. non-binary; Gender-based research at RCN; #methree panel discussion reflecting on the #metoo process. The week culminated in the annual Vagina Monologues performance with SAFUGE café in support. Staff members attending these sessions were impressed with the respectful, mature and thoughtful level of discussion among participants.

Various policies either completed or in close to finalization stage, following feedback and critical review: Incident Protocol for staff; Respectful Community; Non-discrimination; Gender Diversity.

Visit from Eid ungdomsskule (UWC Connect): children visited classes, and held discussions with students in the student village Day Rooms.

On 6th February, the College 7-seater Toyota van was badly damaged in an accident on the road Stav-Norddal, such that it has been “written-off”. The two students and staff driver were unharmed; a deviation report was filed with the College AMU office, and a replacement vehicle supplied by the insurance company was on site the following week.

During “MUN/FA/PBL” week, all 1st yr students engage in the Model United Nations, and 12hr First Aid Training course. Both these events require considerable student engagement in planning ahead of the week: 2nd yr students managing the MUN process and have introduced 1st yr students to the

process and roles in recent weeks. Likewise, the First Aid instructor team goes to considerable effort to conduct the training sessions, culminating in the final evaluation of course participants by means of (what over the years has regularly been) a remarkably realistic simulation exercise. As all education staff are required to update their 12hr First Aid training every 5 years.

Project-based learning “PBL”: a diverse list of projects, including the annual Neil Davis Memorial Friluftsliv project: each year the family of deceased RCN alumnus Neil Davis offer funds towards supporting this event, and communicate with student participants, appreciating the memory of Neil’s enjoyment of friluftsliv experiences at RCN.

Five students studying Chinese ab initio SL, and their teacher, travelled to Bergen over the weekend of 17-18 april, to celebrate the Chinese New Year – supported by the Confucius Institute.

Changes to the yearly calendar were implemented in August 2017: Term 1 ends in late November and returns after the first week of January; Term 2 through to late March will enable a longer Easter Break, and Term 3 will extend to 17th June. This process will be reviewed later in 2018. One significant consequence is that all students on travel support were enabled to return home in December to January break, rather than attend a winter programme in Norway (as in past years).

Staffing matters

While acknowledging the 3 month requirement for giving notice, it has been the practice to ask staff who intend to request a leave of absence, or resign from the College or otherwise re-structure their job description to declare their intentions by the end of January; this to better enable a timely recruitment process and subsequent smooth succession.

Following 4 years’ service and request, a 2 yr leave of absence was granted with effect from July 2018; a teacher resigned and a consequent advertisement was placed (deadline 8 March); a teacher currently on a leave-replacement position received a new contract for a permanent position.

RCN is hosting a student to complete the practicum component of her teacher education programme at Høgskulen I Vestlandet for 3 weeks in February-March. She is observing and teaching Global Politics and Theory of Knowledge classes, and observing diverse other classes.

The College Nurse on sick leave since start of term. Administrative staff have stepped in to operate Care Centre 08:00-10:00, House Mentors and Advisors also assisting with extra-ordinary cases.

A cooperation is established with the Sámi University College in Kautokeino for a masters student to complete her week internship at RCN; the visitor will also be offering diverse sessions on Sámi culture, including joik whilst at RCN.

Alistair Robertson

5th March 2018.