

22 March, 2014

Centre leader report for Management Board meeting 26 March 2014

Activity has again concentrated on getting the Centre established and known.

Since the last Centre management Board (19 February 2014).

Appointments

Centre Administrator/Manager: Line Malde has accepted the position and will take up her work on 1 April. Line was able to attend the Launch, I have had an informal meeting with her in Grimstad and we welcome her to this Management Board.

A PhD Fellowship was announced, before the last Management Board. The response was not as strong as hoped so the language requirement was relaxed and the deadline for applications extended.

A post-doctoral position has been announced 14 March (in the newspaper on 19 March) Deadline for applications is 3 April.

International Advisory Board

IAB had its first meeting 11 March 2014. This included a brief presentation of MatRIC, a short private meeting and then an open meeting with members of the management board and others who are active within the Centre. The discussion with IAB explored several issues concerning the clarity, focus and purpose of MatRIC's mission and proposed actions.

Since the IAB meeting there have been further e-mail discussion between members of IAB. The outcome of these discussions have been communicated to me. In summary the advice is to ensure a clear focus on pedagogical/didactical research within the working groups.

Launch conference

My own feeling is that the Launch event was as successful as we had hoped. On the day there were 74 participants (+ administrator and photographer). We had planned for 100, but my goal was 60+. The participants came from UiA (22, 30%), Other Norwegian universities and university colleges (41, 55%), NSMO (5, 7%), NOKUT (2, 3%) and international guests (IAB members, 4, 5%). An evaluation survey was sent out to which there have been 58 responses UiA (31%), Other U & UC (57%), NSMO (5%), NOKUT (1%), IAB (5%). The responses are thus fairly representative of the participants. A report from the evaluation is attached; in summary, in almost every respect around 90% of participants were either satisfied or highly satisfied with the event. The additional open comments provide some useful ideas to work on. It is both encouraging and challenging that 86% of participants believe that MatRIC will make a difference to mathematics teaching and learning in higher education in Norway, the remaining 14% responded that they did not know. The Launch has thus succeeded in presenting MatRIC as something that will be effective, we are now challenged to make it work!

I will repeat our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event and especially to Elisabeth Rasmussen for her excellent effort with the launch.

Special Interest Working Groups

Considerable effort has been invested in preparing presentations of the group activities for the Launch. Evidence of this is available from the MatRIC web.

Effort over the next 5-6 months must be focused on building active working groups.

Following discussions at the Launch, and with IAB it has been decided to announce some small research grants explore teaching and learning – especially related to the activities of the working groups. *This requires a new look at the budget.*

Presentations of MatRIC have been made to:

Since the Management Board on 19 February MatRIC has been presented:

To Stortingets Kirke-, utdannings- og forskningskomiteen when the Committee visited UiA on 10 March. (The planned NIC meeting was cancelled and so the planned MatRIC presentation to NIC did not occur).

12 March MatRIC Launch at Gardermoen (see separate item above)

21 March Yuriy Rogovchenko and Simon Goodchild presented MatRIC to Professor Johan Lithner and colleagues at Umeå Mathematics Education Research Centre (UMERC). We want to explore some form of association or collaboration between our centres. (<http://www.ufm.umu.se/english>).

Dissemination & networking

The first MatRIC Newsletter was published in paper and digital versions. The Paper version was distributed at the Launch, the digital version in advance of the Launch. Jan Arve Olsen has been extremely helpful in getting this done.

The film made for Agderkonferanse and presentations at the Launch have been published on the temporary MatRIC web pages. In addition Per Henrik Hogstad has produced a film of his Launch presentation, which is available from the web pages. These have already proved very valuable when presenting MatRIC at Umeå.

MatRIC logo, Centre profile and web pages.

Opdesign will make a presentation to the Management Board on 26 March. (Beginning 10.30). I understand that we will be presented with two logos and outlines of a proposal for the Centre's profile. This is the outcome of two workshops and correspondence between the MatRIC planning group (Cornelia Brodahl, Per Sigurd Hundeland, Ingvald Erfjord and Simon Goodchild) and consultants from Opdesign.

We have received a quotation for the development of the MatRIC web pages. This exceeds the budget agreed in the December meeting so *I will bring this to the Board for approval.* The web-pages and profile are extremely important elements of MatRIC, they represent MatRIC's presence and identity as well as providing the MatRIC's 'throbbing communication heart'.

Other items

The joint (NTNU) KTDiM and MatRIC proposal to run a workshop at the Nordic Mathematics education Research conference (NORMA14) to be held in TURKU, Finland 3-6 June has been accepted. Frode Rønning and Simon Goodchild will coordinate this working group. One goal of the group is to develop a collaborating network that will be in a position to propose a research symposium on teaching mathematics in higher education at the following NORMA conference.

MatRIC conference will be a higher education day joined to the end of the annual 'November Conference' run by the Norwegian Centre for Mathematics Education (NSMO) at Trondheim, 27-28 November 2014. This has now been agreed and announced by NSMO and MatRIC,

Other events are shown in the MatRIC calendar.

Summary:

MatRIC is launched. We are now at the fitting out stage. We have to establish the working groups which do effectively connect mathematics teachers across universities and university colleges. The groups will have both innovative and educational research functions.

Continued work on the web-site is necessary.

We have to develop the plans for the planned events in the autumn – MatRIC meeting at Loughborough, Video seminar in Bergen, Conference in Trondheim.

A concerted effort to publish MatRIC -

Simon Goodchild (22.03.2014)