

Approved on 8 June 2016

Minutes of Board Meeting 72

Participating members:

Lena Andersson-Eklund	SLU	
Grete Bertelsen	KU-SCIENCE	
Marketta Sipi	HU-AF	left during item 72.4, returned during item 72.5 (due to fire alarm)
Elise Norberg	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI	
Jari Kouki	UEF-F	
Mari Sundli Tveit, chair	NMBU	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	left during item 72.4, returned during item 72.5 (due to fire alarm) left ca. 12.00, before item 72.10

Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA secretariat	
Iben Andersen	NMBU	
Torgeir Pedersen	NMBU	items 72.3-5

Absent:

Hans Henrik Dietz	KU-HEALTH
Andrea Miller	NSB
Teshome Dagne Mulugeta	NSB

72.1 Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of board meeting 71

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 72 and the minutes of board meeting 71.

72.2 Orientation issues

1. Presentation of the status on the new NOVA website

At board meetings 68 and 69, the Board asked the secretariat to prepare a new NOVA website. The Board expected the website to be up and running by the end of 2015.

The following measures have been taken since the board meeting on 26 June 2015:

- implementing subscription for NOVA newsletter
- assuring that the website is compatible with mobile phone
- publishing of member institutions' logos on the first page
- lifting the course portfolio to item no. 2 on the menu
- implementing a short survey on PhD course topics on the page "PhD courses 2016"
- inserting the link to the application system from the local coordinators' page

Remaining issues:

- publishing average scores on student evaluations
- creating an information page for each institution with number of students, programmes, courses and links to website, annual report, information on PhD education, information on which parts of the institution that are NOVA members etc.
- creating a page promoting cooperation with BOVA to NOVA teachers

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

72.3 New memberships in and withdrawals from NOVA, request for membership from Linnaeus University, Department of Forestry and Wood Technology, and withdrawal of KU-HEALTH

KU-HEALTH has formally withdrawn from NOVA from 1 January 2016. In addition, The Department of Forestry and Wood Technology at the Linnaeus University in Sweden requests to become a member of NOVA. As far as the secretariat is aware, there are no formal procedures regarding new memberships or withdrawals from NOVA. The network has a few experiences with new network members but no experience with any withdrawals.

Procedures and principles for new memberships in NOVA

- a. No formal application is needed. The NOVA Board will consider requests for membership in NOVA based on relevant information on the institution in question, i.e.:
 1. accreditation
 2. relevant main fields of research and number of academic staff
 3. study programmes
 4. number of students on Bachelor's, Master's and PhD level
 5. links to relevant documents: website, annual report etc.
 6. possible future contribution to NOVA's activities

The application should be anchored at rector's or dean's level and confirmed by a legal authority.

- b. Member fee for the first year will be negotiated with the new member according to current practice of member fee calculation in NOVA.

Procedures and principles for withdrawal from NOVA

- a. The NOVA Chair must receive a notice of withdrawal by 31 July for a withdrawal from the following year.
- b. Approved courses for the following calendar year should be organised as planned. NOVA will apply flexibility concerning scheduled courses and students enrolled for these courses regarding the students' status as NOVA students.

Resolutions:

1. *The Board approved the procedures and principles for requests for membership in NOVA listed in the presentation of the item with the exceptions mentioned at the meeting.*
2. *The item of Linnaeus University, Department of Forestry and Wood Technology requesting NOVA membership was withdrawn. The Board asked the secretariat to present more information on the applicant.*
3. *The Board approved the procedures and principles for withdrawal from NOVA listed in the presentation of the item.*
4. *The Board took note of KU-HEALTH's decision on withdrawing from NOVA. The withdrawal applies from 1 January 2016. The rules approved in decision 72.3.3 on withdrawal from NOVA apply.*

72.4 Follow-up on NOVA strategy seminars 2014 and 2015

- 1 Task force on external funding

Enclosure: Final mandate

At board meeting 68, the Board decided that "a taskforce among the Board members will be set down to investigate on external funding, e.g. from the Nordic council of Ministers (NCM). Grete Bertelsen, Elise Norberg and Hans Henrik Dietz are responsible for writing a draft mandate for next board meeting", (§ 68.8 A a). Attracting external funding to NOVA was the main theme of the NOVA strategy seminar in Copenhagen 25-26 June. At board meeting 71, the Board appointed a task force lead by Elise Norberg (deputy NOVA board member from AU-ST), and decided that the task force should send a final mandate to the NOVA Chair by 15 September 2015. The mandate was to be discussed at board meeting 72.

Norberg gave a brief orientation on the final mandate and further plans for attracting external funding to NOVA. Several organisations are positive regarding contribution for NOVA PhD courses. The next step will be to make an official letter template promoting NOVA to ask for funding from the industry. Norberg had submitted an application to NKJ for support for the seminar where the NOVA Board, coordinators,

members of the NOVA Student Board and teachers and scientists from NOVA's core academic areas could start developing course series. The application was unfortunately rejected by NKJ.

Resolution:

The Board approved the final mandate of the task force on external funding.

72.5 Accounts by November 2015 and approval of budget 2016

The table below contains an overview of accounts 2014, accounts by the end of November 2015, revised budget for 2015 and budget for 2016. The draft budget presented to the Board at meeting 71 was slightly revised. In addition, there is a list of the member fee for 2016.

Table 1: Budget 2016 (numbers in 1000 EUR)

	31.12.2013	31.12.2014	31.12.2014	31.12.2015
BALANCE (equity)	318	344	344	259
	Accounts 2014	Accounts by 22 Nov. 2015	Revised budget 2015 by 26 June 2015	Budget 2016
<u>INCOME</u>				
Total member fees	157	153	178	332
External funding SNS	10	0		
External funding NKJ		22	22	
INCOME total	167	175	200	332
<u>COSTS</u>				
<i>Activities</i>				
PhD courses internal funding	62	38	180	359
PhD courses external funding	0	2	20	
Other projects	15	20	70	50
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	5	3	20	25
NSB	2	3	7	7
Strategy seminar	2	0	10	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>451</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>				
Salaries	43	21	35,5	35,5
Travels	2	2	5	5
Other	10	-1	15	15
Project: application platform and website	0	21	35,5	15
Administration, external funding (NKJ)			2	
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>71</i>
COSTS total	141	110	400	522
RESULT	26	65	-201	-190
BALANCE (equity)	344	409	143	69
Estimated costs 2015 after 22 Nov.		-150		

Table 2: Member fee 2016

	Member fee percentage 2014-15	Member fee percentage 2016-17	Member fee 2015 (50% fee)	Member fee 2016 (100% fee)	Percent of member fee 2016
AU-ST	11,6 %	11,41 %	20590	40506	12,20 %
HU-AF	13,8 %	14,10 %	24495	50055	15,07 %
HU-V	4,5 %	5,64 %	7987,5	20022	6,03 %
UEF-F	3,7 %	3,04 %	6567,5	10792	3,25 %
LBHI	0,7 %	0,53 %	1242,5	1882	0,57 %
KU-SCIENCE	14,3 %	14,42 %	25441,5	51191	15,41 %
KU-HEALTH*	7,2 %	6,44 %	12721	0	0,00 %
NMBU	18,2 %	19,23 %	32305	68267	20,56 %
SLU	26,0 %	25,18 %	46150	89389	26,92 %
TOTAL	100,0 %	99,99 %	177500	332103	100,00 %

*KU-HEALTH will not be charged any member fee for 2016 as it is withdrawing from NOVA from 1 Jan. 2016.

Resolutions:

1. The Board noted the information regarding the result and balance by 22 November 2015.
2. The Board approved the budget for 2016.
3. The member fees for 2016 will be as presented in table 2.

72.6 Decision on applications submitted in the third round of the open call 2015

1. Applications

Resolutions:

Resolutions 1-3 are presented in the column “approved grant” in the table on the next page.

2. Master’s course series “Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine”

KU-HEALTH’s withdrawal from NOVA is creating problems for the Master’s course series “Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine”. HU-V regrets that they cannot organise the course scheduled for 2016.

Resolution:

The Board accorded the secretariat the mandate to find a main applicant for 2016, conditioned that the budget is within the amount granted for the course scheduled for 2016, i.e. maximum EUR 15 000.

Eval.	Course title	Type of application	Course year	Institution	Notes from the secretariat	Amount applied	Total amount applied incl. incentive grant	Proposed grant	Approved grant
<i>Applications in NOVA open call 2015, 3rd round</i>									
1	Veterinary Epidemiology: Diagnostic test evaluation	PhD course	2016	NMBU	OK	11967+2500	14467	11967+2500	11967+2500
2	Modern IPM in greenhouses	PhD course, part of course series	2016	LBHI	OK*	14967+2500	17467	14967+2500	14967+2500
3	Future trends in sustainable plant protection: RNAi technology for insects	Master's course series			Uncertainties				
3.1	- Future trends in sustainable plant protection in Nordic agriculture: RNAi technology for insects	Master's course	2016	AU-ST	"	9017	9017	N.A.	6056
3.2	- Sustainable insect management and disease control based on RNAi technology	Master's course	2017	HU-AF	"	8978	8978	N.A.	6522
3.3	- RNAi modification of arthropod-plant interactions	Master's course	2018	SLU	"	9294	9294	N.A.	6333
Total all applications, NOVA open call 2015, 3rd round							59223		50845
Total applications for PhD courses running in 2016, NOVA open call 2015, 3rd round							31934	31934	31934
Total applications for Master's courses running in 2016, NOVA open call 2015, 3rd round							9017		6056
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, running in 2016</i>									
<i>PhD courses</i>									
	Genomic Selection in Plant Breeding	PhD course	2016	KU-SCIENCE		15239+2500	17739	15239+2500	15239+2500
	Applied statistical modelling in forest and natural resource assessment and planning	PhD course	2016	KU-SCIENCE		4862+2500	7362	4862+2500	4862+2500
	Pollinators within IPM strategies for agriculture, part of course series Biodiversity and integrated pest management	PhD course	Originally 2016, now 2018	HU-AF	*	10856	10856	10856	10856
	Sustainable intensification of the agricultural production – the potential role of legumes in the Nordic countries	PhD course	2016	AU-ST		10583+2500	13083	10583+2500	10583+2500
	Quantitative genetics in animal breeding	PhD course	2016	HU-AF		12083+2500	14583	12083+2500	12083+2500
	Genetic Epidemiology of infectious diseases in livestock	PhD course	2016	SLU		17556+2500	20056	17556+2500	17556+2500
	Decision oriented data acquisition strategies for analysis of sustainable forestry	PhD course	2016	NMBU		5383+2500	7883	5383+2500	5383+2500
	Pathology of large animal disease models	PhD course	2016	KU-HEALTH	Cancelled	9733+2500	12233	9733+2500	9733+2500
	Chemical and genomic insight to host-microbe symbiotic interactions	PhD course	2016	KU-SCIENCE		14289+2500	16789	14289+2500	14289+2500
	Novel ingredients - processed for novel nutrition	PhD course	2016	NMBU		18089+2500	20589	18089+2500	18089+2500
	Molecular methods for detection of food- and waterborne pathogens	PhD course	2016	HU-V		14922+2500	17422	14922+2500	14922+2500
	Plant-associated bacteria: pathogens and mutualists	PhD course	2016	HU-AF		13386+2500	15886	13386+2500	13386+2500
	Feed Efficiency in Dairy Cattle	PhD course	2016	AU-ST		15222+2500	17722	15222+2500	15222+2500
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2016**									169114
<i>Master's courses</i>									
	Sustainable Pig Production	Master's course	2016	SLU	Cancelled	13828	13828	12311	12311
	Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine	Master's course	2016	HU-V, now ?	Originally Uncertainties, see resolution 4***	19478	19478	N.A.	15000
Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2016****									15000
Total so far for PhD courses running in 2016									201048
Total so far for Master's courses running in 2016 *****									21056

* The course is part of the course series Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management.

Decision from the open call 2014 on the course series Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management, course 2 (HU-AF) :

- Course 2 (2016): maximum EUR 10 856 is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.

** Not including course 2 of the course series Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management and the course Pathology of Large Animal Disease Models

*** Decision on the course series Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine:

- Course 2 (2016): maximum EUR 15 000 flat rate is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.

**** Including a course in the series Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine, not including Sustainable Pig Production

***** Including a course in the series Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine

72.7 Approval of new statutes

Enclosure: Agreement and Statutes

The NOVA statutes are from 1995 and in need of thorough revision. Preparation of new statutes is scheduled for the period 2014-2017, cf. Action plan 2014-2015.

Resolution:

The Board approved the proposal for new NOVA statutes, with the changes mentioned at the meeting.

72.8 Approval of NOVA activity plan 2016-2017

Enclosure: NOVA Activity Plan 2016-2017

According to the NOVA Strategy, one of the Board's responsibilities is to adopt two-year activity plans. The current plan is for the period 2014-2015. The local NOVA coordinators worked on a draft activity plan for 2016-2017 at their meetings on 26 June and 20 October 2015.

Resolution:

The Board approved the proposed activity plan for 2016-2017 with the changes mentioned at the meeting. NOVA's main focus is to improve the activity level on courses.

72.9 Rotating secretariat - next chair

NMBU's period as chair of NOVA and host of the NOVA secretariat will end on 31 December 2016. The institution hosting the NOVA secretariat is also responsible for coordination of the NOVA BOVA Nordplus Network. The secretariat suggested that discussions concerning the future host of the NOVA secretariat for 2017-2019 should be initiated.

KU-SCIENCE was challenged to host the NOVA secretariat from 1 January 2017, but has requested to come back to this at the next NOVA board meeting.

Resolution:

1. *The item was postponed to the next NOVA board meeting.*

72.10 News from the member institutions

HU

The financial situation is difficult. The budget will be cut by 10% in 2016. There will be a reorganisation of the administration and organisation which also will affect the faculties. The number of educational programmes will be reduced on Bachelor's and Master's level.

UEF-F

There will be a reduction in the funding at the University of Eastern Finland. This will continue for the next 4-5 years. Many changes will take place. However, forestry seems to be considered as strategically important.

KU-SCIENCE

The institution is facing budget problems. In future, there will only be one vice-dean for education at the faculty. From 1 February 2016, Grete Bertelsen will continue in this position for 5 more years.

Congratulations!

AU-ST

The government has cut back on funding for education and research. There might be changes of the representative on the NOVA Board from AU-ST.

LBHI

The Government might be considering downsizing the university sector. LBHI has received the same funding for 2016 as in 2015.

SLU

SLU's new Rector from 1 July 2015 is Peter Högberg. He is a Soil Scientist. Lena Andersson-Eklund will end her period as a Pro-Rector. New Pro-Rector from 1 March 2016 will be Karin Holmgren, Professor in Physical Geography at Stockholm University. Andersson-Eklund will work as a senior advisor at SLU for one year, e.g. with ELLS. NOVA has not yet been discussed. SLU has received the SEK 30 million (7%) that the Ministry took from the SLU education budget in 2012.

NMBU

Financially, NMBU is in a high risk situation due to the infrastructure projects at campus. This causes serious debate in the organisation and on the Board. If NMBU must finance the extra expenses, it will be challenging for both education and research. NMBU is continuing at a high pace with the infrastructure and merger for the new campus. Positive results of the merger are in particular manifested in success in calls for research funding. Campus Sandnes, NMBU's research centre next to Stavanger, has received NOK 8 million for a research centre for comparative medicine in cooperation with the University of Stavanger, Stavanger University Hospital and Norwegian aerial ambulance (Norsk Luftambulanse).

72.11 Meeting dates 2016Resolution:

The NOVA Board will meet on the following dates in 2016:

1. *Board meeting: 16 March, 12 noon – 2 pm (Scandinavian time), video meeting*
2. *Strategy seminar with board meeting: 7-8 June, at NMBU*
3. *Board meeting: 17 November, 10 am -12 noon (Scandinavian time), video meeting*

72.12 Other issues

1. Distribution of draft minutes to the local coordinators

From now on the secretariat would like to send the draft minutes by email to the local coordinators after the board members have had one week to comment on them. The reason for this measure is to distribute information faster to the local coordinators.

Resolution:

The Board approved that the local coordinators will receive the draft minutes from the NOVA board meetings after the board members have had a week to comment on the minutes.

2. Minimum number of students on a NOVA course

There is a minimum requirement of 12 NOVA students on a NOVA course. On courses which receive a considerable amount of external funding, the course can receive funding from NOVA even though the number of NOVA students is too low (cf. decision 71.5.2). Experience shows that is difficult to attract enough NOVA students to many NOVA courses. The secretariat asked for the Board's advice on how to treat these cases and if flexibility can be applied.

Resolution:

The issue can be presented for more formal discussion at the Strategy meeting 2016. Until then, this will be dealt with individually.