

Minutes of Board meeting 60

Date: 18 October 2011

Time: 10:00 – 15:00 (Danish, Norwegian and Swedish time, GMT +1)

<i>Present:</i>	Ágúst Sigurðsson	LBHI, chair
	Antti Sukura	HU-V
	Marketta Sipi	HU-AF
	Grete Bertelsen	LIFE
	Lisa Sennerby-Forsse, <i>item 60.1-60.5</i>	SLU
	Lena Anderson Eklund, <i>item 60.5-60.13</i>	SLU
	Timo Tokola	UEF-F
	Yngvild Wasteson	NVH
	Hans Fredrik Hoen	UMB
	Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI, KUF chair
	Kristian Krag	NSB representative
	Þórunn Reykdal	NOVA coordinator, secretary

Absent regular members:

Jørgen B Jespersen	AU-DJF
Per Holten-Andersen	LIFE

60.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

Ágúst Sigurðsson opened the meeting and the agenda was approved. A presentation round took place and new members were welcomed. Seppo Kellomäki has left the Board and Timo Tokola, head of School of Forests Sciences, University of Eastern Finland, has taken his place, Hans Fredrik Hoen, rector of Norwegian University of Life Sciences is attending Board meeting for the first time and so is Kristian Krag, who was elected chair of NOVA Student Board in May.

60.2 Follow-up on Board meeting 59

Þórunn Reykdal presented meeting minutes from Board meeting 59 and the minutes were approved.

60.3 Information from KUF meeting 40

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on KUF meeting 40 and drew attention to a few items, of which some are on the meeting's agenda. The minutes were accepted.

60.4 Half a year account

Þórunn Reykdal presented half a year account 2011. During the first half of the year two courses were cancelled; one PhD course with approved funding of maximum 34.555 € and a MSc course with approved funding of 3.200 €, resulting in regained amount 125% above the budget or 80.953 €. The half a year account 2011 was accepted.

60.5 Final budget

Due to unusually high amount of regained funds from PhD applications by June 30th 2011 and fewer applications for PhD courses than previous year, it was proposed that member-fee should be lowered by 33% in 2011. During spring call 2011 for PhD course applications, total of thirteen applications were submitted and ten of them were approved funding of 294.414 €. During autumn call 2011, with application deadline October 15th, six applications were submitted, applying for total of 154.366 €. On budget 2011 total of 550.000 € were allocated to funding of PhD courses, and in Board meeting 58 decision was made on funding of 20% over budget in 2011 to prevent equity build up through regained funding (58.10).

Reasons for fewer applications, application procedures and criteria were discussed and stressed that the NOVA network needs to be flexible; fluctuations in one year should not affect the budget next year, bearing in mind priority set in each strategic period.

Development within PhD education was discussed, PhD schools and possible sharing of information on PhD courses held at the member universities. It was suggested that NOVA should show initiative in inviting Nordic cooperation partners for discussion, i.e. the Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee (SNS) and the Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural Research (NKJ).

Decision: NOVA Member-fee 2011 will be lowered by 33% and the secretariat will send the members invoices claiming the second payment according to the lowered budget.

60.6 Draft of budget 2012 including member-fee calculation

a) Member-fee calculation

Ágúst Sigurðsson reported on follow-up from Board meeting 59.6, where it was decided that member-fee calculation should be based on 20% weight of MSc degrees and 80% on PhD degrees awarded on the average for the last five years, current model is based on decision from Board meeting 46 in June 2007.

Suggested method of calculation was discussed, where number of MSc and PhD degrees awarded are changed to percentage and then these percentages are weighed together in the proportion 20:80.

Decision: Member-fee calculations in 2012 will be based on total number of degrees, where MSc degrees are weighed 5% and PhD 95%.

b) Budget 2012:

Pórunn Reykdal presented suggested budget for 2012, based on total member-fee of 720.000 €.

Decision: Budget 2012 and member-fee for 720.000 € approved.

60.7 Draft of Activity Plan 2012

Pórunn Reykdal presented draft of Activity Plan for 2012, put forward and commented on by KUF.

Decision: Draft of Activity plan is approved with minor comments; meeting dates of Board set to video-meeting on Feb 2 at 9:30 Scandinavian time, at the annual seminar on 3rd of May and in Copenhagen on 18 of October. The activity plan with the above comments is forwarded to KUF for implementation.

60.8 Rotating NOVA secretariat, moved to HU-V by the end of 2011

At Board meeting 59 it was suggested that HU-V would be successor of LBHI. The secretariat in Iceland is well on way in preparing the rotation of the secretariat, a draft of guidelines for the rotating secretariat will be ready in a few weeks and arrangements have been made for the new coordinator to visit LBHI in December.

Decision: HU-V was elected chair for the period 2012-2013.

Antti Sukura accepted the chair and announced that Anna Valros will chair KUF and introduced Terttu Virri, as the new central coordinator for NOVA.

Antti asked the secretariat for NOVA statutes, the coordinator has not managed to find it but Lena Anderson Eklund at SLU and Grete Bertelsen at LIFE will look into the matter within their institutes.

60.9 Short report from the secretariat

Pórunn Reykdal reported on main activities during 2011. Within MSc education four courses were held and one was cancelled. On PhD level 22 courses were planned to run. Among those, one course was moved from early 2011 to late 2010 and one course was cancelled, resulting in 20 courses given in 2011. The annual seminar was hosted by AU-DJF and held at Foulum 5-6 May, attracting approximately 70 participants. Four planning grants have been approved and one application for MSc course, which was cancelled during the summer. During spring call for PhD course applications 13 applications were submitted, of which ten were approved funding, three of the applications were lacking in Nordic dimension. The secretariat is working on further development of the NOVA database with Jonas Nordling who designed the current database and preparing the rotation of the secretariat by 1st of January 2012.

The board thanked Pórunn Reykdal for running good and effective secretariat the last two years and wished her all the best in the future.

60.10 Short reports from the member universities

Board members reported on main activities at their institutes, where many shared the experience of merging, restructuring and financial cuts within the universities. Hans Fredrik Hoen announced that the UMB professor Erik Næsset had been awarded the Marcus

Wallenberg Prize for his path breaking research that incorporates the airborne laser scanning method. Kristian Krag reported on main findings in a NSB student survey which was carried out in June and Lena Anderson Eklund announced that she would attend the Danube Rectors Conference in November and give a talk about NOVA.

60.11 Annual seminar / NOVA-BOVA Annual seminar

Björn Þorsteinsson suggested that NOVA needs to take initiative in devoting some of the NOVA_BOVA Annual seminar programme in direction of the NOVA/BOVA cooperation and referred to the list presented by BOVA at the joint BOVA CC/NOVA KUF meeting at the annual seminar in May, plus the student suggestion presented at KUF meeting 40. LBHI has recently visited the University of Highlands and Islands and been introduced to blended learning, which could be one of the topics discussed. Kristian Krag commented that the main idea in the suggestion of topic Bridging countries – Bridging generations was to rethink teaching and share research advances across countries, face to face teaching has to take place, but it could be possible to stream the teaching and make further use of technology. The student proposal of theme was commented on by Hans Fredrik Hoen, who found it interesting and a good topic looking into the future; what are interesting good and relevant strategies for life science areas – how do we meet the future? Big global challenges are taking place and how do we provide food for the future. Grete Bertelsen added to the discussion that within EU 2020 strategy money is allocated on education and teaching.

Timo Tokola pointed out that similar topic was on the agenda at the annual seminar in Helsinki a few years ago, perhaps it could be reformulated, how to reform NOVA courses – a concept how to utilize the teaching material later on –good practices – perhaps it could be possible to divide part of the seminar into sessions.

Similar topic, i.e. distance learning in seminar 2008 was reviewed by Lena Anderson Eklund, she suggested to keep strong focus on courses; how to really improve the NOVA courses by means of ITC. Second topic to suggest: Maybe get to know the BOVA countries – link between the life sciences in the NOVA and BOVA countries, challenges we can deal with specifically.

Finally Antti Sukura added a suggestion of topic; Life science in EU in 2020.

60.12 Other issues

Suggestion from NSB on Course package

Kristian Krag presented the NSB suggestion on Course package where NOVA local teams should find areas within their universities where they can offer housing for hosting courses and organize where people can find courses. Antti Sukura drew attention to that within veterinary medicine curriculum is not synchronized. Björn Þorsteinsson added to the

discussion that NOVA institutes trust each other, therefore unrealistic to have the NOVA members to approve course packages. Kristian Krag stressed the point that students would like to be able to go abroad to join research groups, which is one of the purposes of the course package proposal.

60.13 End of meeting

The Chair, Ágúst Sigurðsson thanked for the time LBHI has been responsible for chairing NOVA. It has been a pleasure to work for NOVA and host the secretariat for the last two years and closed the meeting at 15:06 with the closing words: *"May the NOVA spirits continue to blossom"*.



Ágúst Sigurðsson

Chair



Þórunn Reykdal

secretary