

## **Minutes of Board meeting No 56**

Date: 6 May 2010

Time: 16:30 – 18:30 (GMT+1)

Place: Selfoss, Iceland

Present:	Ágúst Sigurðsson	LBHI
	Yngvild Wasteson	NVH
	Grete Bertelsen	LIFE
	Jørgen Jespersen	AU-DJF
	Lena Anderson Eklund	SLU
	Marketta Sipi	HU-AF
	Antti Sukura	HU-V
	Seppo Kellomäki	UEF-F
	Anja Pedersen	NSB (SLU)
	Pórunn Reykdal	NOVA coordinator, secretary

Absent regular members:

Just Jensen	AU-DJF
Per Holten-Andersen	LIFE
Lisa Sennerby Forsse	SLU
Knut Hove	UMB

**7 Mai 2010 16:20-18:30**

**Selfoss, Iceland**

### **56.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda**

The chair opened the meeting and asked for approval of the agenda, Anja Pedersen asked for an addition issue the agenda, promotional proposal from NSB, which was agreed and the agenda was approved.

### **56.2 Presentation of new Board member**

A presentation round was made and the new Board member Yngvild Wasteson, rector of NVH was especially welcomed.

### **56.3 Follow-up on Board meeting 55**

Pórunn Reykdal reported on the Board meeting and the minutes, one misspelling was corrected and the minutes acknowledged.

### **56.4 Information from KUF meeting 34**

Pórunn Reykdal reported on the KUF meeting 34 with explanations on item 34.8 funding of clerical support, no comments were made.

Minutes from KUF meeting 34 were accepted.

## **56.5 Next steps in NOVA Strategy 2011-2014**

The chair presented NOVA Executive Committee suggestion on next steps in NOVA Strategy 2011-2014. Discussions on new strategy are still ongoing while the Board meeting is held in the middle of the seminar. In previous Board meetings it has been discussed that the current NOVA strategy is well accepted and should be used as a solid base for a new strategy. The EC suggestion is that the first draft of new NOVA strategy 2011-2014 will be introduced to KUF in the beginning of June and discussed at KUF meeting in September. In late September a final draft will be sent to the Board for its meeting in Aarhus in October.

From the analysis of what has been accomplished during the current strategic period it is clear that PhD courses are a success but that the MSc education is somewhat behind. The chair opened the EC suggestion for discussion.

Grete Bertelsen suggested that NOVA should focus on short term MSc programs and put less effort into joint degrees. Unless NOVA receives support either from the Nordic Council of Ministers or Erasmus Mundus, joint programmes should not be focused on, rather short term courses and e-learning. Lena Anderson Eklund agreed with Grete and pointed out that there are some networks that are very active in planning semester long course packages on MSc level, such as Aquaculture and SoilSoc: NOVA should therefore support such activities and short MSc courses instead of joint programmes. Anja Pedersen reported on discussion within NSB that they support short courses in the summer and full time MSc courses, they do not think that the winter window is working properly. Perhaps it could be possible to have part of the courses planned as work in the evening along with work during the summer and then intensive course programme. Ágúst Sigurðsson commented on the discussion and concluded that NOVA should focus on what has been success and of course look for new challenges as well. Anja Pedersen added to the discussion the view of NSB that NOVA needs to get the good things known, that the information has to be effective, such as active homepages with correct information in order to attract more students. NSB has concrete ideas on promotion of NOVA, which will be discussed under 56.9.

Grete Bertelsen mentioned that in group discussions where Christian Möller from NCM had participated that he had pointed out that the NCM will be supporting three networks within "the Knowledge Triangle", one will be in health, another in culture and the third has not been decided yet. Call will be open for a short period after the summer holidays and the NCM will decide on this before 2011. These networks receive long term support and it needs to be investigated if there are any mandatory aspects such as to involve industry in the network as well. This possibility of funding from NCM is considered worthwhile investigating even though the time to prepare an application seems very short from what is known.

### Decision:

First draft of new NOVA strategy 2011-2014 will be introduced to KUF in the beginning of June, local NOVA teams and NSB can work on it and make their comments before the next KUF meeting 9<sup>th</sup> of September. On 25<sup>th</sup> of September a final draft will be sent to the Board, which will have the new strategy on its agenda at the meeting in Aarhus 20<sup>th</sup> of October. The secretariat will be in contact with Christian Möller to get closer information on the NCM funding of networks.

## **56.6 Plans for seminar 2011**

Ágúst Sigurðsson reported on order of seminars and according to history the seminar 2011 should be held in Denmark. Jørgen Jespersen expressed that AU-DJF would be positive to

hosting the next seminar. Antti Sukura thought it would be good to visit the new NOVA member in Aarhus and reminded the board of the necessity of good transport connection with the seminar. Dates for meetings next year are set in the autumn and possible date for the Annual Seminar 2011 will be discussed at AU-DJF.

The chair asked for suggestions for theme topics and the following were mentioned: *learning outcomes, professional leadership in universities, education for sustainable development or quality assurance within NOVA courses*. The last one mentioned has been brought up within NSB, either it could be discussed in KUF or at a NOVA seminar, but the students really support such a discussion to take place. At last *quality frames, how do we act and react in this context* was then added to the list of topics for the next seminar.

### **56.7 Annual Report 2009**

Pórunn Reykdal reported on the draft of the Annual Report 2009 and its appendix. Most of the statistics is ready, but the profit and loss account is not fully completed. Some assistance is required from the SLU so that it can be finalized. The secretary is following the procedure of what has been practised last years with a short and clear annual report where the existing data is being updated with figures from 2009.

### **56.8 Short report from member universities/faculties (5 minutes each)**

Antti Sukura reported on HU-V and administrative changes that have taken place at the university, where the universities are no longer part of the state budget and are more responsible. The faculty of veterinary medicine is very popular, 708 applicants were for 70 student seats whereof only 59 were male.

Yngvild Wasteson reported on NVH where veterinarian and veterinary nursing programme is very popular. Quite a challenge for the university is to have students in all veterinarian areas, where the sports- and small animal are the most popular. The merging of NVH and UMB is taking a lot of effort in planning and strategic work. NVH will though be in Oslo for the next 8 years.

Lena Anderson Eklund reported on SLU. There they have 27 first hand applicants per seat in a three year programme of veterinary nursing where they have 40 seats and 10 applicants for each veterinary seat. Improving figures on agronomy, economics, soil science and crop science. On the other hand very few applications for food science and horticulture. Due to change in regulations SLU will receive no funding from the government for non-EU/EES students and will therefore have to introduce full cost tuition fees for non-EU students. Of 25 MSc programmes most of the students are from outside EU and now it is not clear how this will affect SLU which has to focus more on Europe and exchange programmes will be of importance to SLU.

Marketta Sipi reported on HU-AF where they have now 350 applications. Within the university administrative changes have recently taken place. Departments have been merging, last year they were nine, now they are four; forest-, agricultural-, economics- and food & environmental sciences. In the whole university last year there were 70 departments, now they are 24. These organisational changes have caused competition between departments where some are very small and others much bigger.

Seppo Kellomäki reported on UEF-F which is now after the university reform and emerging the third largest university in Finland. These changes have had great effect, 40 persons lost their job and what happens next year is still to be seen, less funding has brought up uncertainty amongst the staff. The emerging has though brought new challenges in research.

The wood industry is not doing so great at the moment, in forest technology MSc students are lacking but attracting 550 PhD students.

Anja Pedersen reported on NSB activities. The NOVA students held their meeting in Riga this year, where they met many interesting people. NSB is supporting BOVA students in establishing their own board and will have one joint meeting with the Baltic students per year to assist them.

Grete Bertelsen reported on LIFE which is now part of the University of Copenhagen. The budget has been cut down by 25 mill Dkr resulting in reduced number of 50 employees. At LIFE there is an increase in BSc students and on MSc level students are attending from other universities in Denmark. 13 of 16 MSc programmes are taught in English and the Erasmus Mundus programme Food of Life is attracting 200 students.

Jørgen Jespersen reported on AU-DJF, where reform and merging of faculties has taken place resulting in 60 people losing their jobs. In the university there has been a big change, MSc programmes are thought in English, the first MSc student graduated last month and there is success in registration of PhD students.

Ágúst Sigurðsson reported on LBHI. Last year discussions took place between the Icelandic universities on possible merging or increased cooperation but no decisions have been made so far. During the year 2010 the budget for the university level in Iceland was cut down 8,5% resulting in 11 employees losing their jobs at LBHI.

## **56.9 Other issues**

### **Promotional campaign**

Anja Pedersen presented suggestion from NSB to the NOVA Board on promotional campaign. NSB feels that more promotion of NOVA is needed to increase general awareness of the existence of NOVA on the different universities. The promotion should have allocated funding and go beyond the NOVA-webpage. The campaign should be the responsibility of the NOVA secretariat, be updated every year and printed at each university. NSB feels that it is vital that the items and tools produced not only have the right content, but also look good. Special attention should be given to this leaving the design to professionals. NSB suggest promotional objects like posters, advertisements in student papers and notebooks. NSB also suggests tools for promotion like a designed good looking PowerPoint on NOVA that could be used at different campuses for presenting NOVA to students and teachers, relevant information for teachers on courses in their subject fields for teacher-based promotion might be a good idea to send out in paper version once a year.

### Decision:

To begin with the secretariat and EC committee should focus on good material, which the universities could print.

## **56.10 End of meeting**

The meeting was ended by the chair at 18:30



Ágúst Sigurðsson  
Chair



Þórunn Reykdal  
Secretary