

NOVA Board meeting 62

3rd May 2012 in Tartu, 14:00-15:55 local time

Present:

Antti Sukura	HU-V, chair
Marketta Sipi	HU-A F
Hans Fredrik Hoen	UMB
Yngvild Wasteson	NVH
Águs t Sigurdsson	LBHI
Lena Andersson-Eklund	SLU
Timo Tokola	UEF-F
Elise Norberg	AU-A
Hans Henrik Dietz	LIFE
Kristian Krag	NSB chair
Anna Valros	KUF chair
Terttu Virri	secretary

62.1 Opening of meeting

Antti Sukura opened the meeting. A short presentation of the meeting participants took place.

62.2 Approval of the agenda and election for two inspectors for the minutes

The agenda was approved. Águst Sigurdsson and Hans Fredrik Hoen were elected as the inspectors of meeting minutes.

62.3 Information on Board meeting 61

The meeting minutes of Board meeting 61 were enclosed in the agenda. No questions or comments were made.

62.4 Information on KUF meeting 42

The meeting minutes of KUF meeting 42 were enclosed in the agenda. Anna Valros summarized the content of the meeting. No questions or comments were made.

62.5 Annual Report, acknowledgment

The secretary received on 30th April a draft of the annual report 2011 from the former secretary Thorunn Reykdal. This draft was sent to the Board members by email. Since the report was incomplete, it was not discussed.

Action: The secretary will send the annual report by email to the Board members as soon as it is available, and the report can be acknowledged as per capsulam decision.

62.6 End of year account

The end of year account prepared by Thorunn Reykdal was presented. The secretary pointed out that the budget 2012 on the end of year accounts document was not correct, since it was not adjusted according to the Board meeting 61 decision on the member fee of Aarhus University. The Board was also informed that LIFE's member fee payment for the first half of 2011 was not received by NOVA (LBHI) and that Thorunn Reykdal has contacted Grete Bertelsen about the matter.

No questions or comments about the end of year accounts were made and they were accepted.

62.7 Information on spring call

The secretary informed the Board about the applications received during spring call. In total 13 PhD grant applications was received, resulting total amount of 355 976,00€, the amount being almost equal to the last year's spring call. KUF will make decision on funding on 5th June 2012.

62.8 Discussion on the future of NOVA promotional campaign

A short overview about the background of the promotional campaign was given by the secretary. Since the secretariat has no substantial time to allocate to the promotional campaign, yet the campaign is clearly needed to get more high quality applications and to raise awareness about NOVA amongst the students, it was agreed that each NOVA institute would actively take part in the planning of the campaign by sending suggestions to the secretary. These suggestions would be taken to the KUF meeting in June where more detailed plans would be done. The campaign should be implemented locally taking each institute's needs into account. In local campaigns local NOVA coordinators would play a significant part.

Action: The secretary will ask for member institutes' suggestions about both the promotional campaign and possible promotional material. The secretary will take the suggestions to KUF meeting in June.

With this context, a discussion about the importance of sharpen the profile of NOVA by identifying more unique purpose it could serve, thus being more attractive to the students, teachers and scholars took place. Finding the uniqueness and defining NOVA is discussed in NSB decision paper, which was provided to the Board members by NSB chair before the seminar. A more thorough discussion about the NSB decision paper will take place at the Board 63 meeting in October.

62.9 Annual seminar 2013

The secretary informed the Board about the locations of the annual seminar in the past 5 years. Hans Henrik Dietz as a representative of LIFE gave a preliminary promise about University of Copenhagen (HEALTH and / or SCIENCE) to host the annual seminar 2013, providing that LIFE's organizational changes will not cause a situation where the former LIFE will not be part of NOVA after year 2012.

A discussion about the possible theme for the seminar took place. It was agreed that the theme should focus on PhD education in general and in relation to NOVA – i.e. what is the gap in PhD education that NOVA should and could fill.

Action: LIFE will inform NOVA about their possibility as a possible seminar host as soon as the University of Copenhagen's internal decisions affecting this matter have been done. If LIFE is unable to host the seminar, a decision about the host can be done by per capsulam decision.

62.10 NOVA BOVA cooperation agreement

The NOVA BOVA cooperation agreement, formulated according to the mutually agreed text, was attached as enclosure and was accepted as a final document to be signed during the meeting of NOVA Board and BOVA Rectors' Board.

62.11 Information on EC decisions

The Board was informed about the decisions made by NOVA EC. No questions or comments were made.

62.12 Information from member institutes

A short round to hear news from members took place. Hans Henrik Dietz explained the ongoing organizational changes in the University of Copenhagen; LIFE being divided between new faculties of SCIENCE and HEALTH. Hans Fredrik Hoen and Yngvild Wasteson told about NVH merging into UMB. Lena Andersson-Eklund told she attended the Danube Rectors' Conference in November 2011 and made a presentation about NOVA BOVA network. As regards news about SLU, she told that SLU is facing some financial reductions and that currently there are two external groups assessing both the organization and education of SLU.

Ágúst Sigurdsson told that higher education is struggling financially in Iceland. Instead of merging, the University of Iceland, University of Akureyri, Holar University College and LBHI are successfully cooperating closely. Timo Tokola, UEF-F told that because of financial difficulties some reductions to the premises are made. UEF-F is taking part in planning a new Wood Science Master programme. Aarhus had no major news to present, but Elise Norberg told that organizational changes are ongoing at the university.

Marketta Sipi from HU-AF told that at the University of Helsinki, a so called Reform Group was formed to find ways to implement the new strategy and to ways to overcome financial challenges faced by the university. It is probable that some organizational changes will occur, in the form of merging. Antti Sukura said that in HU-V, no major news is to be presented. At the university level, the new strategy has been a topic, and both the university and the faculty are facing some financial difficulties which affect everyday life.

62.13 End of meeting

Antti Sukura ended the meeting at 15:55.

Antti Sukura

Chair

Ágúst Sigurdsson

Inspector of the minutes

Hans Fredrik Hoen

Inspector of the minutes

Terttu Virri

Secretary