

Draft 2 March 2015  
Approved on 26 March 2015

## Minutes of Board Meeting 69

### Participating members:

Helena Eklund Snäll	SLU	for Torbjörn von Schantz
Grete Bertelsen	KU-SCIENCE	
Elise Norberg	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI	
Jari Kouki	UEF-F	
Marketta Sipi	HU-AF	
Mari Sundli Tveit, chair	NMBU	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Hanna Castro	NSB	
Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA secretariat	
Iben N. Andersen		
Not present:		
Hans Henrik Dietz	KU-HEALTH	

### 69.1 Approval of minutes 68 and agenda 69

#### Resolution:

*The Board approved the minutes from board meeting 68 and the agenda for board meeting 69.*

### 69.2 Orientation issues

- 1 Appointment of a member to the steering committee of the Public private partnership for pre-breeding.  
In a per capsulam decision in October 2014, the Board appointed **Faculty Professor Rodomiro Ortiz (SLU)** as a member to the steering committee of the PPP for pre-breeding.

- 2      Open call 2014 – follow-up.  
In board meeting 68, the Board granted course no. 4 in the course series “Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management” funding given that missing information in the application was provided within two weeks. The secretariat did not receive any information from LBHI by the deadline. The course is thus not granted any funding.
  
- 3      NOVA Board – BOVA rector’s board meeting (2015) – renewal of agreement  
The cooperation agreement between NOVA and BOVA dated 3 May 2012 is to be considered for renewal and revision in 2015. According to the agreement, the two organisations will have discussions on strategic matters and plans as well as change information at a joint meeting between the NOVA Board and the BOVA Rector’s Board every third year.
  
- 4      NOVA Student Board’s evaluation of fields of study not adequately covered by NOVA courses  
The Board asked the NOVA Student Board to give an overview of fields not adequately covered by NOVA courses. NSB presented a list for the Board. See attachment.

Resolution:

*The Board noted the information.*

**69.3 Follow-up on the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2014**

- 1      Draft of mandate for task force on external funding  
“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.”

Resolution:

*A draft mandate will be presented to the secretariat no later than 1 February 2015.*

- 2      Proposal for a new system of coverage of administrative expenses for PhD courses

The NOVA Board wishes to increase the number of course applications. According to the Strategy, NOVA’s goal is to propose 25-30 PhD courses per year.

Resolution:

*For NOVA PhD courses, independent of the 10% in administration fees budgeted in the grant, the NOVA Board will provide an additional grant in the amount of EURO 2 500 to cover administration, regardless of actual costs. This applies for courses applied for after 1 January 2015.*

**3 Financial treatment of PhD course fees**

Course leaders feel punished for having non-NOVA or –BOVA students on the courses as the fees are subtracted from the final grant from NOVA.

Resolution:

*PhD course fees are regarded as income, must be reported and 50% of the fees should be deducted from the final disbursement from NOVA. This applies for courses applied for after 1 January 2015.*

**4 Duration of the open call 2015 and frequency of decision-making on the applications**

During the past two years, there has been one annual call for applications. At the 2014 Strategy seminar, in order to increase the number of applications, the possibility of an all year open call and of the Board deciding upon the applications at the following board meeting was discussed.

Resolution:

- a) *In 2015, the call for applications will be open all year with decision-making three times a year at the board meetings.*
- b) *Courses approved in the March meeting 2015 can run in the autumn semester 2015 or in 2016. Courses approved in later board meetings in 2015 can run in 2016.*

**5 Proposal from Hans Henrik Dietz, submitted to the secretariat on 19 September 2014, on a general text about NOVA to be presented on the member institutions' websites**

To improve the promotion of NOVA, it was proposed that the secretariat should write a general text about NOVA to be presented on the member institutions' websites. Hans Henrik Dietz sent a proposal to the secretariat.

Resolution:

*The NOVA Secretariat will create a text in line with the text presented at the meeting for the member institutions to use for promotional purposes.*

## 6 New NOVA website and administration system

The secretariat has started to construct a new NOVA website using the NMBU template. A separate NOVA database will not be continued. The secretariat will focus on implementing simple application and reporting systems that are easily changed locally. The template used for the website is fitted to mobile, tablet and PC. It is possible to export the content of the website to the next secretariat at a different university.

### Resolution:

*The Board asks the secretariat to continue working on the new NOVA website in the format presented to the Board. The Board agrees that the administration system should be simple and flexible and agrees that a new database is not called for. A back-up of important historical information from the NOVA database will be kept.*

## 69.4 NOVA Student Board – student representation in NOVA

Student representation is important for the marketing of NOVA, for getting suggestions on the NOVA course portfolio, for the individual student's network building and to secure good communication with the students. NSB work "to further the goals of NOVA UN and contributes actively to the NOVA Board by bringing the students' perspective to the table."

### Resolution:

1. *The NOVA Student Board continues as before. The NOVA Student Board shall elect two representatives to the NOVA Board. The student representatives to the NOVA Board should each have a vote on the NOVA Board.*
2. *In the budgets for 2014 and 2015, the budget post for NSB is EUR 7 000. The NSB must prioritise within this budget. This sum should cover all expenses connected to NSB, including e.g. travel expenses, meeting fees, Strategy Seminar etc.*
3. *All NSB members will be invited to participate at the annual NOVA strategy seminar as the local NOVA coordinators already are.*

## 69.5 Proposal of a change in the NOVA rules on coverage of NOVA teachers' expenses on Master's courses

The NOVA and Nordplus (N+) rules on coverage of NOVA teachers' expenses on Master's courses are not completely coordinated. NOVA teachers teaching a Master's course in their institution's home country do not receive any funding for accommodation and travel expenses from neither NOVA nor N+.

Resolution:

*NOVA can cover accommodation and travel expenses for NOVA teachers teaching a Master's course held in their institution's home country, following the rules for Nordplus support. This change applies for courses applied for from 1 January 2015.*

## **69.6 News from the member institutions**

### **KU-SCIENCE**

No changes in their organization. The Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences wants more students to be full-time students. Less students will be enrolled and students are pushed through their studies faster. The University must reduce undergraduate enrolment by 883 over the next four years, based on 2013 enrolment.

### **AU-ST**

AU-ST is still in a process of reorganising.

### **LBHI**

The Ministry of Education has started working on a new strategy for HEI in Island. The former rector has left and Björn Thorsteinsson is now serving as rector until the possible merger with the University of Iceland or a new rector is elected. A revision of all study programmes will start up early 2015.

### **SLU**

Torbjörn von Schantz is moving to Lund University to take over as vice-chancellor. Lena Andersson-Eklund will take over as pro-rector at SLU.

### **HU-V**

The Finnish Academy published a report in October 2014 called "State of Scientific Research in Finland" (only available in Finnish at the moment). This report showed that veterinary research in Finland has clearly higher impact compared to the average other countries. Finnish veterinary science has an impact factor of 1.6 when the world average is 1.0. When checking the most cited publications (Top 10 -index) in the field, veterinary medicine is at level 2.3 (world average 1.0).

### **HU-AF**

When checking the most cited publications (Top 10 -index) in the field, the University of Helsinki's forest sciences is at level 1.2 and agricultural sciences at level 1.4 (world average 1.0).

### **UEF-F**

The University is trying to encourage teachers to apply for NOVA grants.

### **NSB**

NSB will review their statutes. As always they will have meetings prior to Board meeting to discuss the agenda.

### **NMBU**

The Ministry of Education was inspired by DK and SE regarding e.g. tuition fees for students from EEA and EU.

The proposal fell which is a big relief for NMBU both on historical background but also for the further development as an international university.

The first year as a new university has been mostly about getting the merger into work. Hopefully next year we will be able to focus on education and research. We have also been told that we will not be involved in another merger, which a relief. Other universities and colleges will be challenged.

### **69.7 Meeting dates 2015**

*The NOVA board will meet on the following dates in 2015:*

- 1. Board meeting: Thursday 26 March, 12-3 pm Scandinavian time, video meeting*
- 2. Strategy seminar with board meeting: 25-26 June, in Copenhagen hosted by KU-SCIENCE*
- 3. Board meeting: Friday 6 November, 12-3 pm Scandinavian time, video meeting*

### **69.8 Other issues**

A promotional leaflet will be drafted as soon as possible.