

Approved on 10 December 2015

Minutes of Board Meeting 71

Participating members:

Lena Andersson-Eklund	SLU	
Grete Bertelsen	KU-SCIENCE	participated from item 70.2
Hans Henrik Dietz	KU-HEALTH	left during item 71.5
Elise Norberg	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI	
Jari Kouki	UEF-F	left ca. 11.45 - in item 71.7
Mari Sundli Tveit, chair	NMBU	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Hanna Castro	NSB	left ca. 11.45 - in item 71.7
Teshome Dagne Mulugeta	NSB	
Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA secretariat	
Ole-Jørgen Torp	Director of Academic Affairs, NMBU	

Absent:

Marketta Sipi	HU-AF
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71.1 Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of board meeting 70

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 71 and the minutes of board meeting 70.

71.2 Orientation issues

- 1 Presentation of EC decisions October 2014 – June 2015

No	Head applicant	Project title	Type of project	Project end date	Grant in EUR
1*	Bo Dahlin (HU-AF)	International wood harvesting	Master's course	30 Nov. 2014	967
2	Tonje Nore (central Nordplus coordinator)	NOVA BOVA Nordplus Network	Other project	31 Oct. 2014	5 000
3	Minna Pirhonen (HU-AF)	Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions Laboratory Course	Master's course	28 Feb. 2015	4 963
4	Ingeborg Menzler-Hokkanen (HU-AF)	RNAi Techniques for Insect Pest Management: Ecological and Commercial Considerations	Master's course	30 Sept. 2015	4 999

* Second part of the application. In total maximum EUR 2 300 was granted to the course.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Presentation of the status on the new NOVA website, application and administration systems

At board meetings 68 and 69, the Board asked the secretariat to prepare a new NOVA website and administration systems. The Board expected the website to be up and running by the end of 2015. The secretariat is developing the new website and administration systems with the goal of simplifying and streamlining. Examples of measures taken: new website, course information webpages, revision of the application system, detailed descriptions of the application, internal evaluation, and administration and reporting processes, electronic system for final reporting and electronic student course evaluation. The quality of the applications and the internal evaluation of the applications seem to have improved from 2014. The secretariat's priority will be to continue developing the website.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

Comments from the Board on the new NOVA website:

- *The Board agreed that the logos of the member institutions will be presented on the front page.*
- *The website should be more compatible with mobile phone.*
- *The PhD course portfolio could be lifted higher up.*
- *The Board prefers to only get documents online, e.g. agendas, documents, enclosures.*
- *There was a discussion on how public the documents for the board meetings should be.*

- *The average scores on student evaluations of NOVA courses should be available on the website, not specific comments.*
- *There could be a link to the application system from the local coordinators' page.*
- *There could be a place on the NOVA website where it is possible to post wishes for NOVA courses.*
- *There could be links to the respective members' annual reports on the page "About NOVA" to show the potential student pool for NOVA courses.*

Comment from the secretariat:

After the board meeting, the secretariat has looked into how public documents for the board meetings are and how they should be presented to the Board. In the secretariat's opinion, the documents for the Board normally never contains personal information or other information that is exempted from public disclosure. Therefore, the secretariat cannot see that there are any reasons why the documents cannot be made public on the NOVA website. From board meeting 72, all documents that are not exempted from public disclosure will be published on the NOVA website. Documents which are exempted from public disclosure will be sent to the Board by ordinary mail. Concerning student evaluations of previous courses, which are part of the basis for the Board's assessment of course funding applications, any personal comments on teachers in these documents will be censored before publishing on the NOVA website

3. Evaluation of goal attainment

The number of PhD courses run in 2014 is only a third of NOVA's goal, 8 vs. 25 courses. The number of students on PhD courses is declining, but the average number of PhD students on courses is slightly increasing. The number of ECTS produced in 2014 (1177 ECTS) was higher than in 2013 (1128 ECTS) even though the number of students was lower than in 2013. In 2014, NOVA concentrated on implementing the changes resulting from the new strategy and on simplifying and streamlining the work. The substantial changes in the application process and the application take time to communicate to the applicants. However, it seems that the measures taken have had an impact. The number of PhD courses is augmenting as 13 courses are scheduled for 2015. In addition, as of 26 June 2015, NOVA has in total received 13 applications for PhD courses to be run in 2016. This number is likely to increase. The activity on Master's level in 2014 was satisfactory with four courses. However, the mobility has decreased as part of a Nordic trend. NOVA's major future challenges are still to increase the number of courses and students to reach the goal of 25-30 PhD courses. It is important to continue active marketing of the funding possibilities to scientists and of the network to students as well as to continue developing the new website.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

71.3 Follow-up on the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2014

1 Task force on external funding

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). At board meeting 70, the Board agreed that: "at the board meeting in June 2015, all NOVA member institutions should have at least one suggestion for a person who can participate in the task force", (cf. § 70.3.1).

Resolution:

1. *The Board appoints the following and whomever they designate as members of the task force :*

AU-ST: Elise Norberg, KU-SCIENCE: Grete Bertelsen who designated Trine Buhl Monty, SLU: Lena Andersson-Eklund who designated Geir Løe, HU: Antti Sukura, NMBU: Mari Sundli Tveit who designated Colin Murphy.

The invitation is extended to include a member of NSB.

NOVA will provide secretarial functions.

2. *The Board elects Elise Norberg as leader of the task force.*

3. *The task force will send a final mandate to the NOVA Chair by 15 September 2015.*

The Board had the following input to the final mandate:

- *The task force should make a list of funding bodies that are suitable for NOVA, keeping in mind that we cannot expect to find 1:1 funding bodies and need to keep to our core functions: PhD and Master's courses. It could also be for Master's programmes.*
 - *In its work to finalise its mandate, the task force should among others:*
 - *provide a list of funding bodies*
 - *make a plan for when to contact which body, and the person(s) responsible*
 - *explore funding possibilities from the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM)*
 - *pave the way for contact between NOVA and potential funding bodies*
 - *look at how to make an incentive for teachers to find external funding of NOVA courses which could be incorporated in the rules*
 - *The Board will discuss the mandate at next board meeting.*
4. *The task force will end its work by the NOVA Strategy Seminar in 2016 and shall present a final report on its work.*
 5. *The Board expects an administrative follow-up by the secretariat after the task force has ended its work.*

71.4 Accounts by June 2015, revised budget 2015, draft budget 2016

The table below contains an overview of accounts 2014, accounts by the beginning of June 2015, the budget for 2015 (approved at board meeting 68, 19 September 2014), a proposal of a revised budget for 2015 as well as a draft budget for 2016. In addition, proposed member fee percentages for 2016 and 2017 were also presented.

Table 1: Revised budget 2015 (numbers in 1000 EUR)

	31.12.2013	31.12.2014	31.12.2014	31.12.2014	31.12.2015
BALANCE (equity)	326	352	352	352	152
	Accounts 2014	Accounts 11 Jun 2015	Budget 2015	Revised budget 2015	Draft budget 2016
<u>INCOME</u>					
Total member fees	161	91	355	178	355
External funding SNS	10	0			
External funding NKJ		22		22	
INCOME total	171	113	355	200	355
<u>COSTS</u>					
<i>Activities</i>					
PhD courses, internal funding	63	13	170	180	359
PhD courses, external funding				20	
Other projects	16	16	50	70	50
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	5	3	55	20	25
NSB	2	1	7	7	7
Strategy seminar	2	0	10	10	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>451</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>		0			
Salaries	44	14	35,5	35,5	35,5
Travels	2	0	5	5	5
Other	10	1	15	15	15
Project: application platform and website	0	14	35,5	35,5	0
Administration, external funding (NKJ)				2	
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>56</i>
COSTS total	145	62	383	400	507
RESULT	26	51	-28	-201	-152
BALANCE (equity)	352	403	324	152	0

Table 2: Member fee percentages 2016 and 2017

	Member fee percentage 2014-15	Member fee percentage 2016-17	Av. percentage of degrees 2009-14	Av. percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2010-14
AU-ST	11,6 %	11,41 %	10,3 %	12,6 %
HU-AF	13,8 %	14,10 %	9,4 %	18,8 %
HU-V	4,5 %	5,64 %	3,2 %	8,1 %
UEF-F	3,7 %	3,04 %	2,1 %	4,0 %
LBHI	0,7 %	0,53 %	0,2 %	0,8 %
KU-SCIENCE	14,3 %	14,42 %	19,7 %	9,1 %
KU-HEALTH	7,2 %	6,44 %	8,5 %	4,4 %
NMBU	18,2 %	19,23 %	21,7 %	16,8 %
SLU	26,0 %	25,18 %	25,0 %	25,4 %
TOTAL	100,0 %	99,99 %	100,0 %	100,0 %

The member fee percentage for 2016 and 2017 is calculated as 50% of average percentage of degrees produced 2009-2014 plus 50% of average percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2010-2014.

Notes

AU-ST: For the calculation of the average percentage of degrees, the figures for 2009-2010 are estimates. The figures used for 2011-2014 are the actual numbers of degrees.

KU-SCIENCE and KU-HEALTH: The numbers are estimates based on statistics for LIFE for 2009-2011 for calculation of average degrees and for 2010-2012 for calculation of average percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses. As suggested by these member institutions, LIFE's figures are divided between them with 2/3 for KU-SCIENCE and 1/3 for KU-HEALTH. Separate statistics for the two member institutions are used after these periods.

Table 3: Estimated member fee per institution 2016

	Member fee 2015 (100%)	Member fee 2015 (50%)	Estimated member fee (100% fee) 2016
AU-ST	41180	20590	40506
HU-AF	48990	24495	50055
HU-V	15975	7987,5	20022
UEF-F	13135	6567,5	10792
LBHI	2485	1242,5	1882
KU-SCIENCE	50883	25442	51191
KU-HEALTH	25442	12721	22862
NMBU	64610	32305	68267
SLU	92300	46150	89389
TOTAL	355000	177500	354965

Resolution:

1. *The Board noted the information regarding the result and balance by 11 June 2015.*
2. *The Board approved the revised budget for 2015.*
3. *The Board noted the presented draft budget for 2016. The secretariat will work on a final draft budget taking comments from the Board into account. The final proposal will be presented to the Board at board meeting 72 in November 2015.*
4. *The principals for the member fee calculation for 2016 and 2017 will be the ones stated in resolution 66.9.A.*

Statistics for the member fee calculations: For 2016 and 2017, the member fee percentage will be based on average percentage of degrees produced in 2009-2014 (as described in table 2 above) and average percentage of students on NOVA PhD courses in 2010-2014 (as described in table 2 above).

KU-HEALTH will inform the NOVA secretariat before next board meeting (6 Nov. 2015) if they can afford the NOVA member fee for 2016.

71.5 Decision on applications submitted in the second round of the open call 2015

1. Applications

Resolutions:

The resolutions are presented in the column “approved grant” in the table below.

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, 2nd round</i>									
1	Sustainable intensification of the agricultural production – the potential role of legumes in the Nordic countries	PhD course	2016	AU-ST	OK	10583+2500	13083	10583+2500	10583+2500
2	Quantitative genetics in animal breeding	PhD course	2016	HU-AF	OK	12083+2500	14583	12083+2500	12083+2500
3	Genetic Epidemiology of infectious diseases in livestock	PhD course	2016	SLU	OK	17556+2500	20056	17556+2500	17556+2500
4	Decision oriented data acquisition strategies for analysis of sustainable forestry	PhD course	2016	NMBU	OK	5383+2500	7883	5383+2500	5383+2500
5	Pathology of large animal disease models	PhD course	2016	KU-HEALTH	OK	9733+2500	12233	9733+2500	9733+2500
6	Chemical and genomic insight to host-microbe symbiotic interactions	PhD course	2016	KU-SCIENCE	OK	14289+2500	16789	14289+2500	14289+2500
7	Novel ingredients - processed for novel nutrition	PhD course	2016	NMBU	OK	18089+2500	20589	18089+2500	18089+2500
8	Molecular methods for detection of food- and waterborne pathogens	PhD course	2016	HU-V	OK	14922+2500	17422	14922+2500	14922+2500
9	Plant-associated bacteria: pathogens and mutualists	PhD course	2016	HU-AF	OK	13386+2500	15886	13386+2500	13386+2500
10	Feed Efficiency in Dairy Cattle	PhD course	2016	AU-ST	OK	15222+2500	17722	15222+2500	15222+2500
Total all applications, NOVA Open Call 2015, 2nd Round							156246	156246	156246
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls</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	2016	HU-AF	**	10856	10856	10856	10856
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2016									35957
<i>Master's courses</i>									
	Sustainable Pig Production	Master's course	2016	SLU		13828	13828	12311	12311
	Nordic Wildlife and Conservation Medicine	Master's course	2016	HU-V	***	19478	19478	N.A.	15000
Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2016									27311
Total so far for PhD courses running in 2016									192203
Total so far for Master's courses running in 2016									27311

**Decision on the course series Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management :

- 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.

*** 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.

2. Review of class size

According to the NOVA Strategy 2014-2017, there should be minimum 12 NOVA students on a NOVA course. Otherwise, the course should be cancelled. The secretariat experiences that some courses have difficulties attracting 12 NOVA students, in particular courses with considerable external funding.

Resolution:

The Board supported the secretariat's view that in some cases where there are few NOVA students enrolled at a NOVA course, the course will receive funding due to considerable external funding of the course.

3. Ideas for new NOVA course topics

The Board brainstormed on possible topics for new NOVA courses. The following topics were mentioned: Agriculture in the Arctic, Nordic Food and Bioinformatics. The board members can contact local teachers and ask them if they are interested in organising such courses.

71.6 Approval of new 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 item was postponed to next board meeting.

71.7 News from the member institutions

HU

After the elections in Finland in April 2015, there is a new government. The state economy is in minus. Cuts will find place also at university level. HU has started a new centre on life sciences, the Helsinki Life Science Center (HLSC). Marketta Sipi from HU-AF is not present at this meeting due to an evaluation of the centre.

AU-ST

Denmark will have a new government after the elections in June 2015. At AU-ST there are still some changes. Some administrative tasks are moved back to department level.

KU-SCIENCE

The amount used on research will probably not be increased after the elections and change of government. The Danish HEI have recently implemented a new study reform. The curriculum has been changed. With a new government, there will perhaps be new changes. Teaching in English is not valued by the Danish People's Party which did well in the elections.

LBHI

In Iceland, there is now an effort to establish systematic policy making for higher education. Questions concerning the sector's size and division of labour between institutions are raised. There are still discussions on mergers, but no agreement on what to do has been reached. The discussions on the mergers are inconsistent with the policy work.

SLU

SLU will have a new NOVA coordinator from August 2015: Geir Løe. He is a new international education coordinator at SLU. SLU has transformed its curricula according to new internal rules. All courses on Bachelor's and Master's level will be of 15 ECTS from 2017 to facilitate mobility. All subject areas must offer at least one semester in English at Bachelor's level to facilitate for incoming students. All study programmes will have one semester available for exchange. The number of places for veterinary nurses has increased from 40 to 60.

NSB

At its annual meeting in June 2015, NSB appointed a new Chair. The new NSB Chair is Andrea Miller, SLU.

NMBU

In Norway, the first step in the merging process in HEI was decided last week. NMBU is not affected in this round. NMBU is moving forward with its building and infrastructure projects. The Board has decided a new programme: excellence in education and research. NMBU has started looking into its course portfolio. The first "NMBU Conference" took place in May 2015. The theme was Norwegian agriculture in 2030. The conference was a success and open to the public.

71.8 Other issues

This item was discussed prior to item 71.7.

1. Presentation by the Chair of the NOVA Student Board Hanna Castro

As a topic for NSB's annual meeting 2015, the NOVA secretariat had asked the NOVA Student Board (NSB) to work on how to increase the student attendance on NOVA courses. The presentation to the NOVA Board from the NSB Chair is enclosed.