

## **Minutes of Board meeting No 55**

Date: 27 January 2010

Time: 13:35 – 15:35 (GMT+1; Swedish, Norwegian and Danish time)

Place: Video meeting

Present:	Ágúst Sigurðsson	LBHI, chair
	Knut Hove	UMB
	Lars Moe	NVH
	Grete Bertelsen	LIFE
	Just Jensen	AU-DJF
	Lena Anderson Eklund	SLU
	Marketta Sipi	HU-AF
	Antti Sukura	HU-V
	Seppo Kellomäki	UEF-F
	Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI, chair, NOVA-KUF
	Anja Pedersen	NSB (SLU)
	Pórunn Reykdal	NOVA coordinator, secretary

### **Absent regular members:**

Per Holten	LIFE
Lisa Sennerby Forsse	SLU

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

Ágúst Sigurðsson opened the meeting at 13:35 with an apology for the 35 minutes delay due to technical problems. The chair decided to start the meeting through phone, while Iceland could not be reached through the video broadcasting system.

Ágúst Sigurðsson welcomed the new board member, Marketta Sipi from the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and Pórunn Reykdal the new Central NOVA Coordinator from January 1st 2010, presented herself shortly.

### **Decision:**

The agenda was approved and the Board welcomes new member and coordinator.

## **55.2 Follow-up on board meeting 54**

Pórunn Reykdal reported on follow-up on suggestions from item 54.4, Activity report for 2009.

The Board commented on:

- The necessity for NOVA to build a strong relationship to the Nordic Council of Ministers and that the coordinator would have to have personal contact to NCM in Copenhagen in order to establish good connection and to introduce NOVA to the NCM.
- That local coordinators should be engaged and NOVA should support universities and individuals to apply to NCM, while according to information from NCM, NOVA as a network can not submit applications to the NCM. Within NCM effort is put in strategic plans for 2011-2013 and changes may be seen in the new strategy. Today NOVA participants could perhaps apply to programs like "Research Training Courses 2010" with submission deadline 17.03.2010 and "Researcher Networks 2010" with deadline 25.03. Lena Anderson Eklund pointed out that KUF had to turn down many good applications last year despite of the extra effort which was put in decision on PhD applications at autumn call and raised the question if NOVA should reconsider deadline for applications in the spring, since it is a month later then at the NCM, but it was thought to be too late to do any changes regarding deadlines this year.

Decision on follow-up on 54.7, regarding next strategic plan was postponed to item 55.6 b).

### Decision:

The Board accepts the follow-up of decisions from meeting No. 54.

## **55.3 Information from KUF meeting 33**

Björn Þorsteinsson presented minutes from KUF meeting 33.

Decision: Minutes from KUF meeting 33 were accepted.

## **55.4 Motion to the NOVA Board from HU-V**

Björn Þorsteinsson introduced a motion to the NOVA Board from the University of Helsinki, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, on PhD-status in NOVA for specializing veterinarians.

Short discussion about the EC suggestion took place about PhD requirements and status of students.

### Decision:

The Board agreed that specializing veterinarians doing specialization studies, fully registered at a NOVA university have same status as PhD students attending NOVA courses.

## **55.5 Preliminary accounts 2009**

Pórunn Reykdal reported on the preliminary account for 2009. The present secretariat received preliminary account before Christmas from the former secretariat in SLU, the account is therefore based on the status on the 18th of December.

Decision:

The Board accepts preliminary account for 2009.

## **55.6 Acknowledgement of NOVA activity plan 2010**

### **a) Update on changes**

Björn Þorsteinsson introduced the minor changes with updates on figures and dates which had taken place on the NOVA Activity Plan 2010 after KUF meeting 33 in November 2009.

Decision:

The board accepts the NOVA Activity Plan for 2010.

### **b) Strategic Plan 2011-2014**

Ágúst Sigurðsson reported on ideas concerning Strategic Plan 2011-2014.

Much effort was put in the current Strategic Plan and the work with the new strategy will be based upon that with simpler procedure. Measurable goals in the strategic plan need to be discussed as NOVA must define where it wants to stand in 2014. Local teams are working on the questions which were put forward on the Board meeting 54.7 (see item 55.2): a) Which activities, that NOVA does successfully today, should be kept?, and b) Which new activities should NOVA focus on in the future? Some local teams have delivered their input, others are working on it and an EC suggestion is, that it should be done before next KUF meeting in March. Further work on these ideas and new questions would be done at the seminar in May.

In following discussion it was commonly stated that the local teams need additional month to finish this work and that strong role of local teams is important. Anja Pedersen stressed that NSB also should give NOVA input, they have a meeting in Riga in two weeks. Under this discussion Just Jensen had to leave the meeting at 14:43, but the local coordinator, Marianne Aarø-Hansen attended the rest of the meeting in his place.

Decision:

Local teams deliver their input to the secretariat before 1<sup>st</sup> of March, which presents it to the KUF meeting March 4. The Local team suggestions will be used further to prepare discussions at the annual seminar in May.

## **55.7 Acknowledgement of local activity plans 2010**

Þórunn Reykdal reported on the signed local activity plans 2010

Decision:

Local Activity Plans 2010 were acknowledged.

### **55.8 Criteria for networks**

At Board meeting 54 the item Criteria for networks was suggested as a topic on the agenda and Björn Þorsteinsson introduced EC suggestion on NOVA Guideline for New Subject Areas – Networks based on and adapted from Euroleague's Revised Guideline for Subject Areas (ELLS).

In a fruitful discussion by the Board various important issues were brought forward. Lena Anderson Eklund pointed out, that it is good to have guidelines, PhD networks are listed on the web, but MS are not. It would be possible to have CV's on an approved network homepage and therefore it would not be necessary to send in CV with applications, which would simplify the application procedure. Knut Hove stressed the point that NOVA could not support a network unless the network has aims to give courses, otherwise it would be competition on funds. Researcher networks are easily established; therefore an educational output should be a criterion. A network needs time up to two years. He recommended rewriting the criterions before KUF starts announcing next round. Lars Moe pointed out that a network must have several countries involved, otherwise it could be very unbalanced – (e.g.3 Finnish) and Grete Bertelsen suggested that networks should only be formed if they are involved with teaching and supported by three Nordic countries. Anja Pedersen emphasized the view that a functioning NOVA network with two countries should keep working so that courses would not be cancelled.

#### Decision:

A draft of NOVA Guideline for New Subject Areas – Networks will be rewritten and put on the agenda at next KUF meeting.

### **55.9 Annual seminar May 6.-7.**

The chair reported on recommended representatives at the Annual Seminar in May. Suggested inputs for the seminar are: "The knowledge triangle", a review on internationalization in education and renewable energy.

The board discussed attendance, whom to invite to the seminar, such as active persons in the networks, course leaders, student directors and administrative people, and not forgetting student representatives.

#### Decision:

A draft of the program will be sent out as soon as possible and will be followed up by preparatory questions regarding the new strategy after next KUF meeting when local team suggestions for discussion points have arrived.

### **55.10 Short report from the member universities / faculties**

Lars Moe thanked the members of the Board for partnership and cooperation, from 1<sup>st</sup> of April he is taking a position at LIFE. Yngvild Wasteson will replace him on the rector's post to begin with.

Lena Anderson Eklund reported on new vice rector at SLU, Johan Schnürer and Grete Bertelsen reported on new vice-dean in research within food science at LIFE. The Erasmus Mundus program Food of Life got 200 applications and around twenty new students will start in September and approximately the same number at SLU.

#### **55.11 Other issues**

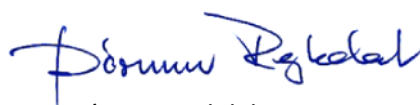
No other issues were brought up.

#### **55.12 End of meeting**

Ágúst Sigurðsson thanked Lars Moe for his cooperation, the members for a good discussion in spite of technical problems, with the hope that the old Icelandic saying: *Beginners failure is often the first step to success* might come true and closed the meeting at 15:35 GMT.



Ágúst Sigurðsson  
Chair



Þórunn Reykdal  
Secretary