

## Board meeting No. 48

October 24th, 2007, 09.30 - 16.00 (GMT+1)

Place for the meeting: Gardemoen (hosted by UMB)

### Agenda

#### Items

- 48.1**      **Opening of meeting and agenda**
- 48.2**      **Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 46**
- 48.3**      **Follow up on the activity plan 2007, incl. updated prognosis**
- 48.4**      **Draft activity plan 2008 from KUF**
- 48.5**      **Draft budget 2008, incl. model for internal funding**
- 48.6**      **Election of the new Chairman in a) the Board b) KUF**
- 48.7**      **Joensuu as a new member a) report from discussions in Joensuu, b) formal decision on membership**
- 48.8**      **Implementation of the new NOVA strategy, a) tasks for local NOVA teams, b) implementation at SLU c) considerations on the Secretariat organisation**
- 48.9**      **Request from Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, for membership**
- 48.10**     **Other items**
- 48.11**     **Information from members**
- 48.12**     **End of meeting**

### Board Meeting, No 48 Gardermoen

Present:	Lars Moe Jukka Kola Knut Hove Per Holten Andersen Lisa Sennerby Forsse Ágúst Sigurðsson Anti Sukura Heiða Aðalstensdóttir	NVH, Chairman HU-AF UMB LIFE SLU (Pt.s 48.6-end of meeting) LBHI HU-V NSF (LBHI)
Others:	Knut Wålstedt Michael Guldager Hannah J. Jørgensen Lena Andersson-Eklund	NOVA Secretary General Local NOVA coordinator, LIFE Central NOVA coordinator Prorector SLU
Absent:	Trine Hvoslef-Eide	UMB, Chairman of KUF

### **48.1 Opening of meeting and agenda**

Opening of meeting, excuses from Trine Hvoslef-Eide and Lisa Sennerby Forsse. Lisa Sennerby Forsse was present for Pt.s 48.6 and to the end of meeting on the phone. Heiða Aðalstensdóttir from LBHI was welcomed as the new NSF representative (chairman) to the Board.

### **48.2 Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 46**

Item: Follow up of decisions from meeting number 46

Material: Minutes from meeting number 46

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

In the follow up to item 46.9 it was agreed that the ERASMUS involvements of NOVA institutions will be dealt with at a future Board meeting.

Decision:

- To accept the follow-up from the previous Board meeting.

### **48.3 Follow up on the activity plan 2007, incl. updated prognosis**

Item: Follow up on the activity plan 2007, incl. updated prognosis

Material: Activity plan for 2007, and the budget and prognosis for 2007

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

The Board was informed about achievements and activities in 2007. The predicted surplus in for 2007 is €52.472 and is, in part, a consequence of the surplus from 2006, and the low running costs of the Secretariat.

Decisions:

- To accept the Activity follow up and prognoses for 2007.

#### **48.4 Draft activity plan 2008 from KUF**

Item: Draft activity plan for 2008

Material: Draft activity plan 2008

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

The presented plan is based on the 2007 plan and awaits further discussions in KUF.

##### **Decisions:**

- The Board approves the information on the activity plan for 2008.
- The Board expects KUF to take a formal decision about the activity plan for 2008.
- The Secretariat will revise the work schedule accordingly.

#### **48.5 Draft budget 2008, incl. model for internal funding**

Item: Draft budget for 2008 and model for internal funding

Material: Minutes from the extraordinary Board meeting (e-mail based), and an excel spread sheet showing calculated member fees

Presented by: Lars Moe, Knut Wålstedt

The model for internal funding, which was decided on at the last Board meeting, will apply. Due to the expected surplus at the end of 2007 the fees will be reduced to €665.000. A new model must be discussed for 2009.

##### **Decisions:**

- To approve the model and data used for calculating member fees for 2008, and the minutes from the extraordinary Board meeting (no 47).
- To approve that the calculation is based on a reduced budget; in total €665.000 as an internal member fee.
- That the Board is aware that member fees for 2009 and onward should be based on revised data and eventually a revised model, and that the total fee has to be re-considered.
- That the entrance fee for Joensuu for 2008 will be calculated on the basis of the non-reduced budget (€715.000).

#### **48.6 Election of the new Chairman in a) the Board b) KUF**

Item: Election of chairmen for the Board and for KUF

Material: List of arguments

Presented by: Lars Moe

Short discussion regarding rotation of the NOVA Chairmanship followed by election of new Chairmen for the Board and KUF. Lars Moe was thanked for his leadership over the last four years. Trine Hvoslief Eide was also gratefully acknowledged for her leadership of KUF.

##### **Decisions:**

- The period of chairmanship of and KUF is two years, starting from 1st January 2008.
- That the Chairmen for the Board and KUF may come from the same institution in order to facilitate a well functioning Executive Committee.
- That the Board will elect a vice Chariman, and that this will be dealt with at the next Board meeting.
- That SLU Rector, Lisa Sennerby Forsse is elected Chairman of the Board from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- That Lena Andersson-Eklund is elected Chairman of KUF from January 1st 2008.

#### **48.7 Joensuu as a new NOVA member**

Item: Joensuu as a new NOVA member

Material: Formal membership request from Joensuu, information from meeting in Joensuu

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Short presentation of Joensuu and a report from a meeting that Lars Moe and Knut Wålstedt had at Joensuu on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

##### **Decision:**

- The Faculty of Forest Science at the University of Joensuu is accepted as a full member of NOVA from 2008, with a membership fee of €14.000 for 2008.

**48.8 Implementation of the new NOVA strategy a) tasks for local NOVA teams;  
b) implementation at SLU; c) consideration on organisation of the Secretariat**

**a)**

Item: Tasks for local NOVA teams

Material: Oral information

Presenting: Hannah Jørgensen

Local teams must take responsibility for implementation of the strategy at home institutions. A “pilot project” is underway at NVH.

Decisions:

- The Board accepts information about local team responsibilities for strategy implementation at their home institutions.

**b)**

Item: Strategy implementation at SLU

Material: Oral information

Presenting: Lisa Sennerby Forsse

Brief information from Lisa Sennerby Forsse regarding strategy implementation at SLU.

Decisions:

- The Board accepts information about implementation of the strategy at SLU.

**c)**

Item: Considerations for the new NOVA Secretariat

Material: Written and oral information from Knut Wålstedt

Presenting: Knut Wålstedt

Knut Wålstedt will gradually retire from his work in NOVA during the spring of 2008. The new secretariat will be based at SLU for 2008 and 2009. One full time Secretary General will be employed to replace Knut Wålstedt and Hannah Jørgensen.

Decisions:

- The Board approves the plan for solving the secretarial function in NOVA.

#### **48.9 Request from Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (FAS), for membership**

Item: Request from FAS for membership

Material Letter from FAS requesting membership  
Minutes from Lars Moe and Knut Wålstedt's meeting with Aarhus

Presented by: Lars Moe and Knut Wålstedt

Short presentation of FAS. Discussion on principles for accepting this institution as a new member, and principles for fee calculation.

##### **Decisions:**

- The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Aarhus University (FAS) is granted the status of observers in KUF from 2008, and their PhD students will be prioritised after NOVA students for participation in NOVA courses. PhD students from FAS shall pay the full course fees during 2008.
- Negotiations for granting The Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Aarhus University full NOVA membership will be initiated by the EC during 2008.

#### **48.10 Other items**

Items: a) NOVA/BOVA cooperation; b) dates for meetings; c) signing of agreement in aquaculture

Material List of arguments

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Short discussion on points a) and b). Signing of the aquaculture agreement.

##### **Decisions:**

- The Board recommends that the NOVA EC (at SLU) invites the BOVA CC to the annual seminar, and that a KUF/CC meeting is arranged for the morning of the first day of the seminar. The NOVA EC will make a formal invitation.
- The NOVA/BOVA Board meeting will be discussed at the EC/CC meeting.
- The Board decides on the following dates for meetings during the next year: January 30<sup>th</sup> 2008 (LIFE); April 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 (Finland); October 21<sup>st</sup> 2008 (place not decided); January 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 (place not decided)

#### **48. 11 Information from members**

Items: Information from members

Material Oral information

Presented by: All Board members

Brief information from each Board member (see notes).

#### **48. 12 End of meeting**

The meeting ended at 16.10



## Notes

### 48.1 Opening of meeting and agenda

No additional notes

### 48.2 Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 46

Items have either been dealt with or will be discussed as later in this meeting.

Item 46.4: Local teams are presenting their activity plans for 2008 at the November KUF meeting, they will also report on the 2007 activities.

Item 46.6: The financial frame will be discussed later in this meeting.

Item 46.8: Administrative issues for intensive MSc courses will be discussed later in this meeting.

Item 46.9: Information on the ERASMUS involvements of member institutions should have been collected and be presented to the Board. Since this has slipped, it was suggested that the information will be collected and added to the minutes. Per Holten Andersen requested, however, that ERASMUS involvements should be dealt with as an item at a Board meeting. This was supported by other Board members.

### 48.3 Follow up on the activity plan 2007, incl. updated prognosis

The activity follow up was discussed in KUF at their last meeting, and they are pleased with the achievements so far this year.

#### Mature areas:

The network of agroecology is active in Europe; there was no information on the result of the ERASMUS MUNDUS application. It is considered a mature area in NOVA, and is expected to consolidate.

The aquaculture network is active, but lacks a coordinator at the moment. They were not granted ERASMUS MUNDUS funding this year. LIFE and SLU are urged to help develop this network further.

NORBE is the oldest network in NOVA, but it is not satisfactorily “up and running”. Per Holten Andersen pointed out that Aarhus (FAS) are starting up a programme within this field and might be interested in getting involved. Lena Andersson-Eklund pointed out that it is a politically important area that should be encouraged.

The UFUG network has been successful for many years. They have their leadership in Alnarp. They were not awarded ERASMUS MUNDUS funding this year. UFUG has a partnership with Høgskolen i Sogn og Fjordane in Norway.

#### New areas:

The network of apiculture is a strong network, but has some difficulty in attracting students. Cooperation is somewhat hindered by the differing interests of the partners (some are mainly focussed on traditional apiculture i.e. honey production, others are more focussed on the bee as

a model animal). Per Holten Andersen pointed out that when student recruitment is assessed one should include both MSc and PhD students.

The network of landscape analysis has run an intensive course this summer, more activity is expected.

The soil science network has been active and has a devoted leader. A course planned for January 2008 has been delayed because the course leader is not well.

The plant pathology network is well run, and received a DKR 900.000 contribution from NMR this year. They will be seeking NOVA funding for 2008. This network could be used as a model for future network activities. It was suggested that representatives from this network are invited to present their story at the 2008 NOVA seminar.

#### Intensive MSc courses

Twelve applications were received this year – this is satisfactory as the target in 2010 is to fund 20 such courses. NOVA hopes to expand within this year – and national incentives are encouraged. Teachers must be informed about funding and cooperation opportunities in NOVA, and students must be made aware of the courses. Special efforts should be made to attract students to those courses where student recruitment is low. Further attempts should also be made to fully employ the mobility windows.

#### PhD courses

Fourteen courses were planned for this year, but two were cancelled. Seventeen applications were approved for funding for 2008. KUF will work to coordinate activity within the forestry area.

#### Other issues

The agreement of aims in the new strategy was signed by the rectors/deans at the meeting, and will be printed with the new strategy.

The annual seminar will be held in Finland, most probably in Helsinki, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

#### Budget and prognosis:

The expected surplus of money at the end of the year slightly exceeds €50.000. This is partly due to the surplus from 2006, and the low expenditure of the Secretariat.

Jukka Kola raised the question of what NOVA could do to use up the surplus. It was suggested that NOVA could consider giving a greater funding to one “special” project per year. It was also commented by Anti Sukura, that it is a shame to have such a surplus when certain courses are cancelled due to insufficient funding from NOVA (€5.000 limit for intensive MSc courses). He suggested that since some courses are not getting sufficient funding, KUF should differentiate funding somewhat more depending on the need in individual courses. It was agreed that this question should be passed on to KUF.

#### **48.4 Draft activity plan 2008 from KUF**

The presented plan is not the final version – it has been based on the 2007 plan and awaits further discussions in KUF.

No new developing MSc areas have been added for 2008 – landscape analysis should be added in this group. This will be revised.

Usually developing areas come from existing PhD areas. Lena Andersson-Eklund pointed out that new areas must be anchored at the home institutions. Per Holten Andersen agreed, but emphasised that the local teams, who are represented in KUF, are responsible for this.

Local teams should define the fields where their institution can be the strong partner and bring this to KUF.

Lars Moe reminded the Board that new activities should follow the “bottom up” principle. The Board should not define new areas – they must be rooted at the faculties/institutions.

There was a question of whether scholarships are sufficient for students. Knut Wålstedt confirmed that NOVA follows the Nordplus scheme for funding student mobility, and he pointed out that teachers should not expect “fancy venues” since this increases expenses for students.

Per Holten Andersen suggested a “service package” for students; this should include travel funding, housing and other student services. He reaffirmed that a housing guarantee is necessary, and suggested that KUF should be asked to take up the issue of a student service package.

Knut Hove pointed out that the activity plan should specify targets in accordance with the strategy – and suggested that KUF should be asked to do this.

It was also pointed out that the dates for the annual seminar are wrong in the draft activity plan and that this should be changed.

#### **48.5 Draft budget 2008, incl. model for internal funding**

Board members have re-discussed the internal funding model by email correspondence. These discussions were considered an extraordinary Board meeting, and minutes from the correspondence have been prepared.

Although the expected surplus from this year’s activities is just a prognosis, Board members preferred to decide upon the figures for internal funding today so that each institution may use these figures in their budgets.

It was agreed that the budget from internal funding for 2008 will be €665.000 (reduced from € 715.000 due to the expected surplus). Individual fees will be calculated to make up this sum. Knut Wålstedt requested one week to collect corrective data on student numbers etc, and will send the exact fees to the members.

Anti Sukura and Jukka Kola wished to make some minor adjustments to registrations of student numbers and doctoral degrees from their institutions, respectively. These will be reported to Knut Wålstedt.

It was agreed that Joensuu will pay a fee calculated from the total budget, not the reduced budget, since the existing surplus may be considered the “savings” of the present NOVA members.

#### **48.6 Election of the new Chairman in a) the Board b) KUF**

Lisa Sennerby Forsse participated by telephone at this point in the meeting, and onward.

All Board members agreed on a 2 year mandate for Chairmanships for the Board and KUF. There was also agreement that these chairmen may come from the same institution. It was pointed out that although this is the probably the best way to make the Executive Committee operational it is not an ideal model. Care must be taken so that the KUF Chairman does not end up with both assignments. Lisa Sennerby Forsse assured the Board that this would not be the case.

It was also agreed that the Board should elect a vice Chairman, but the principal decision will wait.

Lisa Sennerby Forsse was elected Chairman of the Board from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.  
Lena Andersson-Eklund was elected Chairman of KUF from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

#### **48.8 Joensuu as a new NOVA member**

Joensuu has had observer status in KUF during 2007 and participated at the annual seminar.

Chairman of the Board, Lars Moe, and the Secretary General, Knut Wålstedt, visited Joensuu for talks on the 4th October. Notes from these discussions were presented.

The faculty of Forest Science at the University of Joensuu is welcomed as a full member of NOVA.

#### **48.8 Implementation of the new NOVA strategy a) Tasks for local NOVA teams; b) Implementation at SLU; c) consideration on organisation of the secretariat**

##### a) Tasks for local NOVA teams

Local teams will have responsibility for implementing the NOVA strategy at their home institutions. Board members are encouraged to “stay in touch” with their local teams during the process. Per Holten Andersen meant that this link will be maintained through the local team activity plans, which the Board members must check/accept. It is therefore vital that local teams prepare their activity plans in accordance with the strategy and that they define measurable targets. Central Coordinator Hannah Jørgensen is involved in the process of implementing the strategy at NVH, and will attempt to document the process as a “pilot project”.

##### b) Implementation at SLU

Lisa Sennerby Forsse informed the Board that the local NOVA team at SLU will be responsible for implementing the strategy at their institution. The discussion was mainly focussed on organisational aspects of the new Secretariat (see point c).

##### c) consideration on organisation of the Secretariat

Knut Wålstedt informed the Board that he will gradually retire from his position as NOVA Secretary General during the spring of 2008. He will, however, help establish a functional secretariat at SLU where a full time employee will be recruited to take on the responsibilities

of Knut Wålstedt and Hannah Jørgensen. This person will have his/her office in the same building as the rector and the prorector of SLU. It was agreed that an equivalent overlap period to Knut Wålstedt's planned overlap should be prioritised every time the Secretariat changes its base.

Hannah Jørgensen's contract ends in December this year. She has had a 50% position as central NOVA coordinator since January 2007. She emphasised that it is important to have one person in 100% employment in the secretariat, rather than two people in 50% positions. Lisa Sennerby Forsse confirmed that this will be the case when SLU has the secretariat.

There was a short discussion regarding the desired qualifications of the new Secretary General. The person should have an academic background from one of the fields represented in NOVA, and should have a research background. There was agreement that there is no gender issue for the position. Hannah Jørgensen meant that experience within teaching and tuition planning should outweigh research experience/qualifications. Knut Wålstedt pointed out that he found his experience within research to have been important during his work in NOVA. It was agreed that SLU will take responsibility for recruitment, and they intend to post an internal job-advertisement asap.

Lisa Sennerby Forsse suggested that under her Chairmanship one might consider arranging one of the three annual Board meetings as a video meeting. This has been attempted before without success, but KUF has managed to have successful video meetings, and recent improvements in communication equipment may merit a new attempt at such meetings.

Knut Hove expressed concern for the continuity of NOVA's contact with external funding bodies with the new system of a rotating Secretariat. Knut Wålstedt meant that the outward "face" of for example NMR has changed so much that this will be a minor problem.

#### **48.9 Request from Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (FAS), for membership**

The Chairman of the NOVA Board and the Secretary General were invited to Aarhus to inform about NOVA and discuss possible membership. Following this meeting, FAS has sent an application for full membership to NOVA.

It was suggested that the Board should have been informed about discussions with Aarhus prior to the meeting rather than afterwards. It was pointed out that the discussions were informal, preliminary discussions, and that no decisions have been made yet. It was also pointed out that this item had been discussed in the Board before the visit and discussion took place.

The present situation is special for Aarhus since the faculty has no BSc or MSc students yet. They do, however, have 100 PhD students. It is important to have a clear idea of what this faculty "intends to become" i.e. how many students, what degrees/courses etc they intend to offer. Fee calculation must be based on what the institution will become rather than present student numbers and activities. Since the faculty is in the process of building their programmes they may benefit from NOVA membership, and it is reasonable to expect a premium. There was agreement that FAS should be asked to pay a bulk sum initially, and that the method for calculating this must be discussed later.

#### **48.10 Other items**

It is important that NOVA continues to develop cooperation opportunities with BOVA. Lena Andersson-Eklund suggested delegates from BOVA are invited to the annual seminar. The EC will take responsibility for inviting them to this event.

New dates for Board meetings were decided on.

The agreement in aquaculture was signed by the relevant Board members.

#### **48. 11 Information from members**

HU-AF: A new university legislation will apply in Finland from 2009. It will allow greater administrative freedom, which is considered positive by the university.

HU-V: The institution will be affected by the same legislation as mentioned above. The faculty is increasing the number of students from 50 to 70 depending on funding. The faculty has been working in new facilities for 1 year, this has been good but rent is expensive taking 34% of the budget.

LIFE: The institution is in the first year of the amalgamation with the University of Copenhagen, still a lot of work with implementing the changes. The University is a partner with the government in organising the UN climate conference in 2009 and they are expecting 10.000 participants. There is an ongoing language debate concerning tuition in English at universities in Denmark– certain political forces do not want to allow English as a teaching language.

UMB: There are rumours that a committee working on the organisation of higher education in Norway will define a university to be an institution with at least 7000-10.000 students. The decision of whether NVH will be moved to Ås, has been delayed again. A similar language discussion to the one described by LIFE is going on in Norway as well. UMB has a policy of a dual language base, and one of the BSc courses is completely taught in English.

SLU: In Sweden there is an ongoing evaluation of the financing system of universities. This may lead to greater freedom for the universities. SLU is also working on their grading system; previously grades have been pass or fail, now looking to start a four grade system. There is also an ongoing dual evaluation of the veterinary programme – national and European.

LBHI: This has been an exciting year for LBHI with a large number of projects. The budget for this year was increased, they have increased the number of students and there is a new law on Island concerning higher education. In addition to this, LBHI has now been accredited and this has been a valuable process. Political changes have also taken place: The Ministry of Agriculture (under which they were placed), has merged with the Ministry of Fisheries to become the Ministry of Food. From the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 LBHI will lie under the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture – this is considered a positive change.

NSF: NSF is focussing on visibility. They have evaluated the website and sent their comments to the Secretariat. They intended to promote NOVA at the Nordic student games, but this did not happen. NSF would also like to see more intensive NOVA courses; they believe that increased availability of such courses will increase student interest and participation.

NVH: Also affected by the delayed decision on the future localisation of NVH. The school has had an evaluation of research at each of its three institutes. This was very valuable and will be beneficial in the process of implementing academic change.

#### **48. 12 End of meeting**

The meeting ended at 16.10