

Approved on 30 Mar. 2017

Minutes of Board Meeting 75

Present:

Halvor Hektoen, Deputy Chair	NMBU	for Mari Sundli Tveit, Chair
Lena Andersson-Eklund	SLU	
Marketta Sipi	HU-AF	
Elise Norberg	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen, technical problems until item 75.2, participating fully from item 75.3
Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI	
Jouni Pykäläinen	UEF-F	left after item 75.8 which was discussed after item 75.5
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Sergio Rocha	NSB	
Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA secretariat	
Not present:		
Grete Bertelsen	KU-SCIENCE	
Margot Slagboom	NSB	

75.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 74

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 75 and the minutes of board meeting 74.

75.2 Orientation issues

1. Verbal presentation by the Deputy Chair

The Chair of NOVA, Mari Sundli Tveit, has until the end of 2016 left the chairmanship of NOVA to Deputy Chair Halvor Hektoen due to a reorganisation at NMBU. From 1 January 2017, NMBU will have two pro-rectors. One of them will take on the chairmanship until further notice.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Verbal presentation by the secretariat

1. Applications for digital courses

As a follow-up from the strategy meeting in June 2016 on digitalisation of teaching in higher education, the secretariat proposed that NOVA could open up for a new funding scheme: NOVA digital courses, including NOVA MOOCs. The principal reasons for the proposal were to follow the development in the university sector with more digital courses, as well as to try to increase the number of NOVA courses and NOVA students attending the courses. Digital courses probably require less funding than on-site courses which would make it possible to fund more courses. In addition, PhD students are requesting more digital courses. Many PhD students have obligations which make it difficult to leave for a week's course.

Resolution:

The Board wished that digitalisation of courses should be discussed at the 2017 NOVA strategy seminar.

2. Proposal for a change of rules for budget items concerning costs for student meals and materials

The secretariat proposed that rules concerning costs for student meals and materials were changed to simplify and streamline the application, and to reduce the time spent on administration for teachers and the secretariat.

Resolution:

The Board decided that the rules concerning costs for student meals and materials should remain as they are to keep the incentive for having students from other NOVA institutions than the home institution on NOVA courses.

3. Incentive money

The secretariat asked for the Board's advice on whether the incentive money of EUR 2 500 could be granted PhD courses that are approved by the Board, but which are cancelled. The organisers of a PhD course which was cancelled earlier in 2016, are enquiring whether they can receive some funding for organisational costs they had prior to the course was cancelled. The Board approved the introduction of incentive money of EUR 2 500 to be used on administration for PhD courses, regardless of actual cost, at board meeting 69 (resolution 69.3.2). In the resolution, it says that this applies for courses applied for after 1 Jan. 2015. In the budget template, the secretariat has tried to explain that the rule only concerns approved courses by writing that "The incentive grant will only be given to successful NOVA PhD course applications applied for after Jan. 2015".

Resolution:

The Board decided that PhD courses that are cancelled can receive funding of actual costs prior to the cancellation of the course. The maximum amount covered is EUR 2 500.

4. External funding

The NOVA Chair has sent a letter to the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) concerning funding of NOVA's activities, as informed in item 74.3.1. The NCM has replied that it is unfortunately not possible for them to provide any funding for NOVA now. They are referring to funding schemes from NordForsk and the Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ).

The secretariat is monitoring calls for external funding. Currently there is a call from NordForsk on Nordic University Hubs. The secretariat will contact NordForsk to assess NOVA's possibilities to receive such funding.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the secretariat.

75.3 KU-SCIENCE's withdrawal from NOVA

In a letter of 24 June 2016, the Dean of KU-SCIENCE informed the NOVA Chair of his institution withdrawing from NOVA. The Board received information on KU-SCIENCE's decision in an email of 1 July 2016.

Resolution:

The Board took note of KU-SCIENCE's decision to withdraw from NOVA. The withdrawal applies from 1 January 2017. The rules approved in decision 72.3.3 on withdrawal from NOVA apply.

75.4 Rotating secretariat: next chair, and coordination of the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network

NMBU's current period as chair of NOVA and host of the NOVA secretariat is from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016. The institution hosting the secretariat has also been responsible for coordination of the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network. The discussions concerning the future host of the secretariat for 2017-2019 started at board meeting 72 in December 2015. Based on the recent hosts, it was proposed that the next secretariat should be in Denmark. KU-SCIENCE was uncertain whether it would be able to attend to these functions due to the current situation at KU. As an effort to distribute the workload in the network in the next period, NMBU asked SLU if they could take over the coordination of the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network. At NOVA board meeting 74, on 8 June 2016, the Board gave KU-SCIENCE the deadline of 30 June 2016 to respond whether they would take on these tasks. If KU-SCIENCE were not able to do that, the Board proposed that NMBU would take over the secretariat for the next period (resolution 74.7.2). As KU-SCIENCE withdrew from NOVA (cf. item 75.2.1), they were no longer relevant as hosts of the secretarial functions. In line with the Board's proposal at board meeting 74, the Rector of NMBU sent an email to the Board stating that NMBU

would host the secretariat from 2017-2019. SLU has agreed to host the secretariat of the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network for the next period 2017-2020. The network follows the academic year. SLU will take on the coordination formally on 15 June 2017. However, as usual, there will be some overlap between the old and the new coordinator from January to September/ October 2017.

Resolution:

In line with resolution 74.7.2, the Board agreed that for the next period, 2017-2019, NMBU will host the NOVA secretariat. The Board also agreed that SLU will coordinate the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network from 2017-2020.

75.5 Accounts by October 2016 and approval of budget 2017

Table one contains an overview of accounts 2015, accounts by the end of October 2016, and the approved budgets for 2016 and 2017. As KU-SCIENCE has withdrawn from NOVA from 1 Jan. 2017, the already approved member fee percentages for 2017 (resolution 74.5.4) were recalculated. This also led to a change in the member fee from the estimated fee presented to the Board in item 74.5. The new approved member fee percentages for 2017 are available in table two, whereas table three presents the final calculated member fee for 2017.

Table 1: Budget 2017 (numbers in 1000 EUR)

	31.12.2014	31.12.2015	31.12.2015	31.12.2016
BALANCE (equity)	351	330	330	250
	Accounts 2015	Accounts by 25 Oct. 2016	Revised budget 2016 by 8 Jun. 2016	Budget 2017
<u>INCOME</u>				
Total member fees	161	170	166	280
External funding SNS	0	3	10	10
External funding NKJ	21	0		
INCOME total	182	173	176	290
<u>COSTS</u>				
<i>Activities</i>				
PhD courses internal funding	86	114	233	383
PhD courses external funding	10	17	27	10
Other projects	25	11	50	60
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	8	0	25	15
NSB	3	2	7	7
Strategy seminar	6	4	10	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>485</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>				
Salaries	30	26	35,5	35,5
Travels	2	0	5	5
Other	0	1	15	15
Project: application platform and website (incl. salaries in 2015)	30	0	15	
Administration, external funding NKJ				
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>56</i>
COSTS total	201	176	423	541
RESULT	-20	-3	-247	-250
BALANCE (equity)	330	328	84	0
Estimated costs after 25 Oct. 2016		-78		

Table 2: Member fee percentages 2017

	Member fee percentage 2014-15	Member fee percentage 2016	Percent of member fee 2016	Old approved member fee percentage 2017 (\$74.5.4, with KU- SCIENCE)	Av. percentage of degrees 2009-14 (with KU- SCIENCE)	Av. percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2010-14 (with KU- SCIENCE)	New approved member fee percentage 2017 (without KU- SCIENCE)	Av. percentage of degrees 2009-14 (without KU- SCIENCE)	Av. percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2010-14 (without KU- SCIENCE)
AU-ST	11,6 %	11,41 %	12,20 %	12,18 %	11,22 %	13,14 %	14,45 %	14,36 %	14,55 %
HU-AF	13,8 %	14,10 %	15,07 %	14,96 %	10,25 %	19,66 %	17,41 %	13,07 %	21,74 %
HU-V	4,5 %	5,64 %	6,03 %	5,94 %	3,45 %	8,43 %	6,80 %	4,41 %	9,19 %
UEF-F	3,7 %	3,04 %	3,25 %	3,25 %	2,26 %	4,24 %	3,82 %	2,88 %	4,75 %
LBHI	0,7 %	0,53 %	0,57 %	0,56 %	0,24 %	0,88 %	0,64 %	0,30 %	0,98 %
KU-SCIENCE	14,3 %	14,42 %	15,41 %	15,58 %	21,59 %	9,56 %	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
KU-HEALTH	7,2 %	6,44 %	0,00 %	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NMBU	18,2 %	19,23 %	20,56 %	20,61 %	23,69 %	17,53 %	24,77 %	30,16 %	19,38 %
SLU	26,0 %	25,18 %	26,92 %	26,93 %	27,31 %	26,56 %	32,11 %	34,83 %	29,40 %
TOTAL	100,0 %	99,99 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %	100,00 %

Table two presents the recalculated member fee percentages for 2017 (column "New approved member fee percentage 2017 (without KU-SCIENCE)"), taking into account KU-SCIENCE's withdrawal from NOVA from 1 January 2017. KU-SCIENCE will not be charged any member fee for 2017. The member fee percentage for 2017 is calculated as 50% of average percentage of degrees produced in 2009-2014 plus 50% of average percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2010-2014.

Notes:

KU-HEALTH: The institution withdrew from NOVA from 1 January 2016. No member fee was collected from it in 2016. The remaining member institutions have paid the originally calculated member fee for 2016, cf. resolution 72.5.3.

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 the two 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 institutions are used after these periods.

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.

Table 3: Member fee 2015, 2016 and 2017

	Member fee 2015 (50%)	Member fee 2016 (50%)	Estimated member fee 2017 (8 June 2016, 100%)	Approved member fee 2017 (100%)
AU-ST	20590	20253	40429	40510
HU-AF	24495	25028	49663	48791
HU-V	7987,5	10011	19723	19057
UEF-F	6567,5	5396	10787	10694
LBHI	1242,5	941	1855	1796
KU-SCIENCE	25442	25596	51717	N.A.
KU-HEALTH	12721	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NMBU	32305	34133	68413	69424
SLU	46150	44695	89414	90012
TOTAL	177500	166051	332000	280283

Resolutions:

1. The Board noted the information regarding the result and balance by 25 October 2016.
2. The Board approved the budget for 2017.
3. The member fee percentages for 2017 were recalculated due to KU-SCIENCE's withdrawal from NOVA from 1 January 2017. The member fee percentages for 2017 will be as listed in the column "new approved member fee percentage 2017 (without KU-SCIENCE)" in table two.
4. The member fee for 2017 will be as presented in the column "approved member fee 2017" in table three.

75.6 Decision on applications submitted in the second round of the open call 2016

Resolutions:

The resolutions are presented in the column "approved grant" in the table on the next page.

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 2016, 3rd round</i>									
<i>Courses in course series, approved in earlier calls and presented for final approval in this call</i>									
1	Framework for analysis and intervention: Cases in Kenya and Denmark*	PhD course in PhD course series	2017	KU-SCIENCE	OK			20578+2500	20578+2500
2	Stacking biodiversity benefits for sustainable IPM, part of course series Biodiversity and integrated pest management**	PhD course in PhD course series	2017	KU-SCIENCE	OK			10817	10817
3	Sustainable Insect management and disease control based on RNAi technology ***	Master's course in series	2017	HU-AF	OK			6522	6522
4	Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine****	Master's course in series	2017	NMBU	See eval.			15000+ guarantee of 15000	15000+ guarantee of 10000
<i>New applications in NOVA open call 2016, 3rd round</i>									
5	GIS based analysis of ecosystem services	PhD course	2017	UEF-F	OK	17444+2500	19944	17444+2500	17444+2500
6	Wood Biology and Biotechnology	PhD course	2017	SLU	OK	17200+2500	19700	17200+2500	17200+2500
7	State of the art in international forest policy	PhD course	2017	SLU	OK	14194+2500	16694	14194+2500	14194+2500
8	Governance at the 'edge' of the State: political subjectivity and citizenship	PhD course	2017	SLU	OK	17178+2500	19678	17178+2500	17178+2500
9	Land Use Change and Rural-Urban Transformation in the Global South	PhD course	2017	KU-SCIENCE	See eval.	14700+2500	17200	0	0
10	Biological consequences of selection	PhD course	2017	AU-ST	OK	12922+2500	15422	12922+2500	12922+2500
11	Advanced Imaging Procedures in Canine Clinical Veterinary Science	PhD course	2017	HU-V	OK	14306+2500	16806	14306+2500	14306+2500
12	Molecular Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	PhD course	2017	HU-V	OK	12178+2500	14678	12178+2500	12178+2500
13	Linking biogeochemistry to the soil food web	PhD course	2017	KU-SCIENCE	See eval.	12556+2500	15056	0	0
14	Innovation systems in the bioeconomy	PhD course	2017	HU-AF	OK	10939+2500	13439	10939+2500	10939+2500
15	Design of Genetic Improvement Programs	PhD course	2017	AU-ST	OK	9378+2500	11878	9378+2500	9378+2500
16	Vethics - ethical challenges for veterinarians in One World	PhD course	2017	SLU	See eval.	23984+2500	26484	20386+2500	20386+2500
17	Plant pathology with a Nordic dimension*****	PhD course series			OK				
17.1	Biological Control: Microbial interactions for improved plant health	PhD course in PhD course series	2017	SLU	OK	17122+2500	19622	17122+2500	17122+2500
17.2	Biotrophy in plant pathogens – from recognition to ecology	PhD course in PhD course series	2018	AU-ST	OK	17122+2500	19622	17122+2500	17122+2500
17.3	Epidemiology and populations genetics	PhD course in PhD course series	2019	NMBU	OK	17122+2500	19622	17122+2500	17122+2500
17.4	Secondary metabolites in plant resistance and pathogen virulence	PhD course in PhD course series	2020	HU-AF	OK	17122+2500	19622	17122+2500	17122+2500
18	Climate change entomology in the North*****	PhD course series			OK				
18.1	Invasive pest threats in the North	PhD course in PhD course series	2017	HU-AF	OK	16444+2500	18944	16444+2500	16444+2500
18.2	Arctic entomology under climate change	PhD course in PhD course series	2018	LBHI	OK	18667+2500	21167	18667+2500	18667+2500
18.3	Functional biodiversity for biocontrol and pollination – underlying mechanisms in crops	PhD course in PhD course series	2019	SLU	OK	19556+2500	22056	19556+2500	19556+2500
Total all applications, NOVA open call 2016, 3rd round							418051	385795	380795
Total new applications for PhD courses running in 2017, NOVA open call 2016, 3rd round							245545	209691	209691
Max total applications for PhD courses running in 2017							279440	243586	243586
Max total applications for Master's courses running in 2017								36522	31522
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, running in 2017</i>									
<i>PhD courses</i>									
	Nordic PhD Course Plant Breeding: Adaptation	PhD course	2017	SLU		22578+2500	25078	19191+2500	19191+2500
	Environmental Justice	PhD course	2017	KU-SCIENCE		17844+2500	20344	17844+2500	17844+2500
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2017									42035
<i>Master's courses</i>									
	Feed ration planning in dairy cattle herds	Master's course	2017	AU-ST		16023	16023	15000	15000
Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2017									15000
Total so far for PhD courses running in 2017							321475	285621	285621
Total so far for Master's courses running in 2017								51522	46522

*Decision on the course series Environmental collaboration and conflict resolution:

- Course 2 (2017) was granted funding of maximum EUR 20 578 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The funding of a one-day's excursion, which is included in the maximum grant, is conditioned that the excursion takes place in the five-day's on-site course.

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

- Course 3 (2017): maximum EUR 10 817 is granted.

*** Decision on the course series Future trends in sustainable plant protection: RNAi technology for insects:

- Course 2 (2017): maximum EUR 6 522 is granted.

**** Decision on the course series Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine:

- Course 3 (2017): was granted funding of maximum EUR 15 000 flat rate plus an additional guarantee of EUR 10 000 if the course does not receive funding from Nordplus. The guarantee is conditioned that the applicant also applies for funding from Nordplus. The guarantee can apply for costs that are not covered by NOVA according to NOVA's rules.

This guarantee is an exceptional case and shall not set any precedent in NOVA.

***** Decision on the course series Plant pathology with a Nordic dimension:

- Course 1 (2017) was granted funding of maximum EUR 17 122 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500.

- Course 2 (2018) was granted funding of maximum EUR 17 122 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The NOVA funding of the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget.

- Course 3 (2019) was granted funding of maximum EUR 17 122 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The NOVA funding of the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget.

- Course 4 (2020) was granted funding of maximum EUR 17 122 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The NOVA funding of the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget.

***** Decision on the course series Climate change entomology in the North:

- Course 1 (2017) was granted funding of maximum EUR 16 444 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500.

- Course 2 (2018) was granted funding of maximum EUR 18 667 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The NOVA funding of the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget.

- Course 3 (2019) was granted funding of maximum EUR 19 556 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500. The NOVA funding of the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget.

75.7 Minimum number of students on NOVA courses

From 2015, there has been a minimum requirement of 12 NOVA students on a NOVA course. Courses that receive a considerable amount of external funding can receive funding from NOVA even though the number of NOVA students is too low (cf. resolution 71.5.2). Experience shows that is difficult to attract enough NOVA students to many courses. At board meeting 72, the secretariat asked for the Board's advice on how to treat these cases and if flexibility could be applied. The issue was to be dealt with individually, cf. resolution 72.12.2. The matter was also discussed at board meeting 74 (items 74.2.2.4 and 74.9.2). The Board suggested that the requirement could apply for registered students, not attending students, to give the course organisers more predictability. The Board asked the secretariat to present a proposal on how to handle this issue for board meeting 75.

Resolutions:

On combined PhD and Master's courses, there should be flexibility regarding the minimum number of NOVA students. The Board wished to see more experience with how this is working.

1. *There should be minimum 10 registered and qualified NOVA students on a NOVA course for the course to be held.*
2. *Resolution 71.5.2 will still apply: Courses that receive a considerable amount of external funding can receive funding from NOVA even though the number of NOVA students is too low.*

75.8 Meeting dates 2017

There are three board meetings a year. One meeting is a face-to-face meeting in connection with the annual NOVA strategy seminar. The other two are video meetings. The first video meeting is normally in March, the strategy seminar in June, and the last video meeting in November/December. According to the NOVA Strategy 2014-2017, there should be a strategy seminar each year. As the current strategy will expire after 2017, a new strategy shall be the main topic at this seminar in 2017. UEF-F agreed to host the strategy meeting and proposed bioeconomy as an additional topic for the seminar. In January 2017, the secretariat will send out doodles to the board members to find dates for the board meetings and strategy meeting in 2017. The Chair has decided that the deadline in the first round of the open call 2017 will be 13 February 2017. The first board meeting in 2017 can therefore take place from 20 March 2017 due to the application processing time.

Resolution:

The NOVA strategy seminar 2017 will be hosted by UEF-F.

75.9 News from the member institutions

LBHI:

The University is still expecting budget cuts next year of around 6%. The politicians are trying to put together a new government. The political plans are uncertain.

HU-AF:

The University Board has decided upon a new structure from 2018. The faculties will continue as such. However, there will not be any departments. They will have to find a new structure. There is a reform of degree programs at the University. There will be less programmes on Bachelor's and Master's level. For HU-AF, there will be 4 programmes on Bachelor's level and 7 on Master's level from the autumn 2017.

HU-V:

The university services, including the administration, have been centralised. As the budget has been cut, there has also been a reduction in the number of employees in the administration. The University is therefore in a learning phase on how to apply the new system and function with less staff. The veterinary medicine programme will remain the same with 3+3 years, after the reform of the educational system.

SLU:

The new Deputy Vice-Chancellor at SLU, Karin Holmgren, will take over as SLU's representative on the NOVA Board from 1 January 2017. Lena Andersson-Eklund will stay as her deputy on the NOVA Board for a year.

AU-ST:

The Faculty has experienced a lot of cut backs in the last years. The staff has been reduced. There are still some financial issues, and the Faculty had to lay off a few people this autumn.

Bente Broch Sørensen, PhD administrator in the AU-ST PhD administration, has taken over as new local NOVA coordinator. Mette Glerup Thomsen will continue as local Nordplus coordinator.

NSB:

The NSB had a phone meeting on 24 November 2016. The NSB representatives have agreed that they will contribute to the marketing of NOVA courses by spreading information on the courses. The NSB has discussed the difficulties some PhD students (i.e. in Finland) are experiencing to receive travel grants to attend a NOVA course. The NSB is requesting more NOVA courses in methodology, more lab courses and more hands-on courses.

Margot Slagboom (AU-ST) is the new Chair of the NSB.

NMBU:

The University will reorganise again in 2017. From 1 January 2017, NMBU will be a two-level university with seven faculties. The discussions leading to this resolution have been troublesome. However, the Pro-Rector thinks that the new organisation will be better for the University. The building of new facilities is moving forward as it should.

UEF-F:

The representative from UEF-F had left the meeting before this item.

75.10 Other issues

No other issues were raised.