

Approved on 9 June 2017

Minutes of Board Meeting 76

Present:

| | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Elin Børrud, Chair | NMBU | |
| Karin Holmgren | SLU | |
| Marketta Sipi | HU-AF | |
| Elise Norberg | AU-ST | for Jes Madsen |
| Brita Berglund | LBHI | for Auður Magnúsdóttir |
| Jouni Pykäläinen | UEF-F | |
| Olli Peltoniemi | HU-V | for Antti Sukura |
| Margot Slagboom | NSB | |
| Sabina Sibicic | NSB | |

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|------------------------|------------------|
| Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland | NOVA secretariat |
| Iben N. Andersen | NMBU |

76.1 NOVA Board 2017-2019 – Approval of the appointed board members

Resolution:

Each member is appointed by its respective NOVA member institution, and the Board approved the appointment of the members.

NOVA Board 2017 – 2019

| Member institution | Regular Board member | Substitute member |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) | NOVA Chair Pro-rector for Education Elin Børrud elin.borrud@nmbu.no | Deputy Chair Pro-rector for Research Halvor Hektoen halvor.hektoen@nmbu.no |
| University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences (UEF-F) | Head of School Jouni Pykalainen jouni.pykalainen@uef.fi | Vice Head of School Jukka Malinen jukka.malinen@uef.fi |
| University of Helsinki, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (HU-V) | Dean Antti Sukura antti.sukura@helsinki.fi | Vice Dean Olli Peltoniemi olli.peltoniemi@helsinki.fi |
| University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry (HU-AF) | Dean Marketta Sipi marketta.sipi@helsinki.fi | Vice Dean for Research Jari Valkonen jari.valkonen@helsinki.fi |
| Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) | Deputy Vice-Chancellor Karin Holmgren karin.holmgren@slu.se | Senior Adviser Lena Andersson-Eklund lena.andersson-eklund@slu.se |
| Agricultural University of Iceland (LBHI) | Dean of Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Auður Magnúsdóttir audur@lbhi.is | Head of Division of Education and Quality Management Brita Berglund brita@lbhi.is |
| Aarhus University, Faculty of Science and Technology (AU-ST) | Vice-Dean Jes Madsen jesm@phys.au.dk | Senior Researcher Elise Norberg elise.norberg@agrsci.dk |
| NOVA Student Board (NSB) | Chair Margot Slagboom margotslagboom@mbg.au.dk | Vice-Chair Hanna Castro hanna.castro@helsinki.fi |
| NOVA Student Board (NSB) | NSB Member Sabina Sibic sabina.sibic@nmbu.no | NSB Member Sophia Renes sophia.renes@slu.se |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NOVA Secretariat | Central NOVA Coordinator Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland ingrid.aksnes.hjetland@nmbu.no | Head of Section, International Relations & Student Services Iben Andersen iben.andersen@nmbu.no |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

76.2 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 75

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 76 and the minutes of board meeting 74.

76.3 Orientation issues

1. Meeting dates 2017

There are three board meetings a year. One meeting is a face-to-face meeting in connection with the annual strategy seminar. The other two are video meetings. Doodles have been sent out to schedule meeting dates.

Decided meeting dates for the first half of 2017:

1. Board meeting, 30 March 2017 at 11 am – 1 pm (Scandinavian time), video
2. NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017 with board meeting, 8-9 June, Joensuu/Koli, Finland

The Secretariat will send out a new doodle in August to schedule a date for the board meeting in November /December 2017. The deadline in the third round of the Open Call 2017 will be 16 October 2017. The last board meeting in 2017 can therefore take place from 20 November 2017 due to the application processing time.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Planning of the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017

The NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017 will be hosted by UEF-F and take place on 8-9 June in Joensuu and Koli, Finland. NOVA and NSB board members, local NOVA coordinators, the central Nordplus coordinator and the central NOVA coordinator will be invited. The new NOVA Strategy 2018-2021 will be the main topic. Bioeconomy will be another.

Jouni Pykäläinen, NOVA board member from UEF-F, gave an orientation on the preliminary schedule. The main points on the agenda on day 1 will be the seminar on the new strategy and a workshop on bioeconomy. On day 2, there will be meetings for the NSB, the NOVA Board and the local NOVA coordinators.

The Secretariat presented the framework for the part of the seminar concerning the new strategy. The Secretariat is planning to draft a new strategy before the seminar. The draft will be distributed to the Board with the documents to the Board meeting, as well as to the other participants at the seminar. At the seminar, there will be group discussions on topics concerning the new strategy and a summing up of the discussions. If there is time, from the summing up and the notes from the group discussions, the Secretariat will try to make a revised draft strategy to the board meeting on 9 June. Possible topics to be discussed are: digital courses including MOOCs, competence enhancer courses, joint Nordic course planning, dissemination of

course information, financing of PhD students' travel and accommodation costs on PhD courses. Please send topics that you would like to discuss to the Secretariat.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

3. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

1. External funding – follow-up from board meeting 75

The Secretariat has contacted NordForsk to assess NOVA's possibilities to apply for funding in the call "Nordic University Hubs". In the Secretariat's opinion, the requirements in the call are difficult to meet for NOVA.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

76.4 End of year accounts 2016 and accounts by March 2017

Result and balance 2016 and accounts by March 2017 (numbers in 1000 EUR)

| | 31.12.2013 | 31.12.2014 | 31.12.2015 | 31.12.2015 | 31.12.2016 | 31.12.2016 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| BALANCE (equity) | 326 | 351 | 330 | 330 | 305 | 305 |

| | Accounts 2014 | Accounts 2015 | Accounts 2016 | Budget 2016 | Accounts Feb. 2017 | Budget 2017 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | | | | |
| Total member fees | 152 | 161 | 170 | 166 | 0 | 280 |
| External funding SNS | 10 | 0 | 19 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| External funding NKJ | | 21 | 0 | | 0 | |
| INCOME total | 162 | 182 | 190 | 176 | 0 | 290 |
| <u>COSTS</u> | | | | | | |
| <i>Activities</i> | | | | | | |
| PhD courses internal funding | 58 | 86 | 122 | 233 | 17 | 383 |
| PhD courses external funding | 2 | 10 | 21 | 27 | 0 | 10 |
| Other projects | 15 | 25 | 15 | 50 | 0 | 60 |
| NOVA-guarantee and N+ support | 5 | 8 | 4 | 25 | 1 | 15 |
| NSB | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Strategy seminar | 2 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| <i>Activities total</i> | <i>83</i> | <i>139</i> | <i>165</i> | <i>352</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>485</i> |
| <i>Secretariat</i> | | | | | | |
| Salaries* | 43 | 30 | 33 | 35,5 | 6 | 35,5 |
| Travels | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Other | 10 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 0 | 15 |
| Project: application platform and website (incl. salaries) | 0 | 30 | 15 | 15 | - | - |
| <i>Secretariat total</i> | <i>55</i> | <i>63</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>71</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>56</i> |
| COSTS total | 138 | 201 | 215 | 423 | 23 | 541 |
| RESULT | 24 | -20 | -26 | -247 | -23 | -250 |
| BALANCE (equity) | 351 | 330 | 305 | 84 | 281 | 55 |

*Some of the salary for 2016 was financed by NKJ as administration costs for the PhD course in the reindeer industry.

Resolutions:

1. The Board approved the presented final accounts for 2016 and noted the information on the accounts by Feb. 2017.

2. *At board meeting 76 (9 June 2017), the 2017 budget might be revised to take into account possible adjustments in the activity level. As a result of that, the member fee for 2017 might be reduced.*

76.5 Annual report 2016

The NOVA Annual Report and Accounts 2016 shows that despite the increase in the number of PhD courses from 12 to 15 courses, the activity level is still low compared to NOVA's ambition of 25-30 PhD courses a year. The number of NOVA students and the total number of students on PhD courses increased considerably in 2016. The network organised one Master's course. KU-HEALTH and KU-SCIENCE have withdrawn from the network, from 1 Jan. 2016 and 1 Jan. 2017, respectively. The background for this is financial issues at KU. Thus, the pool of teachers who can apply for organising courses and the NOVA student pool is reduced. The network continued focusing on augmenting the number of PhD courses, while continuing simplifying and streamlining the work. From the figures for 2016, it seems likely that the measures taken since 2014 to increase the number of applications and courses have had an effect. It also seems that applications for course series are becoming more popular. It continued to be challenging for organisers to reach the minimum requirement of 12 NOVA students on courses. As a consequence, in November 2016, the Board approved a new student requirement (10 registered and qualified NOVA students). It has proven challenging to find external funding for NOVA's activities. No new agreements on external funding were made in 2016. It is still important that all involved parties promote NOVA and the courses actively to increase the number of applications and assure that approved courses are held.

Resolution:

The Board approved the NOVA Annual Report and Accounts 2016.

76.6 Decision on applications submitted in the first round of the open call 2017

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 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Applications in NOVA open call 2017, 1st round</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| | Introduction to Scientific Programming & Simulation* | PhD course | 2017 | SLU | See eval. | 9000+2500 | 11500 | | 9000+2500 |
| 2 | Future plant protection | PhD course | 2018 | SLU | OK | 6849+2500 | 9349 | 6849+2500 | 6849+2500 |
| 3 | Novel optimization methods for economic modelling** | PhD course | 2017 | HU-AF | See eval. | 8722+2500 | 11222 | | 8722+2500 |
| 4 | Phenotyping technologies in plant-environment interactions*** | PhD course series | | | OK | | | | |
| 4.1 | Integrated analysis of omics data | PhD course in course series | 2018 | SLU | OK | 15767+2500 | 18267 | 15767+2500 | 15767+2500 |
| 4.2 | Image based phenotyping | PhD course in course series | 2019 | HU-AF | OK | 14156+2500 | 16656 | 14156+2500 | 14156+2500 |
| 4.3 | High throughput field phenotyping | PhD course in course series | 2020 | NMBU | OK | 19767+2500 | 22267 | 19767+2500 | 19767+2500 |
| 4.4 | Omics technologies in phenotyping | PhD course in course series | 2021 | LBHI | OK | 14711+2500 | 17211 | 14711+2500 | 14711+2500 |
| Total all applications, NOVA open call 2016, 3rd round | | | | | | | 106472 | | 106472 |
| Max total applications for PhD courses running in 2017 | | | | | | | 22722 | | 22722 |
| <u>Courses approved in earlier calls, running in 2017</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>PhD courses</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| | 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 |
| | Framework for analysis and intervention: Cases in Kenya and Denmark**** | PhD course in PhD course series | 2017 | KU-SCIENCE | | | | 20578+2500 | 20578+2500 |
| | Stacking biodiversity benefits for sustainable IPM, part of course series Biodiversity and integrated pest management***** | PhD course in PhD course series | 2017 | KU-SCIENCE | | | | 10817 | 10817 |
| | GIS based analysis of ecosystem services | PhD course | 2017 | UEF-F | | 17444+2500 | 19944 | 17444+2500 | 17444+2500 |
| | Wood Biology and Biotechnology | PhD course | 2017 | SLU | | 17200+2500 | 19700 | 17200+2500 | 17200+2500 |
| | State of the art in international forest policy | PhD course | 2017 | SLU | | 14194+2500 | 16694 | 14194+2500 | 14194+2500 |
| | Governance at the 'edge' of the State: political subjectivity and citizenship | PhD course | 2017 | SLU | | 17178+2500 | 19678 | 17178+2500 | 17178+2500 |
| | Biological consequences of selection | PhD course - combined course | 2017 | AU-ST | | 12922+2500 | 15422 | 12922+2500 | 12922+2500 |
| | Advanced Imaging Procedures in Canine Clinical Veterinary Science | PhD course | 2017 | HU-V | | 14306+2500 | 16806 | 14306+2500 | 14306+2500 |
| | Molecular Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases | PhD course | 2017 | HU-V | | 12178+2500 | 14678 | 12178+2500 | 12178+2500 |
| | Innovation systems in the bioeconomy | PhD course | 2017 | HU-AF | | 10939+2500 | 13439 | 10939+2500 | 10939+2500 |
| | Design of Genetic Improvement Programs | PhD course | 2017 | AU-ST | | 9378+2500 | 11878 | 9378+2500 | 9378+2500 |
| | Vethics - ethical challenges for veterinarians in One World | PhD course | 2017 | SLU | | 23984+2500 | 26484 | 20386+2500 | 20386+2500 |
| | Biological Control: Microbial interactions for improved plant health***** | PhD course in PhD course series | 2017 | SLU | | 17122+2500 | 19622 | 17122+2500 | 17122+2500 |
| | Invasive pest threats in the North***** | PhD course in PhD course series | 2017 | HU-AF | | 16444+2500 | 18944 | 16444+2500 | 16444+2500 |
| Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses running in 2017 | | | | | | | | | 285621 |
| <u>Master's courses</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| | Feed ration planning in dairy cattle herds | Master's course | 2017 | AU-ST | | 16023 | 16023 | 15000 | 15000 |
| | Sustainable Insect management and disease control based on RNAi technology ***** | Master's course in series | 2017 | HU-AF | | | | 6522 | 6522 |
| | Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine***** | Master's course in series | 2017 | NMBU | | | | 15000+ guarantee of 15000 | 15000+ guarantee of 10000 |
| | Biological consequences of selection | Master's course - combined course | 2017 | NMBU | | 5000 | | 5000 | 5000 |
| Total Master's courses approved earlier, courses running in 2017 | | | | | | | | | 51522 |
| Total for PhD courses running in 2017 | | | | | | | 308343 | | 308343 |
| Total so far for Master's courses running in 2017 | | | | | | | | | 51522 |

*Decision: Despite lacking joint Nordic course planning, the course was granted funding of maximum EUR 9 000 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500, conditioned that future applications meet the requirements: The Board would like to see more NOVA collaboration. The applicants are encouraged to look outside their discipline for possible cooperation between NOVA teaching staff.

**Decision: Despite lacking joint Nordic course planning, the course was granted funding of maximum EUR 8 722 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500, conditioned that future applications meet the requirements: The Board would like to see more NOVA collaboration. The applicants are encouraged to look outside their discipline for possible cooperation between NOVA teaching staff.

***Decision on the course series Pehnotyping technologies in plant-environment interactions:

- Course 1 (2018) was granted funding of maximum EUR 15 767 plus an incentive grant to be used on administration of EUR 2 500.
- Course 2 (2019) was granted funding of maximum EUR 14 156 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 (2020) was granted funding of maximum EUR 19 767 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 (2021) was granted funding of maximum EUR 14 711 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 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 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.

***** 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.

***** 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.

76.7 News from the member institutions

UEF-F:

UEF-F is starting collaborating with new partners on teaching ICT.

HU-V:

No news.

HU-AF:

The reorganisation of the University is affecting the operational structure at the Faculty. They are planning a new operational structure as there should only be one accountable unit (the Faculty) by the beginning of 2018. Now, there are five departments.

The Faculty is reducing the number of degree programmes. From the autumn 2017, there will be four Bachelor's programmes and seven Master's programmes.

SLU:

Ylva Hillbur is SLU's new Pro-Vice-Chancellor in International Relations. This is a new position. SLU's NOVA board member will work with her on international issues, including NOVA.

SLU is slowly taking over the hosting of the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network which they will formally take over from 15 June 2017. On 1 Mar. 2017, the network submitted an application to Nordplus for the academic year 2017/2018. The current central coordinator, will visit SLU this spring for knowledge transfer.

LBHI:

The previous NOVA board member, Björn Þorsteinsson, is withdrawing as a Rector of LBHI. He will continue as a Professor at the University. LBHI hopes to have a new Rector by the autumn 2017. In 2017, the economy of the University has improved as it received more funding than expected. LBHI is in a better situation now than for many years. The University is still implementing the new Icelandic university regulations which came in 2016. Two faculties have merged to one. They are reviewing the curriculum, different processes etc.

AU-ST:

No news.

NSB:

NSB had a meeting on 29 Mar. 2017. The NSB is quite pleased with the number of courses. It is still difficult for students from UEF-F to participate on NOVA courses as there is practically no funding available for travel.

NMBU:

From 1 Jan. 2017, there are seven faculties at NMBU and two pro-rectors. Currently, NMBU is in the process of employing new deans and pro-rectors. The NMBU Board has hired the current Rector Mari Sundli Tveit as Rector for the period 2017-2021.

76.8 Other issues

No other issues were raised.