

Approved on 11 Dec. 2017

Minutes of Board Meeting 77

Present:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--------------------|
| Halvor Hektoen, Deputy Chair | NMBU | for Elin Børrud |
| Lena Andersson Eklund | SLU | for Karin Holmgren |
| Marketta Sipi | HU-AF | |
| Auður Magnúsdóttir | LBHI | |
| Jouni Pykäläinen | UEF-F | |
| Antti Sukura | HU-V | |
| Margot Slagboom | NSB | |
| Sabina Sibicic | NSB | |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland | NOVA Secretariat |
| Iben N. Andersen | NMBU |
| Ole-Jørgen Torp | NMBU |

Not present:

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Jes Madsen | AU-ST |
|------------|-------|

77.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 77

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 77 and the minutes of board meeting 76.

77.2 Orientation issues

1. Presentation of decisions made by the Chair June 2016 – May 2017

The following decision on projects not exceeding EUR 5 000 was made in the period June 2016 to May 2017:

| No | Head applicant | Project title | Type of project | Project end date | Grant in EUR |
|----|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | Tonje Nore (central Nordplus coordinator) | NOVA BOVA Nordplus Network Meeting at SLU | Other project | 31 Oct. 2016 | 5 000 |
|---|---|---|---------------|--------------|-------|

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

Due to lack of statistics from BOVA for 2016, the NOVA Secretariat has not been able to write any report on the collaboration between BOVA and NOVA in 2016.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the Secretariat.

77.3 Follow-up on NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017: NOVA Strategy 2018-2021

The main topic for the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017 was the development of the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021. The Secretariat had prepared a draft strategy for the Seminar. On the first day of the Seminar, 8 June, there were group discussions concerning defined topics, followed by a summing up. Each group handed in summaries from the group discussion. The Secretariat prepared a new draft Strategy which the Board discussed at board meeting 77 on 9 June. At that meeting, the Secretariat also briefly presented a draft for regulations for NOVA courses and other projects. The NOVA coordinators received the draft for comments at their meeting on 9 June.

Resolution:

Taking into account comments from this board meeting and the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017, the Secretariat will prepare a final proposal for the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021 for NOVA board meeting 78 in November or December 2017.

3. Evaluation of goal attainment

From 2015 to 2016, the activity level for NOVA PhD courses increased. The number of courses augmented from 12 to 15. The number of NOVA students on these courses increased considerably. However, the activity level is still low compared to the ambition of 25-30 PhD courses a year. Considering the number of applications in the NOVA Open Calls 2014 to 2016, as well as the increase in the number of PhD courses held in 2015 and 2016, it seems likely that the network's efforts to increase the number of applications and courses from 2014 have had an effect. However, the application number so far in 2017 is low, but it is at the same level as at the same time in 2016. The experience since 2015 is that it is easier to apply for NOVA

course funding as it is no longer required that there must be NOVA teachers from at least two, preferably three, NOVA member institutions teaching a NOVA course. However, it seems to be more difficult to attract students from NOVA member institutions without teachers participating in the course. In 2015 and 2016, many course organisers faced challenges attracting the required number of NOVA students to run courses (12 NOVA students). Therefore, the Board changed the requirement to 10 registered and qualified NOVA students in Nov. 2016 (resolution 75.7.1). In 2016, more courses than earlier reported on students withdrawing from courses or not registering due to lack of funding for travel and accommodation. So far in 2017, there is no available information on this as no courses have been organised. However, even though the requirement regarding the number of NOVA students on a course was reduced in November 2016, it seems that some teachers have difficulties receiving 10 registered and qualified students. In 2016, three PhD courses were cancelled due to lack of students. In 2016, the activity on Master's level was low. Three of four approved courses were cancelled. Two due to lack of students. Mobility has decreased as part of a Nordic trend. The decrease in the past years of NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus mobility is partly explained by the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network using Erasmus+ funding for long-term mobility. Another reason for the mobility reduction is that KU received less incoming exchange students. The slight increase in the number of BOVA students participating on NOVA PhD courses is positive. Marketing of NOVA courses to the BOVA institutions was more systematic, and one NOVA PhD course was run in the Baltics in 2016. However, for 2017, no NOVA courses are scheduled to take place in the Baltics. It has proved challenging to find new external funding partners for NOVA's activities. No new agreements on external funding were made in 2016. Due to the withdrawals from KU-HEALTH and KU-SCIENCE in 2015 and 2016, it will probably be challenging to offer that many NOVA courses in future. Local anchoring of the Network and knowledge about the financing possibilities and courses among teachers and students are still important factors to achieve the goals.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information. In future, the Board would like to receive statistics on Erasmus+ mobility between the member institutions.

77.4 Accounts by the beginning of May 2017, revised budget 2017, draft budget 2018 and principles for calculation of member fee percentages for 2018-2021

The table below contains an overview of accounts 2016, accounts by the beginning of May 2016, budget for 2017 (approved at board meeting 75, 25 Nov. 2016), revised budget for 2017 as well as a draft budget for 2018. At board meeting 77, the Board decided that the member fee calculations were to be based on statistics from 2012-2016 in the period 2018-2019. New member fee percentages for 2018-2019 and member fee estimates for 2018 are therefore presented in tables two and three.

Table 1: Revised budget 2017 (numbers in 1000 EUR)

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 31.12.2015 | 31.12.2016 | 31.12.2016 | 31.12.2016 | 31.12.2017 |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| BALANCE (equity) | 330 | 305 | 305 | 305 | 130 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

| | Accounts 2016 | Accounts 2017 10 May | Budget 2017 | Revised budget 2017 | Draft budget 2018 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Total member fees | 170 | 0 | 280 | 210 | 280 |
| External funding SNS | 19 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| External funding NKJ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| INCOME total | 190 | 0 | 290 | 220 | 290 |
| COSTS | | | | | |
| Activities | | | | | |
| PhD courses internal funding | 122 | 53 | 383 | 238 | 383 |
| PhD courses external funding | 21 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Other projects | 15 | 0 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| NOVA-guarantee and N+ support | 4 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| NSB | 2 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Strategy seminar | 1 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| <i>Activities total</i> | <i>165</i> | <i>54</i> | <i>485</i> | <i>340</i> | <i>485</i> |
| Secretariat | | | | | |
| Salaries | 33 | 11 | 35,5 | 36 | 37 |
| Travels | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Other | 2 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Project: application platform and website (incl. salaries) | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Secretariat total</i> | <i>50</i> | <i>13</i> | <i>56</i> | <i>56</i> | <i>57</i> |
| COSTS total | 215 | 67 | 541 | 396 | 542 |
| RESULT | -26 | -67 | -250 | -176 | -252 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| BALANCE (equity) | 305 | 238 | 55 | 130 | -123 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|

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

Table 2: Member fee percentages 2018-2019

| | Member fee percentage 2014-15 | Member fee percentage 2016 | Percent of member fee 2016 | Approved member fee percentage 2017 (\$75.5.3) | Approved member fee percentage 2018-19 | Av. percentage of degrees 2012-16 | Av. percentage of PhD students in NOVA PhD courses 2012-16 |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| AU-ST | 11,6 % | 11,41 % | 12,20 % | 14,45 % | 15,25 % | 13,00 % | 17,49 % |
| HU-AF | 13,8 % | 14,10 % | 15,07 % | 17,41 % | 17,02 % | 13,90 % | 20,14 % |
| HU-V | 4,5 % | 5,64 % | 6,03 % | 6,80 % | 7,56 % | 5,13 % | 10,00 % |
| UEF-F | 3,7 % | 3,04 % | 3,25 % | 3,82 % | 3,88 % | 2,82 % | 4,94 % |
| LBHI | 0,7 % | 0,53 % | 0,57 % | 0,64 % | 0,50 % | 0,27 % | 0,74 % |
| KU-SCIENCE | 14,3 % | 14,42 % | 15,41 % | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| KU-HEALTH | 7,2 % | 6,44 % | 0,00 % | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| NMBU | 18,2 % | 19,23 % | 20,56 % | 24,77 % | 23,51 % | 30,39 % | 16,63 % |
| SLU | 26,0 % | 25,18 % | 26,92 % | 32,11 % | 32,28 % | 34,50 % | 30,05 % |
| TOTAL | 100,0 % | 99,99 % | 100,00 % | 100,00 % | 100,00 % | 100,00 % | 100,00 % |

Table 3: Member fee 2016 and 2017 and estimated member fee 2018

| | Member fee 2016 (50%) | Approved member fee 2017 (75%) | Estimated member fee 2018 (100%) |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AU-ST | 20253 | 30382 | 42693 |
| HU-AF | 25028 | 36594 | 47657 |
| HU-V | 10011 | 14292 | 21181 |
| UEF-F | 5396 | 8020 | 10865 |
| LBHI | 941 | 1347 | 1411 |
| KU-SCIENCE | 25596 | N.A. | N.A. |
| KU-HEALTH | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. |
| NMBU | 34133 | 52068 | 65821 |
| SLU | 44695 | 67509 | 90371 |
| TOTAL | 166051 | 210212 | 280000 |

AU-ST's comment to the draft budget for 2018 was read aloud at the meeting.

Resolutions:

1. *The Board noted the information on the accounts by the beginning of May 2017.*
2. *The Board approved the revised budget for 2017.*
3. *The Board noted the presented draft budget for 2018. 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 78 in November/December 2017.*
4.
 - A. **Principles of member fee calculations:** *For the next 4-year strategic period (2018-2021), the member fee percentages will be based on both the average percentage of degrees produced (emphasis 95% on PhD degrees and 5% on master degrees) and average percentage of PhD students in the NOVA PhD courses. Both these indicators will have a weight of 50% of the total member fee percentage.*
 - B. **Statistics for the member fee calculations:** *For 2018 and 2019, the member fee percentage will be based on average percentage of degrees produced in 2012-2016 (as described in table two above) and average percentage of students on NOVA PhD courses in 2012-2016 (as described in table two above).*

77.5 Decision on applications submitted in the second round of the open call 2017

Resolutions:

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

| 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 2017, 2nd round</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Linear Models in Animal Breeding | PhD course | 2018 | SLU | OK | 10278+2500 | 12778 | 10278+2500 | 10278+2500 |
| 2 Quantitative genetics applied in animal breeding | PhD course | 2018 | HU-AF | OK | 11139+2500 | 13639 | 11139+2500 | 11139+2500 |
| 3 Molecular methods for detection of food- and waterborne pathogens | PhD course | 2018 | HU-V | OK | 15244+2500 | 17744 | 15244+2500 | 15244+2500 |
| 4 Process to access - Optimizing nutrient availability in ingredients | PhD course | 2018 | NMBU | OK | 19906+2500 | 22406 | 19906+2500 | 19906+2500 |
| Total all applications, NOVA open call 2017, 2nd round | | | | | | 66567 | 66567 | 66567 |
| Total applications for PhD courses running in 2018 | | | | | | 66567 | 66567 | 66567 |
| <i>Courses approved in earlier calls, scheduled for 2018</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>PhD courses</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Future plant protection | PhD course | 2018 | SLU | | 6849+2500 | 9349 | 6849+2500 | 6849+2500 |
| Integrated analysis of omics data* | PhD course in course series | 2018 | SLU | | 15767+2500 | 18267 | 15767+2500 | 15767+2500 |
| Pollinators within IPM strategies for agriculture** | PhD course in course series | 2018 | HU-AF | | 10856 | 10856 | 10856 | 10856 |
| Inveigling factor of stakeholders: cases in Sweden and Finland*** | PhD course in course series | 2018 | SLU | | 2355+2500 | 26033 | 23533+2500 | 21311+2500 |
| Biotrophy in plant pathogens – from recognition to ecology**** | PhD course in course series | 2018 | AU-ST | | 17122+2500 | 19622 | 17122+2500 | 17122+2500 |
| Arctic entomology under climate change***** | PhD course in course series | 2018 | LBHI | | 18667+2500 | 21167 | 18667+2500 | 18667+2500 |
| Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2018 | | | | | | | | 103072 |
| <i>Master's courses</i> | | | | | | | | |
| RNAi modification of arthropod-plant interactions***** | Master's course in series | 2018 | SLU | | 9294 | 9294 | N.A. | 6333 |
| Total Master's courses approved earlier, courses scheduled for 2018 | | | | | | | | 6333 |
| Total so far for PhD courses scheduled for 2018 | | | | | | | | 169639 |
| Total so far for Master's courses scheduled for 2018 | | | | | | | | 6333 |

*The course is part of the series Phenotyping 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.

**The course is part of the course series Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management. It was originally scheduled for running in 2016, but was rescheduled to 2018.

- Decision: 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.

***The course is part of the series Environmental collaboration and conflict resolution.

- Course 3 (2018) was granted funding of maximum EUR 21 311 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. 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.

****The course is part of the series Plant pathology with a Nordic dimension.

- 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.

*****The course is part of the series Climate change entomology in the North.

- 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.

***** The course is part of the series Future trends in sustainable plant protection: RNAi technology for insects.

- Course 3 (2018): maximum EUR 6 333 is granted. 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.

77.6 News from the member institutions

HU-AF:

Kaarle Hämeri was voted new Chancellor of the University of Helsinki in June 2017.

At the Faculty, new educational programmes have been decided from the autumn 2017: 4 Bachelor's and 7 Master's programmes plus PhD and research programmes. It is not yet decided how the staff will be divided into different units. There will be a new organisational structure without any departments. The financial situation is still quite difficult. From 1 Aug. 2017, annual tuition fees will be introduced to foreign-language Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Finland. This will apply for citizens of non-EU/EEA countries, who do not have a permanent residence status in the area.

New NOVA coordinator for HU-AF and HU-V: Ilkka Reenilä.

HU-V

New deans for the University of Helsinki will be nominated in November 2018-2022 (new system). On faculty level, programmes are running as usual.

SLU

The University is preparing for a big research evaluation in 2018. In 2017, it is 40 years since SLU was founded. This will be celebrated during the autumn.

UEF-F

Harri Siiskonen has been selected as new Academic Rector of the University of Eastern Finland, which has both a Rector and an Academic Rector. New deans have also been elected. The University has passed an audit by the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre on the quality management system and quality assurance related to the University's basic mission. The audit result is valid for six years.

LBHI

There will be a new Chancellor at the University soon. The University is going through a quality assessment process with the other Islandic universities.

NSB

The NSB held its annual meeting on 9 June 2017. There were two main topics:

1. Survey to students and supervisors

The NSB discussed sending out a survey to students and supervisors to find possible course topics for NOVA courses. The NOVA Board supported that the NSB continues working on this.

2. Courses being cancelled due to lack of students (problems with travel money)

The NSB discussed how to reach out for students who cannot participate in NOVA courses due to lack of funding for travel. The question whether NOVA could support students with a small travel pot will be put on the agenda for the next NOVA board meeting.

Sopia Renes (SLU) will be the new NSB Chair from the end of 2017. Current NSB Chair, Margot Slagboom (AU-ST) will then become Deputy Chair of the NSB.

AU-ST

Former substitute board member Elise Norberg is appointed Head of Department at the Faculty of Biosciences, NMBU. AU-ST's new substitute board member is Jacob Sehested, Section Manager and Associate Professor at the Department of Animal Science.

NMBU

There is a new organisation of the University from 2017. The veterinary building at Aas is postponed until 2020. The cooperation between the two campuses is getting closer. Rector Mari Sundli Tveit is appointed Rector for a new period from August 2017. There will also be a new University Board as from August 2017. Two new pro-rectors will be appointed. Five of seven deans are appointed. The new Board will start working on a new strategy for NMBU. Rector Mari Sundli Tveit has been elected Chair of the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR), and is also a board member of the European Universities' Association.

77.7 Other issues

No other issues were raised.