

Draft of 23 Jan. 2018

Approved on 21 Mar. 2018

Minutes of Board Meeting 78

Present:

Øystein Johnsen, Chair	NMBU	
Karin Holmgren	SLU	
Janna Pietikäinen	HU-AF	for Marketta Sipi
Auður Magnúsdóttir	LBHI	
Jakob Sehested	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Maria Fredriksson-Ahomaa	HU-V	for Antti Sukura
Sophia Renes	NSB	
Sabina Sibcic	NSB	

Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA Secretariat
Iben N. Andersen	NMBU
Laila Johansen	NMBU (part of item 78.5- item78.7)

Not present:

Jouni Pykäläinen	UEF-F
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78.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 77

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 78 and the minutes of board meeting 77.

78.2 Orientation issues

1. NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018, and NOVA Board and BOVA Rector's Board meeting

According to the NOVA Strategy, there should be a NOVA strategy seminar each year. Participants are the board members, local coordinators, the Nordplus coordinator and the NOVA Student Board. Other experts and participants can be invited depending on the topic for the seminar. The purpose of the seminar is to "examine how well the goals have been attained and, if relevant, to prepare an activity plan for two years at a time, and to ensure that all the NOVA functions are focused on achieving the mission, vision and the goals defined in the strategy." As earlier, the Strategy

Seminar 2018 will be combined with the meeting between the NOVA Board and the BOVA Rectors' Board that is to take place every three years, according to the collaboration agreement between NOVA and BOVA. The Veterinary Academy at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences has kindly agreed to host the seminar in Kaunas, Lithuania on 7-8 June 2018. The NOVA Chair has decided that the topic of the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018 will be UN's sustainable development goals.

NOVA's financial situation and funding of activities will also be addressed at the Strategy Seminar. The NSB wished to have a meeting with the BOVA Student Board during the meeting in Kaunas in June 2017.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

Candidate for the steering committee for the Nordic Public Private Partnership on Pre-breeding

The NOVA Chair has given the consent to prolongation of Professor Rodomiro Ortiz's (SLU) mandate as a representative in the steering committee for the Nordic Public Private Partnership on Pre-breeding for the period 2018-2020.

Aalto University

The section on Landscape Architecture at Aalto University (Finland) contacted the NOVA Secretariat this autumn regarding their wish to establish a Nordplus network within landscape architecture. The Secretariat informed them of the NOVA-BOVA Nordplus network.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the Secretariat.

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

The NOVA Network has discussed workload per ECTS credit on NOVA courses and course recognition of NOVA courses several times. However, the current regulations for NOVA courses on hours of workload per ECTS credit are more extensive than the local regulations at several NOVA institutions. Moreover, in 2017, at one of the NOVA institutions, doubt was raised regarding the number of ECTS credits of a specific NOVA course held some years ago.

Resolution:

The following resolutions regarding workload per ECTS credit and course recognition on NOVA courses shall be included in NOVA's regulations:

- a. *All courses must fulfil the requirements at the NOVA member institution offering the course concerning the number of hours of workload per ECTS credit in line with the ECTS User's Guide where one ECTS credit*

corresponds to 25-30 hours of workload. For NOVA courses applied for and approved before 1 January 2018, the approved number of hours of workload per ECTS credit applies.

- b. All NOVA member institutions should commit to recognising automatically all credits of a NOVA course for participating students if the course does not overlap with other courses and is fully relevant for the student's curriculum.*

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

Enclosure: 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. Taking into account comments from board meeting 77 and the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017, the Secretariat was to prepare a final proposal for the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021 for NOVA board meeting 78.

Resolution:

- 1. The Board approved the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021.*
- 2. The approved Strategy shall be sent to proofreading.*

78.5 Approval of regulations for NOVA courses and other projects, including a question from the NSB whether NOVA could support students with a small travel pot

Enclosure: Regulations for NOVA courses and other projects

For the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2017, the Secretariat prepared a draft for regulations for NOVA courses and other projects to include all regulations in one document. At the Strategy Seminar, items concerning the regulations were discussed. The NOVA coordinators discussed the draft at their meeting on 7 June 2017. The draft regulations were also briefly presented to the NOVA Board at board meeting 77 on 9 June 2017. At that meeting, the Board gave the Secretariat the mandate to propose a new simplified funding model for NOVA courses for board meeting 78. In November 2017, the Secretariat presented revised draft regulations to the NOVA coordinators.

In addition, at board meeting 77, the NOVA Student Board proposed that NOVA could support NOVA students taking NOVA courses with a small travel pot if they did not receive any other funding for that. The Board decided that this item was to be discussed at board meeting 78.

Regulations

The Board was invited to choose between two alternatives for new financing models for PhD and Master's courses. One alternative was very similar to the current regulations, and the other consisting of 1)

regulations for courses applied before 1 Jan. 2018, and 2) simplified regulations for courses applied after 1 Jan. 2018. The main reasons for the proposal in alternative 2 were to make it easier for teachers and administrative staff to understand and follow the regulations, and to reduce administration. Teachers had also claimed that the detailed regulations made many reluctant to apply for funding. Granting incentive money to encourage that NOVA's priorities are met was also a part of the proposal. A lump sum plus incentive grants could contribute to more predictability regarding actual payments and could reduce the costs for NOVA courses in the long term with respect to the increasing cost level on NOVA courses and the increase in demanded grants.

Travel support for NOVA students

During the last years, several courses have been cancelled due to lack of students. However, the requirement regarding students was relaxed in 2016 (resolution 75.7), and far less courses were cancelled in 2017 than in 2016. Even though some NOVA institutions have improved the accessibility of grants for example by changing application deadlines, it is not the case at all NOVA institutions. The NSB claimed that if the students had a travel pot as a back-up solution, it would be easier to attend the courses, also in cases where funding is temporarily unavailable at some institutions. The NSB also argued that it is important for students to meet and create a network, and that all of NOVA would benefit from supporting students who do not receive the money.

Resolution:

- 1. The Board approved the proposed regulations for NOVA PhD and Master's courses and other projects and alternative two. As a pilot, courses approved in the period 1 Jan. 2018 to 31 Dec. 2019, meeting the criteria detailed in the regulations, will receive a total lump sum for PhD and Master's courses exceeding €5,000 of €10,000, which is a flat rate, plus €1,000 to cover administration plus possible incentive grants of €2,000 as described in the regulations. Master's courses not exceeding €5,000 will receive a total lump sum of €4,500, which is a flat rate, plus €500 to cover administration.*

The Board decided that whether a PhD activity can give ECTS credits should be decided case by case.

- 2. The Board did not approve the proposal regarding NOVA providing travelling support to NOVA students for attending NOVA courses. The home institution of the NOVA student is responsible for facilitating that the student receive funding to attend NOVA courses.*

The NOVA board members from the NOVA Student Board did not agree with resolution 78.5.2 above.

78.6 Approval of activity plan 2018-2019

According to NOVA's Statutes, one of the Board's responsibilities is to adopt two-year activity plans. The local NOVA coordinators received a draft activity plan for 2018-2019 to comment on in October 2017.

The activity plan for 2018-2019 follows the lines of the plan for 2016-2017. It is updated according to the Strategy for 2018-2021 and regulations for NOVA PhD and Master's courses and other projects, presented in items 78.4 and 78.5, respectively. Some of the most important tasks in the period will be to implement and communicate the changes resulting from the new Strategy and regulations, to find external funding to maintain the activity level, and strengthen the awareness of NOVA at the member institutions.

Resolution:

The Board approved the proposed activity plan for 2018-2019.

78.7 Accounts by November 2017 and approval of budget 2018

Table 1 below contains an overview of accounts 2016, accounts by November 2017, approved budget for 2017, as well as the approved budget for 2018. Table 2 shows NOVA's current probable future commitments regarding PhD and Master's courses if the Board approves all applications in the 3rd round of the NOVA Open Call 2017 with the proposed amounts. Member fee percentages for 2018-2019, as well as member fee for 2018 are also presented.

Table 1: Budget 2018 (numbers in €1,000)

	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	31.12.2016	31.12.2017
BALANCE (equity)	305	279	279	188

	Accounts 2016	Accounts by Nov. 2017	Revised Budget 2017 by 9 Jun. 2017	Budget 2018
<u>INCOME</u>				
Total member fees	170	154	210	280
External funding SNS	19	0	10	10
External funding NKJ	0	0		
INCOME total	190	154	220	290
<u>COSTS</u>				
<i>Activities</i>				
PhD courses internal funding	122	156	238	300
PhD courses external funding	21	0	10	10
Other projects	15	0	60	60
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	4	1	15	15
NSB	2	4	7	7
Strategy seminar	1	2	10	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>164</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>402</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>				
Salaries	33	29	36	33
Travels	0	1	5	5
Other	2	1	15	15
Project: application platform and website (incl. salaries)	15	0		
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>53</i>
COSTS total	215	194	396	494
RESULT	-26	-40	-176	-165
BALANCE (equity)	279	239	103	23
Estimated changes in Dec. 2017		-51		

Table 2: Member fee and estimated current probable commitments for courses 2018-2021
(numbers in €1,000)

	2018 (all courses approved as proposed at board meeting 78)	2019	2020	2021
Member fee (100%)	280	280	280	280
Current probable future commitments for PhD courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	220	83	42	17
PhD courses held in 2017, paid in 2018	129			
PhD courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	-39	39		
<i>Estimated payment of current commitments for PhD courses</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>17</i>
Current probable future commitments for Master's courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	33	0	0	0
Master's courses held in 2017, paid in 2018	7			
Master's courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	-6	6		
<i>Estimated payment of current commitments for Master's courses</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Estimated payment of current commitments for PhD and Master's courses	343	128	42	17
Rest	-63	152	238	263

Table 3: 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 4: Member fee per institution 2018 (numbers in €)

	Member fee 2016 (50%)	Approved member fee 2017 (75%)	Approved 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

Resolutions:

1. *The Board noted the information on the accounts by the middle of November 2017.*
2. *The Board approved the budget for 2018. In the future, the Board wish more detailed information regarding the different budget items (e.g. budget forecasts) to increase the transparency of the draft budget.*
3. *The member fee for 2018 will be as presented in the column “approved member fee 2018” in table 4.*

78.8 Decision on applications submitted in the third round of the open call 2017

1. Applications submitted in the third round of the NOVA Open Call 2017

Resolutions:

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

2. Requested courses/course topics for the NOVA Open Call 2018

This item was postponed to NOVA board meeting 79 in March 2018.

3. NOVA Open Call 2018

Resolution:

Due to NOVA’s financial situation, there will only be two application rounds in the NOVA Open Call 2018. The Board will review the applications in the first application round at board meeting 80 in Jun. 2018, and the applications in the second application round at board meeting 81 in Nov. 2018.

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, 3rd round</i>								
<i>Courses in course series, approved in earlier calls and presented for final approval in this call</i>								
1 Pollinators within IPM strategies for agriculture**	PhD course in course series	2018	HU-AF	OK			10856	10856
2 Inveigling factor of stakeholders: cases in Sweden and Finland***	PhD course in course series	2018	UEF-F	See eval.			21311+2500	21311+2500
3 Biotrophy in plant pathogens – from recognition to ecology****	PhD course in course series	2018	AU-ST	OK			17122+2500	17122+2500
4 Arctic entomology under climate change*****	PhD course in course series	2018	LBHI	OK			18667+2500	18667+2500
5 RNAi modification of arthropod-plant interactions*****	Master's course in series	2018	SLU	OK			6333	6333
<i>New applications in NOVA open call 2017, 3rd round</i>								
6 Forest tree and stand growth and dynamics: Multiple effects and problems when analyzing data	PhD course	2018	SLU	OK	14111+2500	16611	14111+2500	14111+2500
7 Questionnaire design and management	PhD course	2018	SLU	OK	16511+2500	19011	16511+2500	16511+2500
8 Advanced production economics	PhD course	2018	SLU	OK	12083+2500	14583	12083+2500	12083+2500
9 Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Management	Master's course	2018	NMBU	See eval.	18700	18700	15000	15000
10 Dog breeding and genetics	Master's course	2018	NMBU	OK	12011	12011	12011	12011
Total all applications, NOVA Open Call 2017, 3rd round						162705	162705	162705
Total new applications for PhD courses running in 2018, NOVA Open Call 2017, 3rd round						50205	50205	50205
Total new applications for Master's courses running in 2018, NOVA Open Call 2017, 3rd round						30711	27011	30711
Max total applications for PhD courses running in 2018						125661	125661	125661
Max total applications for Master's courses running in 2018						37044	33344	37044
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, scheduled for 2018</i>								
<i>PhD courses</i>								
Integrated analysis of omics data*	PhD course in course series	2018	SLU	OK	15767+2500	18267	15767+2500	15767+2500
Linear Models in Animal Breeding	PhD course	2018	SLU	OK	10278+2500	12778	10278+2500	10278+2500
Quantitative genetics applied in animal breeding	PhD course	2018	HU-AF	OK	11139+2500	13639	11139+2500	11139+2500
Molecular methods for detection of food- and waterborne pathogens	PhD course	2018	HU-V	OK	15244+2500	17744	15244+2500	15244+2500
Process to access - Optimizing nutrient availability in ingredients	PhD course	2018	NMBU	OK	19906+2500	22406	19906+2500	19906+2500
Future plant protection	PhD course	2018	SLU		6849+2500	9349	6849+2500	6849+2500
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2018								94183
Total so far for PhD courses scheduled for 2018								219844
Total so far for Master's courses scheduled for 2018								33344

*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 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 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 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 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.

78.9 Meeting dates 2018

There are three board meetings per 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.

Resolution:

Meeting dates 2018:

1. *Board meeting: Wednesday 21 March, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Central European Time (Scandinavian time), video*
2. *NOVA Strategy Seminar with meeting between the NOVA Board and BOVA Rectors' Board and NOVA board meeting: 7-8 June 2018, in Kaunas (Lithuania)*
3. *Board meeting: Thursday 29 November, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Central European Time (Scandinavian time), video*

78.10 News from the member institutions

HU-AF:

There will be a new Dean at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry from 1 Jan. 2017.

HU-V

Antti Sukura will continue as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the period 2018-2022.

SLU

The deputy board member from SLU, Lena Andersson Eklund, will retire. The new deputy board member will be Helena Eklund Snäll.

LBHI

A new Chancellor was appointed on 1 Oct. 2017 for a period of one year. The University will look for a new Chancellor to appoint for 5 years.

NSB

1. Survey to students and supervisors

As explained at board meeting 77, the NSB is preparing a survey to send to students and supervisors to find possible course topics for NOVA courses. It will be sent out in the beginning of 2018.

2. Lacking NSB members from LBHI and HU-AF

There are no NSB members from LBHI and HU-AF. The NOVA board members from these institutions will check the situation.

AU-ST

No news.

NMBU

Øystein Johnsen is new Pro-rector for Research, Innovation and External Cooperation at NMBU and is the new Chair of NOVA. He looks forward to learn more about NOVA and the member institutions.

78.11 Other issues

No other issues were raised.