

Approved on 8 Jun. 2018

Minutes of Board Meeting 79

Present:

Øystein Johnsen, Chair	NMBU	
Karin Holmgren	SLU	
Auður Magnúsdóttir	LBHI	
Jakob Sehested	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Pauliina Karvinen	UEF-F	for Jyrki Kangas
Margot Slagboom	NSB	for Sophia Renes
Sabina Sibcic	NSB	

Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA Secretariat
Iben N. Andersen	NMBU

Not present:

Ritva Toivonen	HU-AF
----------------	-------

79.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 78

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 79 and the minutes of board meeting 78.

79.2 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 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. In addition, NOVA's financial situation and ambitions will be on the agenda.

Resolution:

The Board wish a more detailed programme for the Strategy Seminar which is more focused on UN's sustainable development goals, and that each member institution should present a topic with relevance to UN's sustainable development goals in higher education. The Board asked the Secretariat to propose topics for each member institution's board member.

NB. In an email of 22 Mar. to the Board, the Secretariat presented a new draft programme for the Strategy Seminar that took into account the comments from board meeting 79. The Secretariat proposed items for each NOVA member institution's board member to present at the meeting.

2. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

NOVA-BOVA collaboration

Due to lack of statistics from BOVA for 2017, the NOVA Secretariat has not been able to write any report on the collaboration between BOVA and NOVA in 2017.

Contact with SNS and NKJ

The agreement between NOVA and Nordic Forest Research (SNS) on funding of forestry related NOVA PhD courses ended in 2017. The Secretariat is in contact with SNS and the Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research (NKJ) to try to increase the cooperation with these networks and to look for further funding possibilities.

Kind reminder to respond to the draft survey from the NSB

The NOVA Student Board (NSB) has made a draft survey regarding course topics for NOVA courses which will be sent to PhD students at the member institutions. The Board members are kindly asked to fill in the draft survey and give comments to the NSB within the deadline of 23 Mar. The survey will be distributed in April 2018.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the Secretariat.

79.3 End of year accounts 2017 and accounts by Feb. 2018

Table 1 "Result and balance 2017" contains an overview of the accounts in the period 2014-2017, as well as the budget for 2017. The actual accounts by the end of Feb. 2018 and the forecast for 2018 are presented next. Finally, the column "budget 2018" shows the approved budget for 2018 (resolution 78.7.2). Table 2 shows NOVA's current probable future commitments regarding PhD and Master's courses. The table is updated after the Board approved one application for a PhD course at board meeting 79 (item 79.5.).

Table 1: Result and balance 2017 (numbers in €1,000)

	31.12.2013	31.12.2014	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	31.12.2016	31.12.2017	31.12.2017	31.12.2017
BALANCE (equity)	298	322	302	277	277	245	245	188
	Accounts 2014	Accounts 2015	Accounts 2016	Accounts 2017	Budget 2017	Accounts by Feb 2018	Forecast 2018	Budget 2018
INCOME								
Total member fees	152	161	170	204	210		280	280
External funding SNS	10	0	19	0	10		10	10
External funding NKJ		21	0	0				
INCOME total	162	182	190	204	220		290	290
COSTS								
<i>Activities</i>								
PhD courses internal funding	58	86	122	192	238	57	265	300
PhD courses external funding	2	10	21	0	10		10	10
Other projects	15	25	15	0	60	32	77	60
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	5	8	4	5	15		15	15
NSB	2	3	2	4	7		6	7
Strategy seminar	2	6	1	2	10		8	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>203</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>402</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>								
Salaries	43	30	33	31	36	6	33	33
Travels	2	2	0	1	5		3	5
Other	10	0	2	1	15	1	7	15
Project: application platform and website (incl. salaries)	0	30	15	0				
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>53</i>
COSTS total	138	201	215	236	396	95	424	455
RESULT	24	-20	-26	-32	-176	-95	-134	-165
BALANCE (equity)	322	302	277	245	101	149	111	23

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

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

	2018 (incl. one PhD course application submitted in Feb. 2018)	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	231	83	42	17
PhD courses held in 2017, paid in 2018	94			
PhD courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	-50	50		
<i>Estimated payment of current commitments for PhD courses</i>	<i>275</i>	<i>133</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	40			
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>67</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
Estimated payment of current commitments for PhD and Master's courses	341	139	42	17
Rest	-61	141	238	263

Resolution:

The Board approved the presented final accounts for 2017 and noted the information on the accounts by the end of Feb. 2018.

Discussions on funding of NOVA will take place at the Strategy Seminar 2018 in June 2018. The 2018 budget may be revised at board meeting 80 (8 Jun. 2018) to take into account possible adjustments in the activity level. The first half of the member fee for 2018 will be collected in May 2018.

79.4 Approval of Annual Report 2017

The NOVA Annual Report 2017 shows that the number of courses and total number of students on the courses organised in the NOVA University Network increased in 2017. Less courses were cancelled. Despite this, the Network is still not reaching the ambitions set by the NOVA Board. Besides continued focus on simplifying and streamlining the work, the Network's main task in 2017 was the development of a new NOVA Strategy for 2018-2021 and new regulations valid from 2018. This included a two-year pilot for a new and simpler funding model for courses starting in 2018. In 2018, it will be important to implement this. From 2016, the number of member institutions has decreased. KU-HEALTH and KU-SCIENCE withdrew from 1 Jan. 2016 and 1 Jan. 2017, respectively. The reason for the withdrawals is financial issues at KU. The equity is reduced, as wished by the NOVA Board. This leads to a change in NOVA's financial situation. In the future, it will be important to assure that NOVA has the financial conditions to meet the ambitions in the new Strategy. In 2015, the Board appointed a task force on external funding. It has proved challenging to find new funding partners of NOVA's activities. No new agreements on external funding were made in 2017.

Resolution:

The Board approved the NOVA Annual Report and Accounts 2017.

79.5 PhD application submitted to NOVA outside the NOVA Open Call 2018Resolution:

The resolution is 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>Application submitted in Feb. 2018 outside the NOVA Open Call 2018</i>								
Introduction to Survey Sampling	PhD course	2018	SLU	See item 79.5	11556+2500	14056	If the Board decides to review the application: 10000+1000	10000+1000
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, scheduled for 2018</i>								
<i>PhD courses</i>								
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	UEF-F		23533+2500	26033	21311+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
Forest tree and stand growth and dynamics: Multiple effects and problems when analyzing data	PhD course	2018	SLU		14111+2500	16611	14111+2500	14111+2500
Questionnaire design and management	PhD course	2018	SLU		16511+2500	19011	16511+2500	16511+2500
Advanced production economics	PhD course	2018	SLU		12083+2500	14583	12083+2500	12083+2500
Integrated analysis of omics data*	PhD course in course series	2018	SLU		15767+2500	18267	15767+2500	15767+2500
Linear Models in Animal Breeding	PhD course	2018	SLU		10278+2500	12778	10278+2500	10278+2500
Quantitative genetics applied in animal breeding	PhD course	2018	HU-AF		11139+2500	13639	11139+2500	11139+2500
Molecular methods for detection of food- and waterborne pathogens	PhD course	2018	HU-V		15244+2500	17744	15244+2500	15244+2500
Process to access - Optimizing nutrient availability in ingredients	PhD course	2018	NMBU		19906+2500	22406	19906+2500	19906+2500
Future plant protection	PhD course	2018	SLU		6849+2500	9349	6849+2500	6849+2500
<i>Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2018</i>								219844
<i>Master's courses</i>								
RNAi modification of arthropod-plant interactions*****	Master's course in series	2018	SLU				6333	6333
Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Management	Master's course	2018	NMBU		18700	18700	15000	15000
Dog breeding and genetics	Master's course	2018	NMBU		12011	12011	12011	12011
<i>Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2018</i>								33344
Total for PhD courses scheduled for 2018								230844
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.

79.6 Requested courses/course topics for the NOVA Open Call 2018 (item postponed from board meeting 78)

According to the regulations (§1.2), "NOVA will always aim to fund high-quality courses in all its fields of specialisation every year". Also, the NOVA Board can set thematic priorities in connection with the Open Call, as explained in the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021 and regulations. With the new two-year pilot for funding of NOVA courses, the NOVA Board will accord an incentive grant of €2,000 to courses held in topics requested by the NOVA Board. Thus, for the Open Call 2018, the Board is to decide on course topics that it wishes should be held within NOVA.

Resolution:

After the discussions during board meeting 79, it was decided that the decision on this item was to be made by email later. A list with prioritised topics for the Open Call 2018 must be published on 23 Mar. 2018 as the application deadline in the first round of the Open Call 2018 is 3 May 2018.

79.7 News from the member institutions**AU-ST**

No news.

SLU

Peter Högberg, Vice-Chancellor of SLU, has requested an early termination of his appointment as Vice-Chancellor at SLU. This results in a change in NOVA board members from SLU. Karin Holmgren, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, will cease to be a NOVA board member. Ylva Hillbur, Pro Vice-Chancellor for International relations, will take over as SLU's board member. She will attend the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018. The NOVA Chair thanked Karin Holmgren for her work on the NOVA Board.

HU-V

Finnish university teachers have been on strike due to problems with new contracts. This is probably the first time this has happened in Finland.

LBHI

The current NOVA board member, Auður Magnúsdóttir is leaving the University, and thus the NOVA Board. Her deputy board member, Brita Berglund, *Head of Division of Academic Affairs*, will attend the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018. The NOVA Chair thanked Auður Magnúsdóttir for her work on the NOVA Board.

UEF-F

Jyrki Kangas is the new Head of School. He has taken over as member of the NOVA Board after Jouni Pykäläinen. The NOVA Chair thanked Jouni Pykäläinen for his work on the NOVA Board.

HU-AF

Ritva Toivonen has been elected as new Dean of the Faculty. She has taken over as NOVA board member after Marketta Sipi. The NOVA Chair thanked Marketta Sipi for her numerous years for collaboration and contribution for the NOVA University Network.

NSB

The NSB is kindly reminding the NOVA board members to fill in the draft survey (cf. item 79.2.2.).

There is a new NSB member from HU-V, but no members from HU-AF and LBHI. The NSB members from SLU and AU-ST will soon be leaving the NSB. The member from NMBU has been re-elected for a new period.

NMBU

NMBU is preparing a new strategy. The University is also negotiating a development agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. The Ministry wishes that each Norwegian university has a distinct profile for research and education.

79.8 Other issues

No other issues were raised.