

Approved on 29 Nov. 2018

Minutes of Board Meeting 80

Present:

Øystein Johnsen, Chair	NMBU	
Ylva Hillbur	SLU	
Brita Berglund	LBHI	
Jakob Sehested	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Ritva Toivonen	HU-AF	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Jyrki Kangas	UEF-F	
Sophia Renes	NSB	
Sabina Sibicic	NSB	

Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA Secretariat
Iben N. Andersen	NMBU

80.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 79

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 80 and the minutes of board meeting 79.

80.2 Orientation issues

1. Presentation of decisions made by the Chair June 2017 – May 2018

The following decision on projects not exceeding EUR 5 000 was made in the period June 2017 to May 2018:

No	Head applicant	Project title	Type of project	Project end date	Grant in EUR (maximum amount)
1	Karin Bennmarker (Nordplus Secretariat)	Nordplus Network Meeting	Other project	15 Nov. 2017	5 000

Proposed resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

Contact with SNS

The agreement between NOVA and Nordic Forest Research (SNS) on funding of forestry related NOVA PhD courses ended in 2017. The Secretariat will contact SNS as NOVA had not received the funding from SNS for 2017 by 8 June and will try to negotiate a new agreement for future collaboration.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the Secretariat.

3. Evaluation of goal attainment

The changes resulting from the new Strategy for 2018-2021 and regulations from 2018, including the new and simplified funding model for courses in the two-year pilot, were implemented for the NOVA Open Call 2018. The Secretariat has informed about the changes through the normal channels. However, more promotion of the changes in the new funding model are required for the autumn 2018. Despite the increase in the number of courses in 2017 to 17 PhD courses and four master's courses, the Network did not meet the ambitions set by the Board in the Strategy for 2014-2017. 14 PhD courses and three master's courses are scheduled to run in 2018. This is in accordance with the ambitions from the NOVA Strategy 2018-2021, which is to organise more than 13 PhD courses each year. The application number so far in 2018 is low. However, there has so far only been one round of the Open Call, compared to two rounds at the same time in the previous years. 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 that it is more difficult to attract students from NOVA member institutions without teachers teaching the course. In addition, in 2016, more courses than earlier reported on students withdrawing from courses or not registering due to lack of funding for travel and accommodation. In 2017, only one PhD course was cancelled due to lack of students compared to three PhD courses and two master's courses in 2016 (a third master's course was cancelled due to other reasons in 2016). So far in 2018, even though the number of NOVA students required on a course was reduced in

November 2016, and the requirement also includes BOVA students from 2018, it seems that some teachers have difficulties attracting 10 registered and qualified NOVA and BOVA students. In 2017, the activity on master's level augmented. All of the four scheduled master's courses were held. The background for the increase in the Nordplus mobility in the NOVA-BOVA-Nordplus Network was that the Network is using Erasmus+ mobility for students on long-term exchange as that is more profitable for the students than Nordplus funding. Therefore, more of the Nordplus funding can be spent on express mobility. Another reason was that many express courses were organised at the Network institutions and only a few of them were granted funding from Nordplus. The reduction in Erasmus+ mobility is part of a general trend in the Nordic countries. The slight increase in the number of BOVA students participating on NOVA PhD courses is positive. No NOVA PhD course was taking place in the Baltics in 2017. Marketing of NOVA courses to the BOVA institutions has been more systematic. In May 2018, a NOVA PhD course took place in the Baltics. It has proved challenging to find new external funding partners of NOVA's activities. No new agreements on external funding were made in 2017.

80.3 Accounts by April 2018, draft budget 2019

Table 1 "Result and balance April 2018" contains an overview of the accounts in the period 2014-2017. The accounts by the end of Apr. 2018 and the forecast for 2018 are presented next. The column "budget 2018" shows the budget for 2018 which was approved in December 2017 (resolution 78.7.2). The revised budget for 2018, approved at board meeting 80, is presented next. Finally, a draft budget for 2019 is presented. The draft budget is updated after board meeting 80, according to the Board's decision to reduce the member fee for 2018 in the revised budget for 2018. Table 2 shows the member fee and the probable current future commitments for courses until 2022. Tables 3 and 4 contain the calculation of the member fee percentages for 2018-2019 as well as the member fees in EUR.

Table 1: Result and balance April 2018 (numbers in €1,000)

	31.12.2013	31.12.2014	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	31.12.2017	31.12.2017	31.12.2017	31.12.2017	31.12.2018
BALANCE (equity)	304	328	308	282	250	250	188	250	67
	Accounts 2014	Accounts 2015	Accounts 2016	Accounts 2017	Accounts by Apr. 2018	Forecast 2018	Budget 2018	Revised budget 2018	Draft budget 2019
<u>INCOME</u>									
Total member fees	152	161	170	204		280	280	210	280
External funding SNS	10	0	19	0		10	10	10	
External funding NKJ		21	0	0					
INCOME total	162	182	190	204		290	290	220	280
<u>COSTS</u>									
<u>Activities</u>									
PhD courses internal funding	58	86	122	192	74	251	300	251	200
PhD courses external funding	2	10	21	0	0		10		
Other projects	15	25	15	0	33	77	60	77	60
NOVA-guarantee and N+ suppo	5	8	4	5	0	15	15	15	15
NSB	2	3	2	4	0	6	7	6	6
Strategy seminar	2	6	1	2	0	8	10	8	8
Activities total	83	139	165	203	108	357	402	357	289
<u>Secretariat</u>									
Salaries	43	30	33	31	12	36	33	36	37
Travels	2	2	0	1	0	3	5	3	3
Other	10	0	2	1	2	7	15	7	7
Project: application platform an	0	30	15	0	0				
Administration, external funding NKJ				0	0				
Secretariat total	55	63	50	33	14	46	53	46	47
COSTS total	138	201	215	236	121	403	455	403	336
RESULT	24	-20	-26	-32	-121	-113	-165	-183	-56
BALANCE (equity)	328	308	282	250	129	137	23	67	11

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 2018-2022
 (numbers in €1,000)

	2018	2019 (incl. courses approved at board meeting 80)	2020 (incl. courses approved at board meeting 80)	2021 (incl. courses approved at board meeting 80)	2022 (incl. courses approved at board meeting 80)
Member fee (100%)	210	280	280	280	280
Probable commitments for courses					
Current probable future commitments for PhD courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	231	124	55	30	0
PhD courses held in 2017, paid in 2018	81				
PhD courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	-61	61			
PhD courses to be held in 2019, paid in 2020		-35	35		
PhD courses to be held in 2020, paid in 2021			-13	13	
PhD courses to be held in 2021, paid in 2022				-13	13
<i>Estimated payment per year of current commitments for PhD courses</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>13</i>
Current probable future commitments for Master's courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	33	0	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			
Estimated payment per year of current commitments for Master's courses	67	6	0	0	0
<i>Estimated payment per year of current commitments for PhD and Master's courses</i>	<i>318</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>13</i>
Rest	-108	124	203	250	267

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: Approved member fee per institution 2018 (numbers in €)

	Member fee 2016 (50%)	Member fee 2017 (75%)	Approved member fee 2018 (75%)	Estimated member fee 2019 (100%)
AU-ST	20253	30382	32020	42693
HU-AF	25028	36594	35743	47657
HU-V	10011	14292	15886	21181
UEF-F	5396	8020	8149	10865
LBHI	941	1347	1058	1411
KU-SCIENCE	25596	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
KU-HEALTH	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
NMBU	34133	52068	49366	65821
SLU	44695	67509	67778	90371
TOTAL	166051	210212	209999	280000

Resolution:

1. *The Board noted the information on the accounts by the end of April 2018.*
2. *The Board noted the presented forecast for 2018 and draft budget for 2019.*
3. *The Board approved a new revised budget for 2018 with 75% member fee. If there is a challenge with funding, it will be possible to collect more. If there are many applications in the last round of the Open Call 2018, it will be discussed whether more member fee will be collected for 2018. The member fee is presented in the column “revised budget 2019” in table 1. The 2018 member fee for each institution will be as presented in table 4.*
4. *The Secretariat will work on a final draft budget for 2019 taking the comments from the Board into account. The final proposal for a budget for 2019 will be presented at board meeting 81.*
5. *For board meeting 81, the Board asked the Secretariat to present statistics on external funding reported to NOVA for NOVA courses that have been run during the last years.*

80.4 Decision on applications submitted in the first round of the NOVA Open Call 2018

Resolution:

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

					Notes from the Secretariat	Amount applied	Total amount applied incl. incentive grant	Proposed grant	Approved grant
Course title					Type of application	Course year	Institution		
<i>Applications submitted in the NOVA Open Call 2018, 1st round</i>									
1	Plant breeding for sustainable plant health management	PhD course	2019	NMBU	OK	10000+1000+2000+2000	15000	10000+1000+2000+2000	10000+1000+2000+2000
2	Dynamic modelling of cropping systems	PhD course	2019	SLU	OK	10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
3	<i>Ecostacking: a new approach to crop protection*</i>	PhD course series			OK				
3.1	Ecostacking in theory and practise: a new approach to crop protection	PhD course in course series	2019	HU-AF	OK	10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
3.2	Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management IPPM	PhD course in course series	2020	SLU	OK	10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
3.3	The Nordic Dimension: Ecostacking in Arctic Agriculture	PhD course in course series	2021	LBHI	OK	10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Total all applications, NOVA Open Call 2018, 1st round							67000	67000	67000
Max total applications for PhD courses running in 2019							41000	41000	41000
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, scheduled for 2019</i>									
<i>PhD courses</i>									
	Explorations of collaborative closures in environmental conflicts: cases in Norway and Bolivia**	PhD course in course series	2019	NMBU		24994+2500	27494	24994+2500	21883+2500
	Epidemiology and populations genetics***	PhD course in course series	2019	NMBU		17122+2500	19622	17122+2500	17122+2500
	Functional biodiversity for biocontrol and pollination – underlying mechanisms in crops ****	PhD course in course series	2019	SLU		19556+2500	22056	19556+2500	19556+2500
	Image based phenotyping*****	PhD course in course series	2019	HU-AF		14156+2500	16656	14156+2500	14156+2500
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2019									82717
<i>Master's courses</i>									
Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2019									0
Total so far for PhD courses scheduled for 2019									123717
Total so far for Master's courses scheduled for 2019									0

* Each of the three courses in the course series Ecostacking: a new approach to crop protection is granted the following funding:

- a total lump sum of €10,000, which is a flat rate, plus €1,000 to cover administration, and
- an incentive grant of €2,000 for course in field prioritised by the NOVA Board in the Open Call 2018.

Financing of the second and third course in the series will depend on student evaluations of previous courses in the series, as well as on NOVA's course budget.

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

- Course 4 (2019) was granted funding of maximum EUR 21 883 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 course series Plant pathology with a Nordic dimension:

- 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.

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

- 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.

*****The course is part of the series Phenotyping technologies in plant-environment interactions:

- 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.

80.5 Follow-up on NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018

The main topic for the NOVA Strategy Seminar 2018 was UN's sustainable development goals. The Seminar was held in conjunction with a meeting between the NOVA Board and BOVA Rectors' Board where the cooperation agreement between the two Networks was renewed. NOVA's ambitions for future activities were also addressed at the Seminar. The NSB presented the results of the NOVA Student Survey 2018.

Discussion:

The Board members find the annual Strategy Seminar valuable. It is important to meet face-to-face and discuss strategic matters regarding NOVA's future activities.

The Board wish continued emphasis on quality of the courses, including both scientific quality and quality of the teachers. The Board trust that the institutions are utilising their quality assurance systems for NOVA courses. The student evaluations of NOVA courses should be used as a proactive measure for future courses. The Board wish to give an annual prize to the course that obtained the best result in the student evaluation.

The Board stress that it is still very important to promote NOVA actively to both students and teachers.

The Board thanked the NSB for having carried out the NOVA Student Survey 2018. The Board wish to have a similar student survey conducted every 2-3 years. The NSB was asked to prepare more information for the NOVA Board on the survey.

Resolution:

1. *The Board wished to maintain the same level of courses with continuous emphasis on both scientific quality and the quality of teachers.*
2. *The Board encourage teachers to reflect on UN's Sustainable Development Goals in the courses and render visibility to this in the course description.*
3. *The Board will re-introduce a yearly prize for best course and a student survey conducted every 2-3 years.*

80.6 Evaluation of NOVA board meetings

As a part of the actions to reduce the administration and economise within NOVA, several structural changes regarding the Board have been made during the last years. E.g., from 2014 NOVA does only have a board, and no educational committee (KUF), the number of annual physical board meetings is reduced to one, which is held in conjunction with the NOVA Strategy Seminar, other board meetings are digital, and the Secretariat is reduced to a 50% position. During the past year, there have been many changes of representatives on the NOVA Board, including the NOVA Chair. Therefore, the Chair wished to discuss the structure of the board meetings and how the Board wished that these meetings should be in the future.

Discussion:

There is a good structure on the meetings. It is important that the video meetings are booked well in advance. The Board wish to continue having a yearly strategy seminar including one face-to-face board meeting. It is

important that the objectives for NOVA is discussed – is it more than offering courses? At the moment, PhD courses are NOVA's most important activity. If the Network decides to go beyond that, the Board will need to discuss this.

The Board wished that a summary of the student evaluations of NOVA courses should be presented to the Board yearly.

Resolution:

1. *The NOVA board meetings should be used for strategic discussions on Nordic cooperation.*
2. *The Board meetings are held as video meetings except for the board meeting connected to the annual Strategy Seminar.*
3. *The Board wish to have a summary of the student evaluations of NOVA courses presented yearly.*

80.7 News from the member institutions

AU-ST

No news.

SLU

The Swedish Government has commissioned hearings of HE. There is an expectation of increased internationalisation of HE from the government.

SLU find that NOVA is an important network.

HU-V

The Faculty has received increased funding from the Academy which is very positive for the Faculty. Jari Niemila will start as Rector at HU from October 2018. The Vice-Rector was elected on 7 Jun. 2018. HU-V is preparing for research evaluations.

LBHI

LBHI is developing a new strategy. LBHI's former NOVA board member Auður Magnúsdóttir has left as Dean. The University has advertised that position and the position as Rector. A new NOVA coordinator will start in the autumn 2018.

UEF-F

The status of forest bioeconomy is strengthened at university level as it is included in the University policy, and as the University has a coordinator for bioeconomy.

HU-AF

The number of students applying for university admission is increasing, also for HU-AF. Three of HU-AF's six departments have a new Heads of Department. The Faculty is in a process of renewing its strategy. Bioeconomy is high on the agenda.

NSB

The NSB had its annual meeting on 7 June, and a meeting with the BOVA Student Board on 8 June 2018. Methodological courses on animals would be interesting for master's students at NOVA institutions. The NSB would like to see that the NOVA master's course series on Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine is continued.

There are two new members in the NSB from HU. Several of the current members of the NSB will leave. Sophia Hagolani-Albov from HU-AF was elected as new Chair of the NSB. The NOVA Chair thanked Sophia Renes for her work as Chair of the NSB.

NMBU

NMBU is scoring very well on research and international cooperation in U-Multirank, a worldwide ranking of universities, from 2017. The University has a top-score for research publications, external research income and post-doc positions/faculty staff, international doctorate degrees, international joint publications and co-publications with industrial partners. NMBU'S Rector has signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). When hiring new teachers, there will be higher demands regarding the teachers' pedagogical competence. The 17 sustainable development goals will be included in NMBU's new strategy, which also will emphasise that there is a need to work across disciplines.

80.8 Other issues**1. NOVA Strategy Seminar 2019**

According to the NOVA Strategy, there should be a NOVA Strategy Seminar each year.

Resolution:

Jakob Sehested, deputy NOVA board member from AU-ST, will check at his institution whether they can host the NOVA Strategy Seminar in 2019.

2. Promotion of NOVA at the member institutions

The Board wished to receive a presentation to use when promoting NOVA to teachers and students at their universities. The presentation should include some information on NOVA's history.

Resolution:

The NOVA Secretariat will develop the current presentation and send it to the Board and the local coordinators.