

Approved on 3 Jun. 2019

Minutes of Board Meeting 82

Present:

Øystein Johnsen, Chair	NMBU	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Ylva Hillbur	SLU	
Brita Berglund	LBHI	
Jes Madsen	AU-ST	
Pauliina Karvinen	UEF-F	for Jyrki Kangas
Sophia Renes	NSB	for Sophia Hagolani-Albov
Ana Maria de Lera Garrido	NSB	

Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA Secretariat
Iben N. Andersen	NMBU

Not present:

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

82.1 Approval of the agenda and of minutes of board meeting 81

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda for board meeting 82 and the minutes of board meeting 81.

82.2 Orientation issues

1. Result of *per capsulam* meeting February 2019

Enclosure: Result of application for NOVA Board Meeting, *Per Capsulam*, February 2019

The resolution of the NOVA Board's *per capsulam* meeting in February 2019 was as follows:

The Board approved that the course “Equitation Science” (SLU) is changed from a master’s to a PhD course. The course will receive the same amount of funding as the master’s course was accorded in board meeting 81 (decision 81.5.1.12):

- 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 Nordic cooperation. The final report after completion of the approved NOVA course must confirm that teachers employed at Nordic higher education institutions from at least four different Nordic countries taught the course.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. NOVA board meeting 83, June 2019

According to the NOVA Strategy for 2018-2021, there should be a NOVA strategy seminar each year. However, AU-ST has informed the NOVA Secretariat that they cannot organise the scheduled seminar for 2019. The NOVA Strategy Seminar 2019 is therefore cancelled.

There will be a physical board meeting on Monday 3 June 2019. NOVA’s future will be discussed. The participants at the meeting will be the NOVA board members and the NOVA Secretariat.

The Secretariat proposed to organize the meeting from 1 pm – 4 pm at a hotel close to Oslo Airport Gardermoen. The meeting will start with lunch at the hotel from 12 noon.

AU-ST apologised for not arranging the strategy seminar. This is due to a reorganisation of the Faculty where the Faculty will be split up in two. This is very time consuming.

In the NSB’s opinion, not organising the strategy seminar is a loss of opportunity for the NSB members to meet. The NSB has a big turnover this year which might influence their work in NOVA.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

3. Verbal presentation by the Secretariat

NOVA-BOVA collaboration

Due to lack of statistics from BOVA for 2018, the NOVA Secretariat has not been able to write any report on the collaboration between BOVA and NOVA in 2018.

Resolution:

The Board noted the information presented by the Secretariat.

82.3 End of year accounts 2018 and accounts by the middle of February 2019

Table 1 “End of year accounts 2018” contains an overview of the accounts in the period 2014-2018, as well as the revised budget for 2018 (board meeting 80, 8 Jun. 2018). The accounts by the middle of February 2019 and the forecast for 2019 are presented next. Finally, the budget for 2019 is presented (resolution 81.4.2). Table 2 shows the member fee and the probable current future commitments for courses until 2022.

Table 1: End of year accounts 2018 (numbers in €1,000)

	31.12.2013	31.12.2014	31.12.2015	31.12.2016	31.12.2017	31.12.2017	31.12.2018	31.12.2018	31.12.2018
BALANCE (equity)	295	319	299	273	242	250	197	197	109
	Accounts 2014	Accounts 2015	Accounts 2016	Accounts 2017	Accounts 2018	Revised budget 2018 (\$80.3.3)	Accounts 201902	Forecast 2019	Budget 2019
INCOME									
Total member fees	152	161	170	204	179	210	24	304	280
External funding SNS	10	0	19	0	17	10	0	12	20
External funding NKJ		21	0	0	0		0		
INCOME total	162	182	190	204	196	220	24	316	300
COSTS									
<i>Activities</i>									
PhD courses internal funding	58	86	122	192	145	251	49	262	192
PhD courses external funding	2	10	21	0	17		0	12	20
Other projects	15	25	15	0	36	77	24	53	50
NOVA-guarantee and N+ suppo	5	8	4	5	0	15	0	23	15
NSB	2	3	2	4	2	6	0	2	5
Strategy seminar	2	6	1	2	3	8	0	2	8
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>203</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>290</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>									
Salaries	43	30	33	31	33	36	6	36	36
Travels	2	2	0	1	2	3	0	3	3
Other	10	0	2	1	2	7	0	6	6
Project: application platform an	0	30	15	0	0		0		
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>45</i>
COSTS total	138	201	215	236	240	403	80	399	335
RESULT	24	-20	-26	-32	-44	-183	-56	-83	-35
BALANCE (equity)	319	299	273	242	197	67	141	114	74

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 2019-2022 (no. in €1,000)

	2019 (if courses are approved as proposed at board meeting 82)	2020 (if courses are approved as proposed at board meeting 82)	2021 (if courses are approved as proposed at board meeting 82)	2022 (if courses are approved as proposed at board meeting 82)
Member fee (100%)	280*	280	280	280
<u>Probable commitments for courses</u>				
Current probable future commitments for PhD courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	285	68	30	0
PhD courses held in 2017, paid in 2018				
PhD courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	77			
PhD courses to be held in 2019, paid in 2020	-87	87		
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>	274	142	30	13
Current probable future commitments for Master's courses: Total for courses to be held during the year	28	0	0	0
Master's courses held in 2017, paid in 2018				
Master's courses to be held in 2018, paid in 2019	25			
Master's courses to be held in 2019, paid in 2020	0	0		
<i>Estimated payment per year of current commitments for Master's courses</i>	53	0	0	0
Estimated payment per year of current commitments for PhD and Master's courses	327	142	30	13
Rest	-47	138	250	267

*This does not take into account that some of the member fee for 2018 (approximately €24,000) was paid in 2019. The 100% member fee for 2019 is €280,000.

Resolution:

The Board approved the presented final accounts for 2018 and noted the information on the accounts by the middle of Feb. 2019.

The budget for 2019 may be revised at board meeting 83 (Jun. 2019) to take into account possible adjustments in the activity level. The first half of the member fee for 2019 will be collected in May 2019.

There will be 100% member fee in 2019.

82.4 NOVA annual report 2018

The report shows that there was a reduction in the number of PhD courses and NOVA students on PhD courses in 2018. However, with 13 organised PhD courses, NOVA was very close to reach the goal of running more than 13 PhD courses, which was the average number of courses held in the previous strategic period (2014-2017). It is positive that the number of PhD courses scheduled for 2019 is increasing compared to 2018. The Network's main tasks in 2018 have been continued simplification and streamlining of the work, as well as implementation and communication of a new NOVA Strategy (2018-2021), and the two-year pilot for a simplified funding model for PhD and master's courses. In 2019, the NOVA Board must decide upon a new NOVA Chair and host of the NOVA Secretariat for the coming period 2020-2022, as NMBU's two terms are ending in 2019. It will also be important to assure that NOVA has the financial resources to meet the ambitions in the Strategy.

Resolution:

The Board approved the NOVA Annual Report and Accounts 2018.

82.5 Decision on applications submitted in the first round of the NOVA Open Call 2019

Resolution:

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. NOVA Open Call 2019. 1st Round</i>								
1 Application of genome wide SNPs in single step genomic analysis	PhD course	2019	SLU		10000+1000	11000	10000+1000	10000+1000
2 Effects of environmental contaminants on reproductive health	PhD course	2019	HU-V		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
3 The future of bioeconomy: circular and ecosystem services-aware?	PhD course	2020	HU-AF		10000+1000+2002	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Total all applications							37000	37000
Max total applications for PhD courses running in 2019							24000	24000
<i>Courses approved in earlier calls, scheduled for 2019</i>								
<i>PhD courses</i>								
Equitation Science	PhD course	2019	SLU		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Advanced course of innovation systems in circular bioeconomy	PhD course	2019	HU-AF		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Hybrid Inference	PhD course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000	11000	10000+1000	10000+1000
Advances in Feline and Canine Nephrology and Urology	PhD course	2019	HU-V		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
NOVA course on modelling and simulation of ecosystem services and environmental resource management with artificial intelligence	PhD course	2019	HU-AF		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Keeping the hindgut and the horse healthy	PhD course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000	11000	10000+1000	10000+1000
Multilevel modelling	PhD course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000	11000	10000+1000	10000+1000
Advanced production economics	PhD course	2019	SLU		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Sustainable Nordic and Baltic Food – Technologies, Quality, and Health	PhD course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000+2000+2000	15000	10000+1000+2000+2000	10000+1000+2000+2000
Wetland ecology and management	Combined PhD and master's course	2019	HU-AF		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Biological consequences of selection	Combined PhD and master's course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000	11000	10000+1000	10000+1000
Functional biodiversity for biocontrol and pollination – underlying mechanisms in crops *	PhD course in course series	2019	HU-AF				19556+2500	19556+2500
Explorations of collaborative closures in environmental conflicts**	PhD course in course series	2019	NMBU				21883+2500	21883+2500
Epidemiology and populations genetics***	PhD course in course series	2019	NMBU				17122+2500	17122+2500
Image based phenotyping****	PhD course in course series	2019	HU-AF				14156+2500	14156+2500
Plant breeding for sustainable plant health management	PhD course	2019	NMBU		10000+1000+2000+2000	15000	10000+1000+2000+2000	10000+1000+2000+2000
Dynamic modelling of cropping systems	PhD course	2019	SLU		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Ecstacking in theory and practise: a new approach to crop protection*****	PhD course in course series	2019	HU-AF		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Total PhD courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2019								260717
<i>Master's courses</i>								
Feed ration planning in dairy cattle herds	Master's course	2019	AU-ST		10000+1000+2000	13000	10000+1000+2000	10000+1000+2000
Sustainable Urban Planning Charette in Response to a Changing Climate, Sea Level Rise - Mitigation, Management and Planning in Reykjavik, Iceland.	Master's course	2019	LBHI		10000+1000+2000+2000	15000	10000+1000+2000+2000	10000+1000+2000+2000
Total Master's courses approved in earlier calls, courses scheduled for 2019								28000
Total for PhD courses scheduled for 2019								284717
Total so far for Master's courses scheduled for 2019								28000

*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 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 course title is changed to Explorations of Collaborative Closures in Environmental Conflicts. The course is granted an exemption from the NOVA course fee. This is a one-time exemption.

***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 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 course is part of the course series Ecostacking: a new approach to crop protection. The course 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.

82.6 Rotating secretariat - next chair

NMBU's period as chair of NOVA and host of the NOVA secretariat will end on 31 December 2019. NMBU will then have hosted the NOVA secretariat for the two last periods: i.e. from 2014 to 2016, and from 2017 to 2019. Discussions concerning the future host of the NOVA secretariat for 2020-2022 were initiated for board meeting 81 (29 November 2018).

The board members presented their thoughts on issues regarding NOVA's future and some ideas for alternative organisation of the NOVA Network.

Resolution:

1. *The decision on the host of the NOVA secretariat for 2020-2022 was postponed.*
2. *NOVA's future will be discussed at board meeting 83. The Secretariat was asked to look into if it is possible to finance any activities with the remaining funds in NOVA.*

82.7 Prize for best NOVA course 2018

At board meeting 80, the NOVA Board wished to relaunch the prize for best NOVA course to encourage course quality.

The three courses that received the best student evaluations in 2018 were presented to the Board:

- Dog breeding and genetics (master's course), course leader: Odd Vangen (NMBU)
- Questionnaire design and management (PhD course), course leader: Ulf Emanuelson (SLU)
- Biotrophy in plant pathogens – from recognition to ecology (PhD course), course leader: Mogens Støvring Hovmøller (AU-ST)

Resolution:

The Board asked the Secretariat to send a diploma to the organiser of each of the three courses listed above to acknowledge the excellent courses they have arranged with their course team. This was decided instead of awarding a prize, which is problematic to accept in some countries due to tax rules.

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

The Faculty will be split in two, which will be very time consuming in the time to come. It might have a positive effect in the long run. The NOVA Chair thanked previous substitute board member Jakob Sehested for his work on the NOVA Board.

UEF-F

No major changes are taking place.

HU-V

In April, there will be a parliamentary election in Finland. Currently the politicians are in favour of increased funding of higher education, but that might change by the end of the year. The University is celebrating its 379th anniversary on 30 March 2019.

LBHI

A new hired rector is starting in 2019 and a new dean began in December 2018. That brings a lot of new energy into the University. The financial situation is quite stable now, so new staff can be hired. The institution will probably have more PhD students in the future. A new joint master's programme is being created in cooperation with HU, AU, Lund University and other institutions.

SLU

The University will have a new vice-chancellor as from June/July coming from Chalmers. She will start the process on a new Strategy that will be valid from 2021. In addition, SLU has ambitions to double the number of students from 2017 to 2027.

NSB

The NSB is currently revising the NSB's statutes, as it has not been done for many years. There has been a large turnover in the group. Recently, they welcomed two new members in the group from NMBU and AU-ST respectively.

NMBU

Norway's adherence to Plan S has created great debate. Plan S points to the obvious vision: Open science to the best of society. Both the facilitation and the time frame that is set up in Plan S have created resistance. Economics and researchers' right to choose the publication channel themselves have been among the topics in the debate. An open-access road map will be created.

Within a couple of weeks NMBU will know the number of applications for its study programmes for 2019.

82.9 Other issues

No other issues were raised.