

SJUR:

Welcome/Introduction

Welcome to this historical general meeting for students and staff! This is the first such meeting in NMBU's history to take place on the internet. We can all agree that we would prefer to meet face to face. Nothing can replace that. At the same time, digital meetings have their advantages: students and staff can participate from wherever they are. And it allows us to have contact in a time when large gatherings are impossible.

Dear All,

Despite the good solutions which have arisen due to the pandemic, this is a challenging time. There is no doubt about this.

The strain is apparent. Many students have travelled home. Studying alone. Working from home, limited social contact, long and monotonous days, tiring days with family and loneliness for many. We observe in the media that people are irritable. (Luckily not to the same level as in the US where the country experiences break-ins to city halls or similar with armed persons.)

We also know that some colleagues thrive better than others at home due to various reasons.

And the whole time we are aware of the oppressive uncertainty. How long will this last? When will we be able to do this or that? Will we experience a new wave or two?

The answer is short and does not provide comfort: **no one knows**. We saw this when the revised national budget was presented yesterday.

With the postponed move for the Faculty of Veterinary Science, NMBU has even more to struggle through than the other Norwegian universities. In addition, we have fairly intensive laboratory and field work as central components in many of our degree programs. Our numerous international students are experiencing an especially trying time because the crisis package did not include them and because they are far away from home in an insecure time.

We in the university leadership are doing all we can to alleviate the situation for all groups.

I would like to thank each and every one of you, students as well as staff, who have done everything possible to find ways to adapt daily life in this difficult time, exhibited the willingness to change, continued working – even though it has been hard – and tolerated the situation we are now in. I firmly believe that our strong will, cooperation and solidarity is getting us through this.

A thousand thanks!

It feels good that the government is now opening up a little. If nothing else, it helps to improve the mood now that we can see the light at the end of tunnel. I would like to share an early poem by Ulf Lundell:

*Vi går mot bättre tider
Tro mig, tro mig
Det här är inget skämt
Och inte heller är det
Tro mig, tro mig
Nånting som jag själv bestämt*

*Jovisst är det jävligt, och visst är det svårt
Men tar man sig en titt på själva
Innersta kärnan
Ser man framtidens skepp
och det är vårt...*

Today we put one foot on the ground together and check the situation. There are several of us presenting at this meeting: Lars Atle Holm, Solve Sæbø and Øystein Johnsen.

Today's agenda is as follows:

- Corona situation
- Campus development
- Intranet
- Academic affairs
- Question and answer
- Øystein's corner

Corona situation: focus on knowledge!

A little on the academic side of the corona situation. Among our core tasks as a university, it is education that has suffered the most during the corona crisis, namely the students and the administration of studies. But the world has been turned upside down for all of us. Just think how quickly IT has managed to develop solutions.

We have also had extra focus on students who are completing their studies this year, and the doctoral and postdoctoral candidates who have been caught in tight timeframe without room for disruptions.

Numerous workplaces will disappear permanently due the corona virus. How can we use the education system to remedy the damage? **Now** more than ever before, it is important to concentrate on the development of knowledge. At NMBU we know that we educate the workforce with the skills society needs. When the corona crisis is over, it will not be possible to return to the old ways.

NMBU would like to contribute to society and increase capacity of certain courses to provide the affected individuals the possibility to upgrade their skills. The block periods at NMBU make it possible to take intensive courses in June or August. In a very short amount of time, the faculties have created courses specifically for upgrading of skills, 10 in June and 1 in August. Here you can see a list of these.

- Årsregnskap - spesielle regnskapsemner
- Organization design
- Excel for viderekommende – effektive modeller for økonomisk virksomhetsstyring
- Naturveiledning
- Sykdommer og skadedyr på trær (mer informasjon kommer)
- Vannressursforvaltning og renseteknologi
- Industriell Innovasjon og Teknologi
- Management of Genetic Resources: Law, Policy and Practice
- Digital 3D-planlegging (mer informasjon kommer)
- Activity Based Costing (ABC) og økonomisk virksomhetsstyring (mer informasjon kommer)

We must remember that we were in a time of conflict before corona came. We must rely on knowledge areas and industry which we will obviously need more of. Simply put, we will need to rely on green solutions and sustainability.

We have become good with the use of digital media, and we will benefit from these newly learned skills when we return to campus. We will evaluate and learn from what has happened. We will experience changes, possibly first in the learning content and the pedagogics, in numerous courses, study programs and continuing education, but we will most definitely also experience changes in research and innovation.

In addition, we will also reduce the amount of travelling. For everyone. It is good for the environment!

Traces of the corona situation will be seen in future research programs. Sustainability will be an even larger priority, and, not the opposite, as some previously suspected. This will be good for NMBU.

After the last question, rector presents Øystein Johnsen. And so it is, whether you believe or not, but our healthy and youthful prorector, Øystein, will retire. Therefore, we like to give him the last word in this meeting. Øystein, the floor is yours!