

Approved on: 26 November 2014

Minutes of Board Meeting 68

Participating members:

Lena Andersson-Eklund	SLU	
Grete Bertelsen	KU-SCIENCE	
Hans Henrik Dietz	KU-HEALTH	
Elise Norberg	AU-ST	for Jes Madsen
Björn Porsteinsson	LBHI	
Jari Kouki	UEF-F	
Marketta Sipi	HU-AF	
Mari Sundli Tveit, chair	NMBU	
Antti Sukura	HU-V	
Hanna Castro	NSB	
Ingrid Aksnes Hjetland	NOVA secretariat	
Iben N. Andersen		

68.1 Approval of the agenda

Documents

- Presentation of case
- Enclosure
 - o Minutes of board meeting 67, approved by Mari Sundli Tveit, Grete Bertelsen and Torbjörn von Schantz

Resolution:

The Board approved the agenda.

Future minutes are sent to all board members for comments. Board members are given one week to send in comments.

68.2 Orientation issues

1. Presentation of EC decisions so far 2014

Documents

- Presentation of case

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

2. Renewal of the agreement between NOVA and SNS

Documents

- Presentation of case
- Enclosure
 - o Agreement between NOVA University Network (NOVA UN) and Nordic Forest Research (SNS)

Resolution:

The Board noted the information.

68.3 Decision on applications submitted in the open call 2014

Documents

- Presentation of case
- Presentations of applications
- Enclosures
 - o applications

Resolutions:

Evaluation number 1

Application no: 39

Applicant: Göran Bostedt, SLU

Application title: State of the art in payments for environmental services and market-based instruments

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 16 000.

Evaluation number 2

Application no: 43

Applicant: Mårten Hetta, SLU

Application title: Forage Evaluation in Ruminant Nutrition

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 14 444.

Evaluation number 3

Application no: 50

Applicants: Tormod Ådnøy, NMBU

Application title: Linear Models in Animal Breeding

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 16 472.

Evaluation number 4

Application no: 54

Applicant: Maibritt Hjorth, AU-ST

Application title: Environmental Technology for Treatment and Management of the Bio-waste Manure

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 10 233.

Evaluation number 5

Application no: 65

Applicant: Mogens Larsen Andersen

Application title: Food Stability

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 11 617.

Evaluation number 6

Application no: 66

Applicant: Pirjo Mäkelä, HU-AF

Application title: Yield gaps in sustainable cropping systems

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 24 000 flat rate.

It is up to the course organizers to find ways to minimise the budget.

Evaluation number 7

Application no: 70

Applicants: Heikki Hokkanen (HU-AF) (overall head applicant), Velemir Ninkovic (SLU), Lars P. Kiær (KU-SCIENCE), Guðmundur Halldórsson (LBHI)

Application title: Biodiversity and Integrated Pest Management

- *Course 1 (2015): maximum EUR 10 867 is granted.*
- *Course 2 (2016): maximum EUR 10 856 is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.*

- *Course 3 (2017): maximum EUR 10 817 is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.*
- Course 4 (2018)
 - o In the budget, “extension officers” is corrected to Industry in all of the other budgets.
 - o In the budget, specifications for accommodation and travel expenses are not filled in.
 - o The secretariat has asked the home institution for feedback on the above mentioned items in the budget in an e-mail of 26 June 2014, but has not received any answer from the home institution.

Course 4 (2018): maximum EUR 10 867 is granted given that the missing information is provided within two weeks. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.

Please submit a revised budget for course 4 within 8 October 2014. The budget should be submitted by LBHI.

Evaluation number 8

Application no: 79

Applicant: Jun Zhou, SLU

Application title: Empirical Industrial Organization with Application to the Agri-Food Sector

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 12 811.

Evaluation number 9

Application no: 79

Applicant: Thomas Nord-Larsen, KU-SCIENCE

Application title: Statistical modelling of natural resources

The application was not approved due to incomplete application. The Board encourages the applicant to apply again next year.

Evaluation number 10

Application no: 89

Applicant: Nasko Terziev, SLU

Application title: Wood structure and properties with a special emphasis on wood durability

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 5 833.

Evaluation number 11

Application no: 106

Applicant: Elise Norberg, AU-ST

Application title: Biological consequences of selection

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 14 250.

Elise Norberg did not vote on this decision.

Evaluation number 12

Application no: 110

Applicant: Marja Kolström, UEF-FI

Application title: Modern Bioenergy Systems and Technologies

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 11 556.

Evaluation number 13

Application no: 102

Applicant: Lisa Diedrich, SLU

Application title: Öresundsect - appropriating site qualities in the Öresund urban landscape

The application is granted funding of maximum EUR 11 111.

Evaluation number 14

Application no: 109

Applicants: Peter Holm (KU-HEALTH) (overall head applicant), Juha Laakkonen (HU-V), Åsa Fahlman (SLU), Björn Thorsteinsson (LBHI)

Application title: Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation Medicine

- *Course 1 (2015): maximum EUR 15 000 flat rate is granted.*
- *Course 2 (2016): maximum EUR 15 000 flat rate is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.*
- *Course 3 (2017): maximum EUR 15 000 flat rate is granted. The NOVA funding for the course will be dependent on the student evaluations of previous courses within the series, as well as the yearly NOVA course budget. If the yearly NOVA course budget allows and given positive student evaluations of previous courses, it can be possible to apply for extra funding of the course.*
- *Course 4 (2018): is not granted any funding.*

There was a discussion concerning the application for course 4 at the meeting. Björn Thorsteinsson did not understand that he had agreed to be a head applicant for the course. The Board did not approve the application for the course.

The Board's comments to future application processes:

- The Board emphasizes that for future calls only complete applications and budgets will be accepted.
- The Board wishes to receive one table where all applications are summed up, including the amount of EUR applied for.
- The application process needs to be simplified and communicated loudly to all members/local coordinators and on the web.
- The form *Official Approval by Home Institution* can be signed by a Dean, a Vice-Dean or a Head of Department.

68.4 Accounts August 31, 2014, revised budget 2014 and budget plan 2015

Documents

- Presentation of case
- Enclosures
 - o List of PhD courses
 - o List of other projects

Resolution:

Accounts August 31, 2014

The Board noted the information regarding the result and balance by the end of August 2014.

Revised budget 2014

The Board approved the revision of the budget presented in the column "Revised budget" in the chart on the next page, which includes that the second half of the membership fee for 2014 will not be collected, and cuts in costs related to the reduced activity level.

Budget 2015

The Board approved the budget for 2015 which is presented in the column "Budget 2015" in the chart on the next page. The Board wished to maintain the member fee at the budget level of 2014, which was EUR 355 000. The budget also includes funding of a half time secretary position by EUR 35 500. EUR 35 500 are given as project money for creating a new application platform and improved web pages. The budget for 2015 will be revised in the autumn of 2015.

Result and balance forecast 2014 and budget 2015 (numbers in 1 000 EUR)

BALANCE (equity) 31.12.2013		351		
	Aug. 2014	Budget 2014	Revised budget 2014	Budget 2015
INCOME				
Total member fees	175	355	178	355
External funding SNS	0	0	0	0
INCOME total	175	355	178	355
COSTS				
<i>Activities</i>				
PhD courses	8	280	110	170
Other projects	0	50	50	50
NOVA-guarantee and N+ support	0	55	55	55
NSB	0	7	7	7
Strategy seminar	0	10	10	10
<i>Activities total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>292</i>
<i>Secretariat</i>				
Salaries	24	54	49	35.5
Travels	3	5	5	5
Other	6	15	15	15
Project: application platform and website	0	0	0	35.5
<i>Secretariat total</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>91</i>
COSTS total	41	476	301	383
RESULT	134	-121	-124	-28
BALANCE (equity)	485	230	228	200

68.5 Appointment of a member to the steering committee of the Public Private Partnership for pre-breeding

Documents

- Presentation of case
- Enclosures:
 - o KUF Meeting 39 minutes
 - o Letter from Antti Sukura, dated 4 November 2014

Resolution:

The Board is willing to appoint an academic representative of the Nordic agricultural universities as a member to the steering committee of Public Private Partnership for pre-breeding for the period 2015-2017.

The Board gave the secretariat a mandate to work on the nomination.

68.6 News from the member institutions

KU-SCIENCE

Denmark is implementing a new study reform. The aim is that the students finish their studies earlier. They should be full-time students, not part time students. In future, the Danish universities should be accredited, not only the study programmes.

AU-ST

AU's new rector is Brian Bech Nielsen. As he is the previous dean of AU-ST, there is a new dean at the faculty. After mergers in the last years and centralisation, more administration is now carried out at department level.

LBHI

The former rector has left and Björn Thorsteinsson is now serving as rector until the possible merger with the University of Iceland or a new rector is elected. The planned merger has halted due to political reasons. LBHI is still experiencing some financial struggles and must reduce the number of employees.

KU-HEALTH

The veterinary education has been accredited by the European Association of the Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) earlier. The next step is an accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), which will visit KU-HEALTH in April 2015.

HU-V

The University of Helsinki has reorganised its PhD education. There are now four doctoral schools. HU-V is involved in two doctoral programmes: Doctoral Programme in Clinical Veterinary Medicine and Doctoral Programme in Food Chain and Health. The university's quality control system was audited in 2014.

UEF-F

The UEF Doctoral School has 28 doctoral programmes in total. At UEF-F, the studies have become more selective as the number of credits reserved for courses has been reduced.

HU-AF

HU-AF will in the beginning of 2015 merge with the Ruralia Institute, an independent department under the University of Helsinki.

NSB

NSB has experienced a reform reducing the number of board members, omitting master's students. NSB held a board meeting on Skype this spring and will hold a meeting at NMBU on September 19-21.

NMBU

The veterinary education was reaccredited by EAEVE in 2014. The government has announced that there will be changes in the structure and contents of higher education in Norway. It has challenged the higher education institutions to explore possibilities for new structures.

68.7 Orientation from the secretariat

- Presentation of case

68.8 Other issues

A. Follow-up on the Strategic seminar September 18, 2014

The Board decided the following:

- a. A taskforce among the Board members will be set down to investigate on external funding, e.g. from the Nordic council of Ministers (NCM). Grete Bertelsen, Elise Norberg and Hans Henrik Dietz are responsible for writing a draft mandate for next board meeting.
- b. The board expects a new attractive web site to be up and running by the end of 2015.

The Board also discussed the issues below. The Board asked the secretariat to prepare suggestions for the issues which should be put forward to the Board at next board meeting:

- Proposal for a new system of coverage of administrative expenses for PhD courses
- Financial treatment of student participation fees from fee-paying students
- Duration of the open call 2015 and frequency of decision-making on the applications
- Proposal from Hans Henrik Dietz, submitted to the secretariat on September 19, on a general text about NOVA to be presented on the member institutions' websites:

"NOVA is a Nordic university cooperation aimed at supporting understanding of the major global challenges in a Nordic context. Our main task is to initiate, administer, promote and financially support cooperation between the Nordic universities in postgraduate education.

We want to enhance a more global adoption of good practises within the Nordic countries. We provide a platform for networking between Nordic post graduate students through facilitating high quality, international level education for post graduate students.

How to acquire grant money from NOVA? It is an easy process to apply for support for your post graduate course

1. How do I apply?
2. When do I apply?
3. Where do I apply?
4. How much money does NOVA distribute every year?
5. How much can I expect to get from NOVA?

For potential applicants please go to the NOVA website www.nova-university.org . For successful applicants there will be a 5,000 € reward to be spent freely for administrative help.”

B. PhD course in the reindeer industry

NOVA has been contacted by NordForsk regarding the desire to develop a PhD course in the reindeer industry. Nordforsk will support the course with maximum SEK 200 000. 10% is set aside for administration in NOVA.

Resolution:

The Board approved of the contract and asked the secretariat to follow up.

Next NOVA board meeting

The following date is set for the next board meeting: **26 November 2014 at 10-12 am Scandinavian time.**
This will be a video meeting.