

KUF member

Anna Valros, chair

Juha Helenius
Halvor Hektoen
Lena Andersson-Eklund

Elise Norberg
Björn Thorsteinsson

Marcus Andersson

Secretary: Terttu Virri

Institution

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NSB

Coordinator

Janna Koivisto
Iben Andersen
Sari Mikkola
Melanie Etchell
Helena Eklund Snäll
Jill Archer
Susanna Pakkasmaa
Thorbjörg Valdis Kristjansdottir
Pauliina Karvinen

Absent

Grete Bertelsen
Heli Peltola
Hanna Grisum Husum
Mari Sundli Tveit
Hans Henrik Dietz

SCIENCE
UEF-F
NSB
UMB
HEALTH

Nils Brix Hornbek

48.1 Opening of the meeting

The chair opened the meeting at 10:00.

48.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

48.3 Follow-up on the KUF meeting 47

The chair referred to the background text prepared by the secretary, and it was agreed that concerning 48.3 and 48.4, only the items which someone wishes to bring up, will be dealt with. The following attachments concerning these items were enclosed in the meeting material: KUF meeting 47 minutes, Board meeting 66 minutes, third draft of the strategy paper. No comments or questions were posed.

48.4 Information on the Board meeting 66

No comments or questions were posed.

48.5 Information on the EC decisions

The chair told about the EC decisions made since the last KUF meeting. No comments were made.

48.6 PhD grant applications, open call 2013

The chair explained that as the NOVA received fewer PhD applications than usually, it was decided that a simplified evaluation system would be tested. The evaluators were asked to either support funding a course or suggest rejecting a course in question. The evaluator could also comment her /his decision. The secretary had gone through all the formal aspects of the applications and written notes for the evaluators to use.

All the 12 PhD grant applications were submitted to evaluation on 31.10. The following applications got unanimous recommendation to be accepted by all the three evaluators and were confirmed to be given a grant:

| Number | Application number | Course title | Amount granted |
|--------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 3 | 07-130913-577 | EpiNOVA Advanced Course - Data Quality | 14 520,00 |
| 4 | 09-131017-598 | Genomic and transcriptomic sequencing - a revolution in Plant Pathology | 16 500,00 |
| 7 | 34-131010-588 | Effects of pre- and postnatal experience on behavioural development | 13 750,00* |
| 9 | 42-131016-594 | Molecular methods of detection of foodborne pathogens | 13 750,00 |
| 12 | 65-131010-590 | Management and measures for social forest values in Northern Europe | 11 711,00 |

*The application for this course was of 11 000 €, but the grant was agreed to be higher, since the main applicant had made a mistake in the number of course days.

The following applications got recommendation for rejection from all the three evaluators and were confirmed to be rejected, after the secretary had quoted the evaluators' comment on the reasons for rejection:

| Number | Application number | Course title | Amount applied |
|--------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 8 | 36-130919-581 | Risk assessment - Improving public health and animal welfare (The 13th Crane seminar) | 11 000,00 |
| 5 | 11-130828-564 | Wood structure and properties with a special emphasis on wood durability | 5 940,00 |

The following applications got recommendations for both acceptance and rejection from the evaluators (or conditional acceptance) and were discussed at the KUF meeting. The decision for each application is outlined in the last column of the table.

| Nr | Application number | Course title | Amount applied | Decision |
|----|--------------------|--|----------------|--|
| 1 | 03-131010-589 | Genomics for plant breeding | 13 860,00 | The number of ECTS must be reduced to 4. If the applicant agrees, funding will be given Accepted as SOE |
| 2 | 06-131007-586 | Advanced quantitative genetics for animal breeding | 13 200,00 | Accepted |
| 6 | 27-131016-597 | Nordic dendrochronological fieldweek 2014 | 7 260,00 | The number of ECTS must be reduced to 4. The programme must be reconsidered, especially need to omit late evening lecture hours. If the applicant agrees, funding will be given. |
| 10 | 57-131015-592 | Advanced OR for forest planning | 13 511,00 | No funding |
| 11 | 61-131015-593 | Applied statistics with R for the agricultural, life and veterinary sciences | 16 167,00 | Accepted |

Juha Helenius wished that within NOVA, it would be discussed whether it is for NOVA to fund general topics like the "Advanced R" –course. Anna Valros said that this discussion took place in 2012 in the KUF meeting, when the "R" course was one of the two candidates for a grant. Then it was agreed that these kind of courses are indeed well worth funding from the NOVA budget. The chair said that the Board will be informed that the decision about funding certain types of courses should be done before opening each call for applications.

The chair initiated a discussion about the evaluation process used for this call. The KUF members agreed that if the number of the applications will not be much higher in the future, it is sensible to use a simplified evaluation system

like this year. Giving scores is not justified. It was also seen important that the priorities for funding are set clearly and in advance. Ranking the applications should only be used if the number of applications is high.

Decision summary: The applications no. 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 11 and 12 were accepted unconditionally, and the applications no. 1 and 6 accepted providing the main applicant agrees on the changes required by the NOVA KUF. In total, the cost of funding all these before mentioned courses will be 120 718,00 €. The applications no. 5, 8 and 10 were rejected.

Action: The secretary will inquire the main applicants of the applications number 1 and 6 their willingness to adjust the issues pointed out by the NOVA KUF. If the main applicants agree, the grant will be given. The secretary will also ask for any missing documents or information concerning all the courses that will receive a grant. The grant applicants will be informed about the decision, sent an official letter and the grant holders will receive detailed information on administrating and reporting their course. The secretary will upload information on the courses in the NOVA web site.

48.7 Master course applications, open call 2013

Two master course applications were received during the open call: "Sustainable pig production and "Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation medicine". The applications were attached in the meeting documents (enclosures 48.7 a and 48.7 b). A discussion about the applications took place.

Decision:

Application "Sustainable pig production": not funded, since the application lacks Nordic dimension, the use of external teacher not motivated in a plausible way and the application is lacking a lot of compulsory elements. Application "Nordic Zoo, Wildlife and Conservation medicine": Granted as applied, 14 251 €.

48.8 Activity follow-up 2013

The follow-up concerning the NOVA courses in 2013 was included in the background of meeting items document.

No comments or questions were raised.

48.9 New evaluation criteria and renewed evaluation process (2014-)

The chair explained that the draft of the new evaluation criteria and evaluation process (enclosure 48.9) was done by Björn Þorsteinsson, Elise Norberg, Anna Valros and Terttu Virri. It was discussed. Some changes were suggested. It was agreed that the Board must be informed that in the new NOVA Strategy it must be clearly defined what "invited speakers, teachers and researchers" (item 6.4.1) mean. KUF recommends that some amount can be reserved to remuneration of NOVA teachers.

Decision: The document will be amended by the chair and the next draft will be sent to the KUF along with the minutes to be commented.

48.10 Activity plan 2014-2015

The chair explained that the secretary and she had prepared a draft of an activity plan to be discussed at the KUF meeting. The draft was enclosed in the meeting documents and it was discussed. The secretary had proposed a schedule for the activity plan be as follows:

- KUF will discuss the draft
- Second draft ready by the 15th December
- Circulated to the Board
- Feedback from the Board to be sent to the next secretary
- Third draft will be prepared
- Handled and confirmed at the first meeting of the new Board (February 2014)

Decision: The second draft of the activity plan will be written according to the changes suggested at the KUF meeting and will be attached to the meeting minutes. The KUF agreed on the proposed time table and actions to be taken.

48.11 Report on Nordplus mobility 2012-2013 (by Janna Koivisto)

Janna Koivisto presented a short report on the Nordplus mobility during the academic year 2012-2013.

Lena Andersson-Eklund asked about the total amount of all the exchange students (Erasmus and Nordplus) in all NOVA universities. Janna Koivisto said that the Erasmus numbers are approximately the same numbers than Nordplus and that using more Erasmus money would mean less need for NOVA guarantee.

48.12 News from the member institutes

A round of member news took place. No major news that would have effect on NOVA was mentioned.

48.13 Other issues

No other issues.

48.14 End of the meeting

The chair ended the meeting at 14:35.