

KUF members

Anna Valros, <i>chair</i>	HU-V
Mari Sundli Tveit	UMB
Halvor Hektoen	NVH
Lena Andersson-Eklund (absent during 45.8. and 45.9)	SLU
Juha Helenius	HU-AF
Elise Norberg (left at 14:15)	AU-A
Björn Thorsteinsson, <i>chair for 45.7 and 45.12. - 45.13</i>	LBHI
Heli Peltola	UEF-F
Grete Bertelsen	SCIENCE
Hanna Grisum Husum	NSB
Marcus Andersson	NSB

Coordinators

Marianne Aarø-Hansen (left at 14:15)	AU-A
Elizabeth Jill Archer	SCIENCE/ HEALTH
Sari Mikkola	HU-AF
Janna Koivisto	HU-V
Pauliina Karvinen	UEF-F
Helena Eklund-Snäll	SLU
Cathrine Strømø	UMB
Melanie Etchell	NVH

Secretary

Terttu Virri

Absent regular member:

Hans Henrik Dietz (new member) HEALTH

Absent coordinator:

Thorbjörg Valdis Kristjánsdóttir LBHI

45.1 Opening of the meeting, presentation of Hans Henrik Dietz, the representative for the Faculty of Health of the University of Copenhagen

A short presentation took place. As the new KUF member Hans Henrik Dietz was absent, Grete Bertelsen gave a short presentation of him. She also told that most probably there will be two coordinators from the University of Copenhagen to participate in NOVA functions, too, one for the faculty of SCIENCE and one for the HEALTH, although this has not been confirmed yet. The Board member of HEALTH will be vice dean Birgit Norrung.

45.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

45.3 Follow-up on the KUF meeting 44

The secretary presented a follow-up on the KUF meeting 44. The meeting minutes were enclosed. Mari Sundli Tveit requested that the issue that was aroused in the KUF meeting 44 about the PhD course requirements should be discussed at the meeting. Anna Valros said that this issue was briefly discussed at the Board meeting (63.13) and that it will be brought up in the strategy seminar in May.

The minutes were acknowledged.

Actions: The secretary will follow up the progress on the new NOVA promotional leaflet and inform the KUF and coordinators about it.

45.4 Information on the Board meeting 63

The secretary presented a follow-up on the Board meeting 63. The meeting minutes were enclosed and were acknowledged.

Grete Bertelsen asked the secretary if the unreported grants that were under discussion at the Board meeting and the previous KUF meeting have been reported. The secretary told that almost all the delayed reports that were requested, have been delivered to the secretariat.

45.5 Information on the EC decisions

The secretary informed the KUF about the EC decisions that had been made recently. No questions or comments were presented.

45.6 Grant applications, assessment and decision

The KUF members were given the compiled score board of the PhD applications as a print out at the meeting, as well as a summary of the evaluators' comments on the applications. The grants were decided on the basis of the total evaluation scores. The scores that were counted in the total scores were: The course content, academic competence of the teachers, pedagogical approach, course time plan and one of the three aspects of Nordic dimension (reasons for arranging the course through NOVA). As the NOVA Board had set a limit of 100 000 € to be given as grants, only 4 PhD courses received funding. A voting took place, to decide between two applications: "Applied statistics with R..." and "Forage evaluation in ruminant nutrition", which had both received the same scores. The former got 5 votes out of 8, and the latter got 3 votes out of 8. All the representatives of the University of Copenhagen and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences refrained from voting, due to the fact that voting took place between applications from the University of Copenhagen and the SLU.

As all the applications received high scores and met the NOVA requirements, the KUF wished that along with the decision letter sent to the applicants, the course group will be encouraged to submit an application during the next open call.

A discussion how to handle the applications in the future KUF meetings took place. It was suggested, that instead of going through all the applications at the meeting, the secretary could make a proposition of the courses that will be granted, on the basis of the scores given by the evaluators. The proposition would then be accepted or rejected.

The decision of funding is presented here in the following table

GRANTED					
Title	ECTS	Network	Head applicant	University	Granted
Applied statistics with R for the agricultural, life, and veterinary sciences	6	Statistics in agriculture	Jens Strebbig	LIFE	27 000€
Invasive and Emerging Plant Diseases	6	Plant Pathology	Jonathan Yuen	SLU	35 000€
Experimental and laboratory animal pathology	4	Veterinary Pathology	Anja Kipar	HU-V	25 000€
Understanding, assessing and improving Ecosystem Services in Global North and South – focus on agro-ecological farming system development	4	Agro Ecology	Mette Vaarst	AU-A	17 000€
					104 000€
NOT GRANTED					
Title	ECTS	Network	Head applicant	University	Applied
Landscape Democracy – researching the right to landscape and collaborative landscape practices	4	Landscape democracy	Jørgen Primdahl	LIFE	14 944€
Forage evaluation in ruminant nutrition	7.5	Forage in the Nordic countries	Mårten Hetta	SLU	30 000€
Political Ecology	8	Forestry for Development	Jens Friis Lund	LIFE	19 000€
Nordic dendrochronological fieldweek	5	NordicDENDRO	Igor Drobyshev	SLU	32 133€
Animal and Genomic Models, and Estimation of Genetic Parameters	5	Animal Breeding	Tormod Adnøy	UMB	56555€
International Forest Governance	7	Forest Policy	Daniela Kleinschmit	SLU	14 000€
Native pollinators and pollination networks	4	Social Insects	Jens Olesen	AU-A	18 000€

Action: The secretary will send the decision letters to the applicants. The issue how to handle the decision process will be discussed in the future KUF meeting and the strategy seminar.

45.7 EpiNOVA advanced course, expenses – petition for payment

This item was chaired by Björn Thorsteinsson, since Anna Valros considered herself biased. She was not present when this item was handled.

The secretary presented the backgrounds for the petition letter from Anna-Maija Virtala, for paying the costs of the EpiNOVA advanced course. The final report of the course and the petition letter were enclosed in the meeting documents. A short discussion took place.

Decision: NOVA will not pay the overrun of the budget, only the maximum amount according to the number of the students at the course.

45.8 Activity follow-up: PhD courses 2012

The secretary introduced a follow up for the PhD courses that had run in 2012. No questions or comments were presented.

45.9 Final Activity plan 2013, local activity plans 2013

The secretary briefed the KUF about the changes made to the NOVA general activity plan 2013 (which was presented as the enclosure 45.9 a) at the Board meeting 63. No comments or questions on the general plan. The chair suggested that due to the lack of time and the fact that some of the local plans had been submitted only a short time before the meeting, the local plans will be accepted as per capsulam decision. The KUF members and the coordinators will have a one week time to comment on the local plans.

Decision: The general plan was accepted. The local plans were accepted as per capsulam decision, via email.

Action: The secretary will inform the BOVA secretary about the future NOVA courses so the possible overlapping of the similar NOVA and BOVA courses can be avoided.

45.10 Proposal of the list of the questions to be used at the member institutes as part of a survey for the Strategy seminar in 2013

The NOVA Board had asked the secretary to prepare a proposition of a list of questions to be used in the NOVA member institutes, as a mean to gain background information for the new strategy. The proposal of the questions was brought into the meeting. The KUF discussed the proposition. Most of the KUF members agreed that the list should consist of broader questions and that on the list a special section "institute leadership" should be added. Mari Sundli Tveit presented some questions she wished to include in the list. The chair welcomed any additional propositions to be sent to the secretary by email.

Actions: The secretary will rewrite the list on the basis of the suggestions received and distribute it to the KUF members by email. The list will then be acknowledged. As the list will not be binding to the member institutes, i.e. they can use it according to their wishes and purposes, it will not be dealt as a decision matter.

45.11 NOVA course certificates

The secretary sent an inquiry to the KUF and the coordinators, about opinions on the draft (provided by the UMB) of the new certificate for NOVA PhD courses. The summary of opinions received by the time of sending out this document, were presented to the KUF. The draft of the new certificate and the existent certificate were enclosed.

Decision: The new certificate will be formulated by the NOVA EC, and accepted by per capsulam decision by email.

Action: As the personal data collected in the NOVA database is regulated by the Swedish law (Personuppgiftslag 1998:204), the representatives of the SLU agreed to find out that there will be no conflict in collecting the students' birth date in the database.

45.12 Report on the Nordplus mobility 2011-2012 (by Thorbjörn Valdis Kristjansdottir)

The chair briefed the KUF about the Nordplus mobility during the academic year 2011-2012. Lena Andersson-Eklund posed a question about Erasmus mobility funding, wishing to know if the NOVA members use Erasmus enough (as an alternative to the NOVA guarantee). Janna Koivisto told that Erasmus funding is used quite a lot. However, for example the University of Copenhagen does not generally have agreements with NOVA partners as the university has been forced to reduce the number of Erasmus agreements due to an imbalance in incoming/outgoing exchange students. In these cases only Nordplus exchanges are used. Sari Mikkola explained that Erasmus funding is for longer exchange periods than the regular NIMC courses. Sari Mikkola also pointed out that the NOVA guarantee is of great importance for the NOVA master students, and this support should be preserved.

45.13 Other issues

No other issues.

45.14 End of the meeting

The chair ended the meeting at 14:40.