

Minutes KUF Meeting 35

Date: 9 June 2010

Time: 9:00-15:30

Place: *University of Helsinki, Viikki campus*

Present

KUF members

Björn Þorsteinsson, LBHI (chair)

Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU

Halvor Hektoen, NVH

Maria Wiberg, HU-V

Juha Helenius, HU-AF

Jørgen B. Jespersen, AU-DJF

Grete Bertelsen, LIFE

Morten Sørli, UMB (through video)

NOVA coordinators

Þorbjörg Valdis Kristjánsdóttir, LBHI

Stina-Lena Hellgren, SLU

Melanie Etchell, NVH

Janna Koivisto, HU-V

Sari Mikkola, HU-AF

Gert E. Jørgensen, AU-DJF

Jill MacDoughall Archer, LIFE

Iben Andersen, UMB (through video)

Þórunn Reykdal, NOVA (secretary)

NSB

Marie Sjölin, SLU

Lasse Sommer Mikkelsen, AU-DJF

Absent

KUF members

Aija Ryyppo, JU-F

Coordinators

Marianne Aarø-Hansen

35.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

Björn Þorsteinsson, chair opened the meeting and asked for comments on the agenda, a letter from Juha Helenius had been added under other issues and Sari Mikkola asked for another item, Nordplus and the agenda was approved.

Presentation of new members; Halvor Hektoen, vice rector at NVH, J Jørgen B. Jespersen, vice dean for education at AU-DJF and the new student representatives, Marie Sjölin from SLU and Lasse Sommer Mikkelsen from AU-DJF were welcomed. Gert Jørgensen Nordplus coordinator at AU-DJF attended the meeting for Marianne Aarø-Hansen.

On behalf of the members from UMB, Mike Moulton attended the meeting in the very beginning and announced that Iben Andersen would be attending the meeting within a few minutes and that Morten Sørli would be coming at around 10 a.m.

35.2 Follow-up on KUF meeting 34

Björn Þorsteinsson presented the minutes from KUF meeting 34 and the minutes were approved.

35.3. Information from BOVA CC / KUF meeting

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on the meeting of BOVA CC and KUF at the NOVA Annual Seminar in May. Information on Nordplus activity was set on the agenda later during the meeting. A proposal from BOVA was introduced during the joint meeting that NOVA could hold an annual seminar in the Baltic's. Björn pointed out that it had already been decided to have annual seminar 2011 in Aarhus and therefore it could be possible to have a NOVA annual seminar in the Baltic's in 2012 at the earliest. During the discussions positive expressions were made for an annual NOVA seminar in the Baltic's partly focusing on NOVA / BOVA cooperation. Comments were made on attendance at the meeting.

Decision: The meeting will suggest to the Board that the annual seminar 2012 will take place in the Baltic's.

35.4 Information from NOVA Board meeting 56

Þórunn Reykdal reported on the Board meeting minutes and drew attention to the following items; 56.5 next steps in the NOVA strategy, 56.6 plan for annual seminar 2011 in Aarhus and that dates for next year will be set at the autumn meeting. Under other issues, Promotional campaign to the Board from NSB which was introduced at KUF meeting 34 was brought up for discussion where the decision was that the EC committee and NSB should in the beginning focus on making good material which each university could print.

Comments were made regarding the fact that SLU will receive no funding from the government for non-EU/EES students and will therefore have to introduce full cost tuition fees for non-EU/EES students.

35.5. Evaluations of PhD applications

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on the letter from the secretariat to the KUF evaluators on evaluation criteria, which had not been updated simultaneously on the NOVA web, see enclosure 35.5a. Therefore the agreed criteria on Nordic dimension from KUF meeting 33 will not be fully implemented during the current evaluation. All KUF members had responsibility for six applications, which were evaluated by three KUF members each.

Þórunn Reykdal distributed documents on the 18 PhD course applications which had been evaluated and ranked accordingly, see enclosure 35.5.b).

The following evaluations of PhD course applications were made, where 15 applications were approved and three disapproved:

Evaluations of PhD applications

Appl. ID	Title	Decision	Granted amount (€)	Series of Event
54-100331-366	NOVA Post graduate course in Research methodology, Planning of Controlled Clinical and Experimental Trials (CCT)	Approved	49.680	No
	<i>Remark: The application is approved provided that the high fee to non-NOVA teachers, 3.000 € can be justified. No non-NOVA teachers are listed in the application.</i>			
07-100411-370	EpiNOVA Advanced Course - Infectious Disease Modelling	Approved	22.194	No
	<i>Remark: No remarks</i>			
32-100315-361	Organic Food and Farming Systems and Climate Change Mitigation	Approved	21.600	No
	<i>Remark: Minor remark, more teachers are listed in course plan than shown on the application front page.</i>			
61-100409-369	Applied statistics with R for the agricultural life and veterinary sciences	Approved	25.444	No
	<i>Remark: KUF evaluators' comments are enclosed.</i>			
48-100412-371	Urban Dendrology	Approved	13.400	No
	<i>Remark:</i>			
06-100414-377	Methods and Constraints for Optimization of Animal Breeding Schemes	Approved	44.222	No
	<i>Remark:</i>			
03-100217-359	Breeding for Adaption to Climate Change	Approved	30.111	Yes
	<i>Remark: The course organizers should be encouraged to improve the course schedule, in order to improve student activity and contribution.</i>			
09-100318-364	Plant diseases; from survival to epidemics, and management strategies	Approved	31.500	No
	<i>Remark: Course time plan good and detailed, but it should be considered critically if working days might be</i>			

	<i>too long for the students.</i>			
Appl. ID	Title	Decision	Granted amount (€)	Series of Event
30-100414-378	<i>Biosystems Instrumentation</i>	<i>Approved</i>	25.462	No
	<i>Remark: large part is after-course supervision.</i>			
02-100413-374	<i>Ruminant lipid metabolism and product quality</i>	<i>Approved</i>	22.500	No
	<i>Remark: Evaluators comments on pedagogy are enclosed.</i>			
07-100412-373	<i>EpiNOVA advanced course - Survival analysis</i>	<i>Approved</i>	20.700	No
	<i>Remark:</i>			
101-100415-383	<i>Communication in Insects</i>	<i>Approved</i>	18.355	No
	<i>Remark: Course schedule not very detailed, more detailed learning outcome and course plan would be appropriate.</i>			
04-100414-380	<i>Modelling climate effects on crops and cropping systems</i>	<i>Approved</i>	33.087	No
	<i>Remark: Quite long working days. Ask for follow-up /assessment of the preparatory work, it is half of the course.</i>			
57-100315-362	<i>Participatory Planning</i>	<i>Approved</i>	28.622	No
	<i>Remark:</i>			
05-100406-367	<i>An introduction to the experimental economics method with applications to agriculture, forestry and environmental and natural resource economics</i>	<i>Approved</i>	9.900	No
	<i>Remark: Laboratory work not very well defined and a question is raised why people from our own departments are not taking part in the teaching?</i>			

Appl. ID	Title	Decision	Granted amount (€)	Series of Event
73-100324-365	Forest technology, operations research and supply chain management	Disapproved	30.555	No
	<i>Remark: The description of the course is insufficient and therefore the course is hard to evaluate. The applicants are welcome back with more detailed application in the fall with better described course plan, schedule, student activity and learning outcome.</i>			
61-100416-387	Applied nonparametric modelling	Disapproved	22.500	No
	<i>Remark: The application does not meet given criteria, it is lacking Nordic dimension with because of no Nordic teachers. Applicants are welcome back with the application in the fall: Nordic dimension should be improved by inviting Nordic teachers or present strong motivation for using only non-NOVA teachers.</i>			
11-100413-376	Wood Products Marketing	Disapproved	7.200	No
	<i>Remark: The application is not fulfilling several formal aspects. Reviewers had difficulties evaluating competence, while CVs of main teachers are lacking, and Nordic dimension is lacking while the teachers only come from SLU. More thorough description of the scientific content is needed, the schedule for the course is not very detailed, should be improved. The applicant is advised to bring in wider group of teachers and improve the above mentioned descriptions before resending the application in the fall.</i>			
	Total amount disapproved:		60.255	
Total funding of applications and funding for autumn call:				
	Allocated for PhD courses on Budget 2010:		450.000	
	Cancelled PhD course ID 76-090330-306:		44.777	
	Total granted on KUF meeting 35, June 9 2010:		396.777	
	Total amount available for autumn call 2010:		98.000	

Juha Helenius entered the meeting, introduced himself and was welcomed by the chair.

35.6 Assessment and decision on NOVA grant applications

35.6 a) Agroasis, application ID 10-0723

Pórunn Reykdal presented the enclosures 35.6 a) application from the network Agroasis on series of events for three years and enclosure 35.6 b) on MSc course in Sustainable Pig Production.

Under this item Juha Helenius attended the meeting as expert on the Agroasis application and as such he explained the application, its background on the existing farm case in Denmark. The students who have evaluated the existing course have evaluated it highly and asked for more cases to study. Rising number of students from other countries outside Europe, popularity of the course and the wish for new cases is the reason for expanding. Through cooperation of SLU with Nicaragua, Uganda and Ethiopia the Agroasis network can get relatively cheap farm cases from these countries. The most important and expensive part of the course is the development of the Confolio web tool which is a bottom up IT tool, designed by a group of Swedish IT experts, virtual study room for the teachers, once they have learned how to use it.

The internet course has been run by UMB and now hosted by SLU where the IT tool "Fronter" is now being used. The main point is to get the data and make the course.

Björn commented on Juha's introduction that this is a pioneer project in pedagogical approach, not in scientific content. In discussions Juha explained that this is entirely an e-learning course and that the maximum number of students the course group can handle is 35-30. The course has been running once a year basically for 7 week with the students from February to April with students from Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Juha left the meeting while discussion took place.

During discussions comments were made on travel and coordination cost, on tools like camera, who will be the owner of it after the period etc. This application is considered a pioneer project in developing a system, a case study tool. Comments were made on how the course will be run, after the planning work, the head applicant is coming from Norway and there must be income related to student participation. It was also mentioned that the course organizers cannot expect money from NOVA to run the course after having 47.700 Euros for course planning.

Decision: The application for total planning grant of 47.700 Euros is approved, granting 14.000 Euros during 2010, 21.000 Euros during 2011 and 12.700 Euros by 2012. The secretariat is asked to be critical about relevant costs regarding travelling and working time of 9.000 Euro.

35.6b Sustainable Pig Production, application ID 10-0421

Björn and Pórunn presented enclosure 35.6 b) application on sustainable pig production with head applicant Dan Rantzer at Alnarp, applying for 20.163 Euros. Pórunn explained how a granted BSc course had been cancelled while the course organizers wanted to give the course outside the NOVA window and they also wanted to give the course at MSc level. In the Baltic's there is a great interest in this area and the course organizers are expecting 12 Baltic students to attend the course. This

application is for planning and upgrading a BSc course up to MSc level and attention was drawn to the fact that NOVA has not funded salary of NOVA members. During discussions this last point was stressed and positive remarks made on the NOVA / BOVA cooperation in this field.

Decision: The application granted around 7.000 € (minus the intended NOVA member salary).

35.7. Decision on funding

Per capsulam decision of KUF

Þórunn reported on *per capsulam* decision on application 10-0202, Plant Improvement which was postponed on KUF meeting 34 due to lack of enclosures in the meeting papers. The applicants applied for total of 9.185 Euros and in per capsulam decision the application was granted total of 6.117 Euros.

EC decisions on NOVA grant applications

Þórunn reported on five EC decisions of NOVA grant applications:

1. 2010-03-04 ID: 10-0919

Network: AGROASIS

Head applicant: Geir Lieblein

Project title: AGROASIS NETWORK

Granted amount: max 5.000 Euro

2. 2010 -03-04 ID: 10-0302

Network: NOLA

Head applicant: Auður Sveinsdóttir

Project title: Nordic Landscapes – Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning in the Nordic Countries

Granted amount: max 2.600 Euro

3. 2010-04-27 ID-10-03-18

Network: NOVA network for small animal clinical sciences

Head applicant: Thomas Spillmann

Project title: First planning and build up meeting of the new NOVA network for small animal clinical sciences.

Granted amount: max 3.650 Euro

4. 2010-05-26 ID: 10-0503

Network: Horticulture

Head applicant: Carl-Otto Ottosen

Project title: PhD-course Theory and practice in photosynthesis

Granted amount: max 4.977 Euro

5 . 2010-05-26 ID: 10-0517

Network: Plant Pathology

Head applicant: Minna Pirhonen

Project title: Molecular plant-microbe interactions laboratory course

Granted amount: max 5.000 Euro

35.8. New NOVA strategy

Pórunn went through the first draft, revision of existing NOVA strategy and the first major changes, based on inputs from the annual seminar in May and the decision of the Board to update the existing strategy as a minor modification of the NOVA Strategy 2007-2010.

Comments were made regarding key targets and the decision of NOVA Board and KUF that specializing veterinarians doing specialization studies, fully registered at a NOVA university have same status as PhD students attending NOVA courses.

The strategy regarding cooperation within MSc education needs attention, aims towards joint programs and educations will be cut out and text is needed on student mobility, exchange and e-learning. Aims for NOVA visibility needs attention, suggestions for promotional campaign from NSB have been discussed both in KUF and Board.

In discussions attention was drawn to that within KUF NOVA networks could be used as a starting point for applications for external funding for MSc programmes, where Erasmus Mundus is an example and added that the MSc summer courses should be included in the strategy.

Marie Sjölin asked where promotional campaign would fit in the strategy, Pórunn responded that it had already been mentioned in relation to NOVA visibility and pointed out that the Board had suggested that, to begin with, focus should be put on material which each university could print for their own use. Pórunn suggested that local NOVA teams could go through the students' suggestions on promotional campaign and perhaps involve their local communication officers as well. Questions such as do we have expertise within NOVA, or do we have to look outside NOVA for developing promotional campaign, will have to be answered and if money is to be allocated to such a campaign it will have to be considered along with revision of budget. It was suggested that communication officers within the member universities should be enabled to meet and discuss the promotional campaign of NOVA. Comments were made on target groups and the necessity of knowing what to promote and to whom, such as faculty, teachers or MSc students, on promotion of study abroad which is a general thing, where it is possible to promote the special quality of NOVA courses with Nordic dimension both among PhD and MSc students.

Morten Sørli brought up a question regarding the application procedure. It should be simple and long term application procedure could perhaps be possible for successful networks, which have shown good quality in their work, then they could apply on long term, once during a strategic period instead of having to apply annually. In this way MSc programs could be granted as series of events which could result in better quality of work when knowing ahead of time what money is available for running courses.

Pórunn raised the question if local NOVA teams should go through the students' suggestions of promotional campaign and from this work suggestions could be made to the Board regarding funding of promotion of NOVA when the budget of 2011 will be dealt with. In relation with this discussion it was suggested that communication officers should be invited to next annual seminar.

Lena asked for ideas on time plan regarding the new strategy. Pórunn responded that the inputs from the annual seminar needed filtering, on some of them there is general consensus, others are

individual inputs and Björn added that many of these inputs are more of administrative than policy - strategic nature. Þórunn suggested that she would try to send out a revised draft of the new strategy during the summer, so that the local teams could discuss it prior to the KUF meeting in September.

35.8b)

Suggestion to NOVA University-Network from the NOVA network of small animal Clinical Science.

Maria Wiberg reported on a good meeting in the Network of Small Animal Clinical Science in May, where suggestions to NOVA (found in enclosure 35.8b) were made.

Firstly the network meeting suggest that NOVA not only supports an establishing meeting for a network but also one or two network meetings per year to support continuous progression, improvement and cooperation within the network. Secondly high degree of sub-specialization within the veterinarian field demands the increase of the quality and efficiency of specialist and research education. To make better use of already existing Nordic academic infrastructure it would be of utmost benefit not to support only Nordic Master and PhD courses but also the attendance of individuals in existing courses of other Nordic faculties, to allow a better, flexible and more efficient use of existing NOVA resources. Thirdly if NOVA could give postgraduate students of residency programs the same recognition as PhD students, it would promote the education of internationally recognized clinically oriented scientists.

Björn commented on these suggestions; the first two on continuous support of network meetings and support to PhD students are both activities that NOVA has not been practicing. Networks can apply for planning grants, but NOVA does not have sufficient resources to fund annual network meetings and to support PhD students. In the discussions it was pointed out that Erasmus offers support to PhD students, usually for 3 months and made clear that it is not possible for NOVA to support individual PhD students, the main aim of NOVA is to give quality courses. Maria commented that their ideas of support were intended to increase the student mobility and also international and Nordic cooperation. Björn concluded this discussion by pointing out that within NOVA economic hindrances are in enabling PhD student travel support as the system is now. The important point is to engage the Erasmus possibilities among the students and also that institutes can save money by sending their students elsewhere instead of giving courses, and allocate part of the saved money for student travel support. New networks can apply for planning grant to discuss which courses are to be focused on. Regarding the third suggestion NOVA Board and KUF have already agreed to accept specializing veterinary students and/or postgraduate students of residency programs in NOVA PhD courses, therefore there is no need to make further decisions on that matter.

35.9 Other issues:

35.9 a) Nordplus

Sari reported on a Nordplus meeting held in the day before. Now the Nordplus brochure has all been distributed among students and there is need for more brochures. HU-AF supported the last edition by financing half of the cost where Nordplus paid half of the cost. The coordinators ask for

support from NOVA to make a new Nordplus brochure, the amount needed is somewhere between 500 – 1000 Euros.

Decision: NOVA KUF will support publication of new Nordplus brochure by paying half of the cost 500-1000 Euros.

Þorbjörg Valdís reported on the application sent to Nordplus before 1st of March 2010. Granted amount for NOVA / BOVA Nordplus network is 56.000 Euros, which is similar to what the network has received before. 36.000 Euros are for mobility which will be divided between NOVA and BOVA based on full time students and 20.000 Euros for four intensive MSc courses.

This year there a different emphasis is within Nordplus Framework Programme on activities within projects e.g. more focus is on running intensive courses then networking. Nordplus coordinators will therefore aim for network meetings in connection with KUF-meetings. It has been decided to have next yearly NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network meeting in the Baltic's, where the academic advisers of the member universities will also participate. If there will be any money left from the intensive courses budget they will be used for further networking after consulting with the Centre for International Mobility (CIMO).

Of the four courses applied for three have been supported before from Nordplus, e.g. Renewable Energy Technologies, 4,5 ECTS, Forest Tree Breeding, 4,5 ECTS and Evaluation of quality of poultry meat and eggs, 4,5 ECTS. The fourth course will be run for the first time, Economics and Management of Rural Development, 6 ECTS. All these courses are planned to be run in one week, prior to and after them there will be some e-learning. The duration of the NOVA/BOVA Nordplus network is 15 months, starting June 15 2010. Þorbjörg Valdís has just received the contract which will be signed and turned in instantly.

News on mobility; travel grants to and from Iceland will be 350 Euros and 250 Euros between other destinations. Accommodation for students staying for more than one month will be 200 Euros per month. Express mobility (shorter than one month) will change a little bit, until now students on Express mobility has received both travel grant and a small amount for accommodation. Now the students will only receive travel grant, but the network has the flexibility to raise the travel grant a little bit, so NOVA and BOVA students should have the same amount as previously.

Teachers will receive the same travel grants as students and for accommodation they will receive 355 Euros for one week or at least 8 teaching hours.

35.9 b) Thoughts on evaluation procedures – letter from Juha Helenius

Björn commented on the points made by Juha Helenius, who expressed his view of need to revise the evaluation procedures of PhD course applications within NOVA KUF and difficulty in following guidelines for evaluation of these applications in his letter to KUF from June 3rd 2010.

In the following discussions it was mentioned that KUF is for the moment not in the position to change the evaluation procedures with a short notice. Generally as such KUF members are not specialist reviewing specialist colleagues. KUF members are evaluating formalities, if the

applications are properly filled out and following the general criteria set. The merits and shortcomings of the existing evaluation procedure was discussed and pointed out that the applications which did not receive funding today were disapproved due to formal aspects, missing CV's, lack of reasoning for only having only foreign teachers and lack of Nordic dimension. Scientific criterion has not been the one to make an application fail during the evaluation procedure. Halvor Hektoen commented that this discussion is needed; this being also his first time of application evaluation within KUF. Björn concluded that this discussion needed to be taken up at later time, as the meeting is about to come to its end. The system within NOVA needs constantly healthy criticism and thanked Juha and other KUF members for good and reflective discussion on the evaluation process and criteria.

Decision: Juha Helenius will write a proposal on changes of evaluation procedures on PhD course applications.

Due to the good discussion at the meeting the presentation of the Viikki campus was postponed for later occasion.

35.10 End of meeting

The meeting was ended by the chair at 15:34



Björn Þorsteinsson
Chair



Þórunn Reykdal
Secretary