

Minutes KUF Meeting 34

Date: 4 March 2010

Time: 13:00 – 15:00 (GMT+1; Swedish, Norwegian and Danish time).

Place: Video meeting

Present

KUF members

Björn Þorsteinsson, LBHI (chair)
Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU
Morten Sørli, UMB
Yngvild Wasteson, NVH
Maria Wiberg, HU-V
Aija Ryyppo, JU-F

NOVA coordinators

Þorbjörg Valdis Kristjánsdóttir, LBHI
Stina-Lena Hellgren, SLU
Iben Andersen, UMB
Melanie Etchell, NVH
Janna Koivisto, HU-V
Sari Mikkola, HU-AF
Marianne Aarø-Hansen, AU-DJF
Jill MacDoughall Archer, LIFE
Þórunn Reykdal, NOVA (secretary)

NSB

Meri Ojanen, HU-AF
Silje Heggebakk, NVH

Absent

KUF members

Grete Bertelsen, LIFE
Henriette Giese, AU-DJF
Juha Helenius, HU-AF

34.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

Björn Þorsteinsson (chair) opened the meeting and the agenda was approved.

The chair welcomed new members of KUF, Maria Wiberg from University of Helsinki, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences who attended the meeting and Juha Helenius, University of Helsinki, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, who was unable to attend the meeting but sent his greetings. New local coordinator at UMB, Iben Andersen introduced herself and a presentation round was made.

34.2 Follow-up on KUF meeting 33

The minutes from KUF meeting 33 were accepted.

34.3 Information from Board meeting 55

Pórunn reported shortly on the minutes from Board meeting 55. She pointed out that the Board agreed that specializing veterinarians doing specializations studies and fully registered have the same status as PhD students attending NOVA courses. She also explained that Criteria for network will be sent out later.

34.4- 34.5 End of year account and 34.5 Draft of Annual report 2009

Pórunn explained that *End of year account* and *Annual report 2009* will be sent later. Recently the financial office at SLU has sent information on the account, copies from the book keeping, which needs to be worked on and it has taken longer time than expected to master the database to collect relevant information for the annual report.

34.6 Input from local teams

a) New Strategy- Questions from Board meeting 55.7 and 55.6

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on inputs from local teams where the core activity issue is promoting and developing PhD courses. Another issue that many mention is that NOVA/BOVA cooperation should continue and widespread concern is on the issue of visibility and the homepage of NOVA. Many local teams mention quality issues and improvement of procedures for the PhD applications. Other issues brought up include identification of new areas, long term continuity of networks and necessity for long term planning (learning agreement on PhD studies for individual students).

Many mention MSc courses as core activity – less attention is paid to the BSc collaboration, though several partners mention it especially BSc summer courses as an important part in the student exchange as a whole. Funding issues were also brought up mostly regarding student mobility.

Björn Þorsteinsson concluded that several of the aspects mentioned by few may be very important anyway, for example not many mention N+ guarantee or annual seminar.

Decision:

Main aspects of the local inputs will be summarized and sent out before the annual seminar in May for further discussion.

b) Input from NSB; Quality assurance and Towards a broader professional range

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on the input from NOVA Student Board. Valid points are brought up such as those regarding expensive courses.

Silje Heggebakk brought up an idea of differentiation in funding; some courses are too expensive to run frequently, e.g. some practical/clinical veterinary courses but these should probably be treated specially when funded. Lena Anderson Eklund pointed out that for PhD courses special costs are taken into account, and MSc level such courses have in some cases received double funding.

Meri Ojanen asked what is done with course evaluations. Lena Anderson Eklund responded that the use of evaluation results could be improved. The secretary has checked earlier evaluation results when handling new application, but has not been included in KUF evaluation procedures. Björn Þorsteinsson brought up the question of Bologna procedures among the NOAV partners. Probably some steps should be taken in e.g. improving learning outcome descriptions in NOVA courses.

Decision:

How to work on quality in Nova courses at all levels is a good topic for the annual seminar.

c) Survey on NOVA networks

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on survey on NOVA networks from local teams.

In the following active discussions many comments were made regarding the local inputs and ideas for the new strategy:

- That networks should be made to give courses
- Maybe NOVA should reduce the number of KUF and Board meetings
- Board – more a forum for exchange of ideas between rectors and deans
- Due to lack of money some PhD courses have been turned down
- Quality and continuity and masters courses
- Application instructions could be made somewhat clearer,
- Support for webpage courses could be of interest
- Encourage Erasmus Mundus programs
- Special funding (differentiated) for expensive courses
- Joint programmes too time consuming,
- NOVA goes global, using NOVA as a concept towards others – the Nordic alternative
- Cooperation with BOVA
- Active NSB is vital for NOVA
- Critics on NOVA windows, many students cannot participate during the windows,

Decision:

Local inputs and comments will be used in preparation of workshops at the Annual Seminar in May.

34.7 Annual Seminar 2010, Programme, invitations and nominations for NOVA prize 2010

Þórunn Reykdal reported on changes on the preliminary programme for the Annual Seminar on NOVA New Strategy, the Knowledge Triangle: education, research and innovation which will be held in Selfoss 57 km East from Reykjavík 6-7 of May. Reservations have been made for approximately 90 participants. Online registrations will soon be opened for and nominations for NOVA Prize 2010 will be announced.

Decision:

Þórunn Reykdal will send guidelines to the local coordinators on participation from each university.

34.8. Funding of clerical support within NOVA.

Pórunn Reykdal reported on that the secretariat has received an enquiry regarding possibilities for applicants to apply for NOVA funding to hire clerical support, whereas the main rule is 10% of the funding and in some cases not regarded sufficient.

Lena Anderson Eklund commented that coordination of network has been funded to some degree but not pure administration. Yngvild Wasteson responded with a comment that NOVA should be flexible in this matter but agreed with Lena that funding should not cover secretary work. Jill expressed supported flexibility for clerical support up to 20% like what is practiced in research applications. Other commented that 10% is enough for administration. Lena Anderson Eklund concluded that administration could be discussed case by case; necessary coordination is needed in NOVA networks.

34.9 Promotion of NOVA courses, input from NSB

Pórunn Reykdal reported on promotion of NOVA courses, input from NOVA Student Board. NSB feels that more promotion of NOVA is needed to increase general awareness of the existence of NOVA at the different universities, the promotion should have specially allocated funding and go beyond the NOVA-webpage. The campaign should be the responsibility of the NOVA secretary and the items should be updated every year, printed at each member university not centrally. NSB feels that it is vital that the items and tools produced do not only have the right content, but also look good, special attention should be given to this, leaving the design to professionals.

Pórunn Reykdal introduced her ideas on active information flow between the secretariat and local coordinators. The secretariat will send local coordinators a copy of e-mail communication regarding enquiries on NOVA grants and funding regarding their own institution. Local coordinators / local teams or other interested persons could subscribe to RSS feeds on NOVA news, where application deadlines for various courses and events could be published.

34.10 News from NOVA /BOVA meeting in Riga, report from NOVA Student Board

Meri Ojanen and Silje Heggebakk reported on NOVA/BOVA student meeting in Riga where they met a great deal of interest in NOVA and got good introduction on the hosting university. Within BOVA there is no student board and NSB is willing to assist BOVA students to organize their own board. It is considerably much cheaper to have meetings in Riga than for example in Helsinki, one or two meetings are needed with BOVA students in order to organize application to BOVA CC for funding to establish BOVA student board.

34.11 Nordplus Short report from Nordplus coordinator.

Stina-Lena Hellgren reported on Nordplus activities. The report for last academic year has been accepted, Nordplus had to pay back 3.000Euro while Pig production did not get as

many students as they expected. Nordplus had applied for 43.000 Euro the seminar in Tartu and Nordplus meeting in Kaunas were cheaper than expected. N+ covered 43.000 Euro. Last school year 92 students went on mobility, the ongoing school year 74 students have gone and 7 teachers. NOVA guarantee is now 41.000 Euro.

Þorbjörg Valdís Kristjánsdóttir reported on the new NOVA/BOVA Nordplus application. Deadline was March 1st 2010. In addition to students and teachers mobility is also applied for funding for 4 intensive master courses to be held in the Baltic countries for NOVA/BOVA student. 3 of these courses, Renewable Energy Technologies, Forest Tree Breeding and Evaluation of quality of poultry meat and eggs will be arranged for the second time and the course Economics and Management of Rural Development for the first time next year if we will get the funding.

A Nordplus/BOVA partner meeting is scheduled 8-9 March in Oslo. Local coordinators and study advisors from all NOVA and BOVA universities and central coordinators will meet both at UMB in Ås and at NVH in Oslo.

34.12 Draft of report on Student mobility - Study Abroad, survey April 23-24 2009

Þórunn Reykdal reported on draft of report on Student mobility – Study Abroad, survey done by Guri Gjerde and Thorbjørn Moth Gilberg at UMB in April 2009. The draft will be sent to Thorbjørn Moth Gilberg for comments.

34.13 Other issues:

a) EC suggestion on funding of NOVA grant application on Project PhD

On funding of NOVA grant application on Project PhD, Network: Plant Improvement, Project: „Plant Improvement – Programme of Nordic cooperation in graduate education“, head applicant: Áslaug Helgadóttir, applied amount: 9.185 Euro assessment and decision was postponed due to that enclosures on the application were lacking in the meeting items

b) EC decision on funding:

Þórunn Reykdal reported on NOVA Executive Committee meeting on February 18, 2010 where one decision on application for NOVA PhD project planning was made, granted maximum 5.000 Euro.

34.14 End of meeting

The meeting was ended by the chair at 14:30.