

Minutes KUF Meeting 31

5 June 2009, 08.40-15.40

Research Centre Foulum, Aarhus University, Denmark

Present

KUF members

Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU (chair)
 Aija Ryyppö, JU-F
 Marketta Sipi, HU-AF
 Grete Bertelsen, LIFE
 Henriette Giese, AU-DJF (until 31.8)
 Björn Þorsteinsson, LBHI
 Trine Hvoslef-Eide, UMB
 Yngvild Wasteson, NVH
 Outi Vainio, HU-V
 Meri Ojanen, NSB (HU-AF)

Nova coordinators

Melanie Etchell, NVH
 Stina-Lena Hellgren, SLU
 Sari Mikkola, HU-AF
 Guri Gjerde, UMB
 Elise Norberg, AU-DJF
 Jill MacDougall Archer, LIFE
 Janna Koivisto, HU-V
 Ulf Jonsell, Nova

Absent

Nova coordinators

Þorbjörg Valdís Kristjánsdóttir, LBHI

31.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

Lena Andersson-Eklund opened the meeting and the agenda was approved.

31.2 Follow-up of KUF meeting 30

The minutes from KUF meeting 30 were acknowledged.

31.3 Information from Board meeting 53

The board meeting minutes were acknowledged.

31.4 PhD course applications 2010

The compiled evaluation result of the 17 PhD course applications was presented. A discussion and decisions on each application in numerical order was held thereafter.

Decisions:

In total 14 courses were approved or conditionally approved and in all funded 411 548 Euro:

Appl.	Reg.number	Title	Decision	Granted amount	Series of Events
1	02-090330-305	Periparturient mineral and energy metabolism in the dairy cow	Approved	22500	No
2	06-090407-313	Linear Models in Animal Breeding 2010	Conditionally approved	43200	No

Condition for final approval:

Time schedule needs to be revised. Too intensive time schedule; 8.30-20.30 for two full weeks. New schedule must be submitted to Nova EC for final approval.

3	07-090402-307	EpiNova - post graduate course in advanced veterinary epidemiology	Approved	45000	No
Remark: Accommodation cost is not to exceed 100 Euro per student and night					
4	09-090414-319	Genetics of plant-pathogen interactions	Approved	27000	No
Remark: Commitment from the pending teacher is needed.					
5	32-090415-321	Farming and food systems as social ecological...	Rejected	0	No
Remark: Too many invitations to main teachers are pending. Competence of pending teachers is unclear. Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of Aarhus should be invited as a member to the network.					
6	34-090403-308	Euthanasia	Rejected	0	No
Remark: The course plan has considerable deficits on the Nordic dimension, which is an important aspect to Nova courses: Majority of students from SLU; Moderators are all Swedish; Only non-Nova teachers, no teaching participation from the network. The examination demands are too low; students are only expected to attend. The course group must consider to expand the course network to include the veterinary institutions within Nova and furthermore to include Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at Aarhus University.					
7	34-090330-304	Animal signals and communication	Conditionally approved	22500	No
Remark: - In the application 80 hours are set for pre-campus work but is not described in the course plan. - No Nordic teachers are involved and the added value of a non-Nova teacher is not given. - No teachers are listed for day 4. Condition for final approval: To be funded the applicant must complement the course plan. Final approval will be decided by Nova EC.					
8	54-090406-310	Clinical–and Biomedical Research and Scientific...	Approved	44788	No
9	57-090326-303	Applied statistics for foresters	Approved	24000	No
Remark: The course rewards as many as 8 ECTS for 10 days on campus. It is therefore very important that the pre- and post-campus assignments are better clarified in the course plan. With the large number of hours allocated for post-campus work it is important that the examination procedure is comprehensive.					
10	61-090415-320	Applied statistics with R for the agricultural...	Conditionally approved	18000	No
Remark: The network should broaden and should include UMB and Aarhus University in the course group. Condition for final approval: The final approval is pending on that the similar course 2009 is successfully run with a substantial number of students.					
11	67-090403-309	Functional milk compounds	Approved	17640	No
Remark: The students post-campus assignments must be better defined.					
12	69-090313-300	Prevention and treatment of parasitic infections	Approved	11 700	No

13	70-090317-301	Sustainable use of tropical soils	Approved	30 555	No
<p>Conditions on the use of the grant: The grant can not by any means be used to cover teachers travel expenses to Ethiopia, nor students travel expenses. The grant has therefore been reduced with 8 000 Euro. The amount asked for to hire a course secretary (3 380 Euro) is also reduced from the total grant; costs for administration up to 10 % are already included in the grant.</p>					
14	70-090414-317	Soil Degradation, Erosion and Restoration	Approved	31666	No
15	73-090414-316	Forest technology, development and fundamental research methodology	Approved	28222	Yes
<p>Remark: There is some confusion on the number of ECTS - different figures appear in the application. The number of ECTS for this course shall be 5.</p>					
16	new-090330-306	Training researchers to commercialize research	Approved	44777	No
17	new-090408-314	Public Policy for the Global Food System...	Rejected	0	No
<p>Remark: The Nordic dimension, which is a characteristic for Nova PhD courses, is in this application missing: Only one Nova teachers is involved in the teaching – the involvement of the rest of the course team is unclear. There is no contribution from the Nordic course group in the teaching activities. The course plan is unrealistic; 150 student hours during the course are allocated for 10 days, which implies 15 hours of work per day. The network must consider involving network partners from the not represented Nova members.</p>					

Marketta did not participate in the decision concerning applications no. 9 and 15.

Aija did not participate on the decision on application no. 15.

The following decisions on PhD funding in general were taken:

- Travel support to Nova teachers can only be used for travel within the Nova/Bova-region i.e. between the Nordic and the Baltic countries
- The application assessment will for the future be stricter on that correct CV format (max 4 pages) is used.
- The function Course Leader shall in future applications be replaced by Academic Course Leader and CV will be required. The function Head Applicant remains but no CV will be required.
- A second call for PhD courses 2010 with deadline 15 October, 2009 shall be announced.

31.5 Other applications

Decision:

The decision on these applications was delegated to Nova EC. All applications concern amounts less or equal 5 000 Euro.

The decision is attached to the minutes.

31.6 Funding scheme for summer courses 2010

Decision:

The course and grant conditions for Nova summer courses 2010 were decided to as follows (changes from suggestion were made):

Course conditions

- The course shall run in collaboration between at least two Nova members from two different countries.
- The course shall run during the summer. The exact timing for “summer” shall be defined together with the local coordinators in order to find the optimal time period.
- The course must be open for BSc students, preferably should first year students be able to take the course.
- Courses that include field visits and exercises are favoured in the evaluation.
- Course topics that are of interest to many first year students within Life Sciences are favoured in the evaluation.

Grant conditions

The course can get a maximum support of 5 000 Euro. The grant can cover the following costs (*same as for intensive courses on MSc level*):

- Remuneration to invited non-Nova teachers. The use of external teacher must be motivated in the application.
- Miscellaneous (material, transports, rents, social events).
- Administration - max 10% of the total grant. Does not have to be specified.
- On off-campus courses, costs for student accommodation can partly be covered in order to not having to separate students from the host member (the member giving the course) and the incoming students, where the latter group can receive a Nordplus grant for accommodation, while the former cannot.

A discussion on NIMC grants and housing was held below item 31.8

31.7 Follow-up on activities including new areas

Sum-up of information on activities on the local member institutions given by the local coordinators:

Guri (UMB) informed that there has been an increasing awareness of Nova after the seminar in April, that information on Nova is given to all new PhD students, and that meetings with head of departments are held. The local Nova web page is improved. A new prospective area is Biotechnology – a meeting with representatives will be held after the summer.

Elise (AU-DJF) reported from their first local team meeting, which treated how to promote Nova and concluded that the best way is by talking directly to teachers and students. AU-DJF will possibly hand in PhD course applications to the October call.

Melaine (NVH) explained that Nova and Nordplus information on NVH is disseminated by being included in the weekly email from the management. There is an interest to take part in the proposed Animal Welfare network. The MSc course in ophthalmology will not be given next year.

Stina-Lena (SLU) reported on the local discussions on new areas. There is an interest in revitalizing the network in Forest Production and Soils. A possible new area that has been identified is Green Therapy. SLU would like to have names of possible network members. A seminar for student “Studies abroad – a key to good jobs” has been held at SLU.

Aija (JU-F) informed that possibly new networks in Forest Technology and Bioenergy/ Forest Based Bio Energy will be initiated. Due to the intensive merging activities on JU-F few applications to PhD courses has been handed in. The seminar gave good response at JU-F from students and other participants.

Janna (HU-V) reported on the interest on a network in Animal Welfare and in Reproduction. A Nova blog has been set up and there is a good cooperation with the students.

Jill (LIFE) reported that Nova intensive courses have been promoted as well as study abroad for PhD students. NorPath is striving to become a double degree programme. The Food of Life application to Erasmus Mundus has been submitted (Nova supported). New networks of interest in Animal Welfare, Green Therapy, and Food Culture

Björn (LBHI) reported that there is an interest in a network in Grazing Ecology.

Sari (HU-V) informed that the Nova activities have included feed back on the seminar which will be used in the new 3-year plan for studies. A request on new areas around the institutions resulted in little response. A new MSc programme in English will be launched: "Environment and Natural Resources". Food Safety is suggested as a new network area.

Ulf (Nova) reported that:

- The three Nova supported Erasmus Mundus applications have been submitted, and a summary of them was distributed.
- Progress on new web is slow due to lack of time. Quicker progress is expected during the summer.
- Ulf will go on paternity leave 13 August; a new secretary will be hired to SLU, starting 1 August.
- A new PhD network in Forage Maize is being formed.

Summing up of new areas:

Interest in the following subject areas for the possibility to form networks have been mentioned in the reports from the local teams:

Biotechnology
Animal Welfare
Green Therapy
Food Culture
Forest Technology
Bioenergy/ Forest Based Bioenergy
Food Safety
Forage Maize
Grazing Ecology
Forest Production and Soils (revitalisation)

Secretariat, KUF, and Local coordinators shall in cooperation continue to work for the realization of the networks.

31.8 Follow-up on seminar 2009

Decisions

Long term funding for NIMC:

Nova shall construct a grant scheme that gives applicants the possibility to apply for a NIMC grant for three consecutive years. This shall apply to both when same course is planned to be given all three years and when a series of three courses is planned. Each year the course is followed up by submission of student and teacher evaluation and support can be discontinued. The grant sum is max 5 000 Euro per course and year. The secretariat is responsible for the implementation and announcement of this grant scheme.

NIMC and housing:

The issue was postponed to the next meeting in order for NSB to have time to discuss the question and provide input to KUF.

Teachers' marketing of international studies:

The item was sent to the local teams for discussion and will be brought up on next KUF meeting.

Administrative issues, workshop:

Was discussed below 31.10

31.9 Nova seminar 2010

Decisions:

- Nova seminar 2010 will be held on Iceland. Date suggestions will be discussed between secretariat and LBHI.
- The topic of the seminar will be the new strategy for Nova 2011-2014. The seminar should be used as an outlook on international movements and trends relevant for the strategy.

31.10 Bova seminar "Development and..."

A short discussion on the content and possible seminar participants was held. Secretariat has sent directed invitations to Nova teachers with involvement in the Baltic.

The seminar will be an opportunity for Nova administrators to discuss the routines on joint courses.

Decisions:

- Nova allocates 2 500 Euro to support 50 % of the travel costs for Nova participants.

31.11 Other issues

One other issue regarding evaluations in decision making raised by Meri (NSB) was postponed due to time constraints.

31.12 KUF meeting in the autumn 2009

KUF members and Local Coordinators were reminded on the dates for KUF meetings in the autumn 2009:

10 September – Video meeting

18 November – SLU, Uppsala

31.13 End of meeting

The meeting was ended 15.40 by Lena Andersson-Eklund. KUF expressed their thanks to Ulf for his work as Nova secretary. Trine was thanked for her long and devoted work within KUF.

Lena Andersson-Eklund
Chair

Ulf Jonsell
Secretary

Decision on funding

On KUF meeting 31 (5 June, 2009), assessment and decision on the applications listed below item 31.5 (other applications) on the KUF meeting agenda was delegated to NOVA EC.

NOVA EC has decided that the following applications to NOVA are granted:

1.

ID:09-0601

Network: Plant breeding

Head Applicant: Áslaug Helgadóttir

Project title: Planning of a three year series of PhD courses in Plant breeding

Granted amount: 4 740 Euro

Remark: AU-DJF shall be invited to the network. The grant may not be used to cover the costs for non-NOVA network members.

2.

ID:09-0602

Network: BeeNOVA

Head Applicant: Timo Soveri

Project title: NIMC in Bee Health

Granted amount: 5 000 Euro

3.

ID:09-0603

Network: NorPath

Head Applicant: Anders Kvarnheden

Project title: NIMC Molecular plant-microbe

Granted amount: 5 000 Euro

4.

ID:09-0604

Network: Sustainable pig production

Head Applicant: Dan Rantzer

Project title: Sustainable pig production – running course

Granted amount: 4 000 Euro

The following application was rejected:

1.

ID:09-0605

Network: Sustainable pig production

Head Applicant: Dan Rantzer

Project title: Sustainable pig production – planning course

Lena Andersson-Eklund
Chair NOVA KUF

Ulf Jonsell
Secretary