

Minutes of KUF meeting 30

5 March, 2009; 9-11.30, Video meeting.

Present

KUF members

Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU (chair)
Aija Ryypö, JU-F
Marketta Sipi, HU-AF
Grete Bertelsen, LIFE
Henriette Giese, AU-DJF
Björn Þorsteinsson, LBHI
Meri Ojanen, NSB (HU-AF)

NOVA coordinators

Melanie Etchell, NVH
Stina-Lena Hellgren, SLU
Sari Mikkola, HU-AF
Michael Guldager, LIFE
Guri Gjerde, UMB
Ulf Jonsell, NOVA

Absent

KUF members

Trine Hvoslef-Eide, UMB
Yngvild Wasteson, NVH
Outi Vainio, HU-V

NOVA coordinators

Riitta Kaitajärvi, HU-V
Halldóra Lóa Þorvaldsdóttir, LBHI
Elise Norberg, AU-DJF

30.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

The meeting was opened by the chair and the agenda was approved with the announcement of following other issues:

- Nordplus; Stina-Lena (SLU).
- NOVA seminar and NOVA prize; Ulf (NOVA).

30.2 Follow-up of KUF meeting 29

The minutes from KUF meeting 29 were acknowledged.

30.3 Information from Board meeting 52

Ulf (NOVA) informed on the board meeting 52: Aarhus was introduced; the general and the local activity plans 2009 were discussed; end of year account; discussion on seminar programme. (Minutes will be published on the web as soon as they have been approved.) In addition Ulf reported that no decision on new chair has yet been taken.

30.4 End of year account

Ulf (NOVA) presented the end of year account, and informed on the board's opinion that the accounting must in the future be done on an account noted in Euro.

In view of that the drop for some of the members' currencies has increased the amount of the annual member fee in local currency, Lena (SLU) stressed that during the spring only 30 % of the annual fee will be requested and in the autumn it will be evaluated how much of the remaining 70 % will be necessary to request.

Decision:

KUF accepted the end of year account.

30.5 Draft of annual report

The draft annual report was commented by KUF. The major comments regarded to add a sentence on the termination of the UFUG programme, and to add references to the strategy on all sections where applicable.

30.6 Summer course initiative

The item was divided into two sub-items:

1) Summer courses 2009

Decision:

Courses that after decision from the local teams can be announced and marketed by NOVA must be sent to the secretariat at latest March, 16. The secretariat will compile a list and market the courses.

2) Bachelor summer courses 2010

Summary of comments from the members and NSB:

- Grete (LIFE) informed that all institutions on LIFE have been asked to report back on summer courses and that LIFE probably will be able to offer 5-10 more summer courses 2010.
- Aija (JU-F) described the reluctance on JU-F to arrange more summer courses; firstly due to that students need to work during summer and, secondly, due to the already existing load of field courses the students must take. The field courses could possibly be run / marketed in a NOVA context.
- Meri (NSB) emphasized that the original idea from NSB was to arrange broad courses preferably with a significant hands-on component.
- Björn (LBHI) reported that on top of the courses that already will be offered 2009, LBHI will open a discussion with the networks representatives active on LBHI.
- Henriette (AU-DJF) explained that due to that the whole educational undergraduate structure is just being built up on AU-DJF, there are no summer course offers 2009, but that the faculty is aiming for summer courses 2010.
- Melanie (NVH) explained that there will be no summer course offers on NVH, due to the structure of the veterinary programme.
- Guri (UMB) explained that on UMB there are many courses that can be considered as summer courses because of the structure with a June and an August block, but that there are no offers in July. The courses to be marketed in a NOVA context will be selected in cooperation with the student representative in NSB.
- Lena (SLU) reported on a diverse view on the topic among SLU's faculties and that the local team had started to identify certain areas of interest for such summer courses; Bio Energy, Green Therapy, Chemical Ecology.

A follow-up from the processes started on the member institutions regarding summer bachelor courses 2010 will be made on the September meeting.

30.7 Combined PhD and MSc courses

Summary of discussion:

Two types of combined MSc/PhD courses were identified

- 1) PhD courses to which MSc students can be admitted after the course leader's approval.
- 2) Courses officially registered and marketed as MSc and PhD courses.

The former type corresponds to the existing NOVA PhD courses. The latter is the type of course addressed in the following discussion:

The meeting agreed on that NOVA must be able to handle and offer combined MSc and PhD courses, though Meri (NSB) raised some worries on the risk of lowering the quality of the appreciated NOVA PhD courses by also open up for MSc students. Henreitte (AU-DJF) shared some experiences on good examples of combined courses where the examination requirements for the two student categories were different.

Trine (UMB) had by email expressed that the NOVA procedure handling combined courses must avoid to set up a set of rules and regulations, which she summarized in "keep it simple – use common sense". Aija (JU-F) reported that the local team of Joensuu wished to avoid a procedure with double applications in order to diminish the work load for the applicants. Ulf (NOVA) argued that since the funding of MSc courses and PhD courses are very different it can be difficult to avoid double applications; on MSc courses, contrary to PhD, Nordplus mobility grants and student based governmental support are available.

Decisions:

- NOVA must be able to handle and offer combined MSc/PhD courses.
- The NOVA coordinator will, based on this discussion, formulate a document on how to handle the combined courses well in advance for the next call for course funding (i.e. next after the call with deadline 15 April 2009) for prior approval by KUF.

30.8 Revisions of PhD evaluation criteria

Neither local team, nor the secretariat had found it necessary to make any changes.

30.9 NOVA/BOVA meeting 23 April

Ulf Jonsell informed on the plans for the BOVA CC / KUF meeting on 22 April 2009. Agenda will be distributed after input from BOVA. Arrival to Oscarsborg can be either the night before or in the same morning if arriving very early.

30.10 Other issues

Nordplus coordinator Stina-Lena (SLU) informed on the Nordplus application that was submitted in the end of February. NOVA/BOVA is as last year one integrated network. Application included three different parts: 1) Student and teacher mobility (219 285 Euro applied), network meetings (16 380 Euro), 4 intensive courses (38 620 Euro).

Ulf (NOVA) informed on the NOVA seminar and the NOVA prize: The seminar programme has been distributed and the it is important that the local members inform and

appoint participants. The NOVA prize is open for nominations – use the form available on NOVA's web.

30.11 Next KUF meeting

KUF was informed on the KUF meeting in Foulum in June. NOVA will get opportunity to disseminate information to the AU-DJF staff and KUF will get the opportunity to get to learn about the activities of the Faculty.

Travel details should be sent to the secretariat for coordination of local transports and other practicalities.

30.12 End of meeting

The meeting was ended at 11.30 (GMT+1).



Lena Andersson-Eklund
Chair



Ulf Jonsell
Secretary