



Minutes on KUF Meeting No. 27

NVH, Oslo. 9 June 2008

Present

KUF members

Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU (chair)
Grete Bertelsen, LIFE
Trine Hvoslef-Eide, UMB
Lars Moe, NVH (substituting Yngvild Wasteson)
Aija Ryypö, JU-F
Marketta Sipi, HU-AF
Outi Vainio, HU-V – from 27.3b

NOVA coordinators

Ulf Jonsell, NOVA
Knut Wälstedt, NOVA
Melanie Etchell, NVH
Stina-Lena Hellgren, SLU
Michael Guldager, LIFE
Thorbjørn Gilberg, UMB
Riitta Kaitajärvi, HU-V
Sari Mikkola, HU-AF

Absent

Björn Þorsteinsson, LBHI
Yngvild Wasteson, NVH
Christian Mørk, NSF
Sanna Peltola, NSF

27.1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

27.2 Follow-up on decisions from meeting No. 26 and board meeting No. 50

The follow-up from meeting No. 26 and the information from board meeting No. 50 was accepted.

27.3 PhD course applications 2009

a) More flexible grants

It was discussed if and how a more flexible system regarding the amounts granted to PhD courses should be implemented.

Decisions

- Amounts exceeding the limit set by the number of course days and students can be approved by KUF, but must be well motivated in the application. EC should provide KUF with basic data for decision-making.
- It must be clearly stated in the application instructions that this case by case flexibility exists.
- The amount per course day and student was left unchanged (180 euro). The secretariat should make an evaluation if there are reasons to increase this amount with the financial reports from PhD courses 2008 as a basis. The evaluation should be presented at KUF meeting in March 2009.

b) Fees for NOVA / non-NOVA PhD students

Decision

- The suggested rules for charging fees for NOVA / non-NOVA PhD students were accepted with small changes. The rules are enclosed as Appendix 1.

c) Financial frame for PhD courses 2009

The financial frame (450 000 euro) for PhD courses 2009 decided by the board, was accepted.

d) Funding of PhD courses 2009

The PhD course applications were discussed, with focus on those with low scores and where scores from the two evaluators differed substantially.

Decisions

- 15 PhD course applications were approved. Four applications were rejected. A list of approved applications and the amounts granted are given in Appendix 2.
- EC should communicate the weaknesses of the rejected applications with the head applicant and recommend the network to submit an improved application to the next call (see below).
- A second call for PhD courses with deadline 15 October 2008 will be announced.

27.4 Other applications and funding rules

a) Number of NOVA / BOVA students

Decisions

- The required numbers of partners eligible for NOVA grants were modified.
NOVA Project Grants: One BOVA member can replace one of the minimum three NOVA partners. As before, a minimum of partners from three different countries is required.
NOVA Erasmus Mundus Planning Grants: The minimum number of partners is two members and countries.

b) Erasmus Mundus Planning call 15 October

Decision

- A second call for Erasmus Mundus Planning Grant applications with deadline 15 October 2008 will be announced. This call aims at the assumed new call for Erasmus Mundus from the European Commission, and may, due to the uncertainties on the Erasmus Mundus call, be changed.

c) Erasmus Mundus Planning “Food for Life”

Decision

- The Erasmus Mundus Planning Grant application “Food for Life” was approved and granted 9 515 euro.

d) Planning application – Bachelor course

Decision

- The application for planning of the course “Farming systems based on local resources” was rejected. The decision was motivated by the principle that NOVA does not fund courses on bachelor level.

e) NORBE

The importance for NORBE to continue and deepen the cooperation with Aarhus (that will be invited as a member of NOVA in 2009) was stressed. The extent of the work load for the coordinator function as given in the application was regarded as overstated, and the approved amount was therefore reduced.

Decision

- The application was approved and granted 10 900 euro, split into
5 000 euro for coordinator salary,
5 900 for travel expenses.

f) SoilSOC

Decision

- The application from SoilSOC was approved and granted 11 000 euro.

27.5 Activity follow-up

The summary by Knut Wålstedt was accepted. The local teams presented their activities so far during 2008.

Decision

- The secretariat should investigate how the MSc database could be used more efficiently, and report back to the KUF meeting in November 2008.

27.6 Master student mobility

The item was due to time constraints postponed to the next KUF meeting.

27.7 Other issues

a) KUF/CC meeting – follow-up

KUF was informed on, and accepted the minutes on the NOVA KUF / BOVA CC meeting in Helsinki 24 April 2008.

b) Marketing of International Master's programmes

KUF was informed on, and accepted the page to be published on the NOVA web.

c) Commission to Pedictnet

KUF was informed on the commission to the Pedictnet. KUF members were asked to follow-up this issue with Pedictnet members at their institution.

d) NOVA seminar 2009

The location and the topic of the NOVA seminar 2009 were discussed. UMB accepted to host the seminar.

Decisions

- NOVA seminar 2009 will be hosted by UMB and held in April or May.
- The theme of the seminar will be on student and teacher mobility.
- UMB and the NOVA secretariat should immediately start the planning of the seminar.

27.8 Information from NSF and member institutions

a) NSF's evaluation of the annual seminar

KUF was happy to have received NSF's in general positive evaluation of the NOVA seminar 2008, and will consider the lines of criticism and suggestions to improvements given in the evaluation.

b) NordForsk Public Partnership PhD Programme

Lena Andersson-Eklund informed on the NordForsk Public Partnership PhD programme, where contacts within NOVA UN could be of great value.

27.9 End of meeting

The meeting was ended at 4 pm. Lena Andersson-Eklund thanked the organizers of the meeting. This was the last KUF meeting Knut Wålstedt will attend as NOVA representative, and he was thanked for his persistent work within KUF.

Lena Andersson-Eklund
Chair

Ulf Jonsell
Secretary

Rules for charging fees from NOVA / non-NOVA students

- PhD students registered at NOVA member universities pay no fee, and (max 25) do not pay for accommodation (room and food).
- PhD students registered at other Nordic universities pay for accommodation, but no fee.
- BOVA PhD students pay for accommodation, but no fee (on trial 2008-2009).
- PhD students from other Baltic universities and from universities in developing countries pay accommodation and a fee of 200 euro.
- PhD students from non-Nordic universities in developed countries pay accommodation and a fee (minimum 300 euro) that contributes to the funding of the course expenses.
- Participants from research institutes and industry pay accommodation and full fee.

The fee shall be charged by the course organizer, not NOVA. All fees shall be reported as an income in the final financial report.

Approved PhD course applications 2009

In alphabetical order after network name.

Appl. No	Network	Course Name	Head Applicant	Memb.	Grant Approved	Series of events¹
2	Agriculture Economics	Institutions, knowledge and information	Kostas Karantininis	LIFE	31 889	x
8	Agriculture Engineering	Biosystems Instrumentation	Hans W. Griepentrog	LIFE	22 405	x
9	Agro Ecology	Global Organic Food Chains	Hennig Høgh Jensen	LIFE	25 855	x
3	Animal Breeding	Statistical Methods in Animal Breeding	Anne Lundén	SLU	39 111	Yes
1	Animal Nutrition	Feed Technology and Farm Animal Nutrition	Nils Petter Kjos	UMB	39 600	x
19	BeeNOVA	Insect conservation	Tond Hofsvang	UMB	20 160	x
12	Forest planning and inventory	The advanced use of 3D high resolution remote sensing data in forest inventory	Matti Maltamo	JU-F	18 000	x
6	Plant Pathology	Dispersal of Plant Pathogens	Jonathan Yuen	SLU	31 500	Yes
5	Reproduction	Tubular genitalia in female animals	Anne-Marie Dalin	SLU	12 692	x
16	SoilSoc	Microbial N transformation and NO/N ₂ O emissions.	Åsa Frostegård	UMB	22 500	x
13	Statistics in Agriculture	Applied Statistics with R for the Agricultural, Life and Veterinary Sciences	Jens Carl Streibig	LIFE	19 178	No
17	Sustainable Production Systems	Sustainable Ruminant Production Systems	Elisabet Nadeau	SLU	22 472	x
10	UFUG	Applied Organisational Theory for the UFUG area	Bengt Persson	SLU	20 000	x
11	Veterinary clinical Research and scientific method	Clinical and Biomedical Research and Scientific Methods.	Mette Berendt	LIFE	43 200	x
4	Veterinary Epidemiology	EpiNOVA - advanced veterinary epidemiology	Ulf Emanuelson	SLU	49 500	x
SUM					418 062	
MEAN					27 871	
Tot. funding frame (450'+15%)					517 500	

1) Decision if application should be given "series of events status". x = not applied for.