

NOVA KUF meeting Nr 25

Date: 20th November, 2007

Place: Ultuna, SLU

Agenda

- 25.1 Opening of meeting and agenda – new version of the working schedule**
- 25.2 Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 24 – including info from Board meeting**
- 25.3 Activity follow-up, financial report and prognosis**
- 25.4 Implementation of the new strategy - KUF**
 - Decision on the Activity plan 2008**
 - Draft program for the Annual Seminar 2008**
- 25.5 Implementation of the new strategy – local NOVA teams**
 - a) Follow up of 2007 plans**
 - b) Draft plans for 2008**
- 25.6 Applications for NOVA funding**
- 25.7 Administration of intensive NOVA Master courses – final document**
- 25.8 Evaluation procedure for PhD course applications – need for review?**
- 25.9 Other items:**
 - a) Joensuu as a new NOVA member**
 - b) Application of Fac. Agr. Sc. Uni. of Århus for membership**
 - c) Initiative from Wageningen**
 - d) Invitation to BOVA CC**
 - e) Meetings 2008**
- 25.10 Information from member institutions, End of meeting.**

NOVA

University Network

KUF

Meeting nr. 25

2007-11-20

Present:

Lena Andersson-Eklund, SLU (Vice Chairman)
Björn Thorsteinsson, LBHI
Marketta Sipi, HU-AF
Yngvild Wasteson, NVH
Outi Vainio HU-V
Mårten Karlow, NSF, SLU

Coordinators, others:

Knut Wålstedt, NOVA
Hannah Joan Jørgensen, NOVA
Melanie Etchell, NVH
Michael Guldager, LIFE
Sari Mikkola, HU-AF
Anna Lauritz, SLU
Stina Lena Hellgren (SLU)
Claes Lundin (SLU)
Anders Johansson (NSF-SLU)

Absent:

Trine Hvoslef-Eide (UMB)
KUF representative from LIFE
Riitta Kaitajärvi (HU-V)
Haavard Reksten (UMB)

25.1 Opening of the meeting and agenda – new version of working schedule

Apologies from Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Haavard Reksten and Riitta Kaitajärvi. Lena Andersson-Eklund acted as Chairman. New version of the Work plan; The Board decided that KUF will formally make the final decision on the activity plan. There was agreement that a suggestion to stop using a “structure plan” in the Work plan should be forwarded to the Board.

25.2 Follow-up of decisions from KUF meeting no 24 – including information from the Board meeting.

Item: Follow up from the previous KUF meeting

Material: None

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Follow-up matters have either been dealt with or will be covered later in the meeting. Lena Andersson-Eklund informed KUF that interviews will be held shortly for a new NOVA Secretary General at SLU.

Decision:

KUF accepts the follow-up from meeting no 24.

25.3 Activity follow-up, financial report and prognosis 2007

Item: Activity follow up and prognosis

Material: Activity plan, written information and budget

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Knut Wålstedt informed KUF about recent activities/events. The Board will initiate discussions on ERASMUS MUNDUS activities/interests at NOVA members and hope to find common opportunities. The question of coordination within the forestry area was brought up. It was agreed that Marketta Sipi will contact Joensuu and ask them to consider coordinating this area.

Decision:

KUF accepts the activity follow up and the prognosis for 2007.

**25.4 Implementation of the new strategy – KUF a) Decision on the Activity plan 2008
b) Draft program for the Annual Seminar 2008**

a) Decision on the Activity plan 2008

Item: Activity plan 2008

Material: Draft Activity plan 2008

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Some amendments were suggested. Several of the members experience difficulties in defining new areas for NOVA activities. This challenge must be focussed on at all institutions.

Decision:

KUF decides on the Activity plan for 2008, with suggested amendments.

b) Draft program for the Annual Seminar 2008

Item: Annual Seminar 2008

Material: Programme

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Brief discussion about the seminar program. It was suggested that since the seminar will be held in Finland, industrial innovation might be a good topic for the seminar.

Decision:

KUF accepts information about the seminar program 2008.

25.5 Implementation of the new strategy – local NOVA teams a) Follow up of 2007 plans b) Draft plans for 2008

Item: Local action plans 2007 and 2008

Material: Action plans from 2007, draft plans for 2008 handed out at meeting.

Presented by: KUF members and local coordinators and

Activity follow-ups and plans for 2008 were presented individually for each institution. Plans for 2008 will be finalised at each institution, signed by the Rectors/Deans, and sent to the NOVA secretariat as soon as possible. The Plans will be presented at the Board meeting January 2008.

Decisions:

a) KUF accepts the follow-up of the 2007 local NOVA team activity plans.

b) KUF approves the plans for the local NOVA teams for 2008. Each member will finish their plans, and have them approved and signed by their Rector/Dean, and sent to the NOVA Secretariat at latest by mid January 2008.

25.6 Applications for NOVA funding

Item: Various Funding applications

Material: Applications and written information

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Short discussion on each application. One application for funding of an intensive BSc-level course was discussed thoroughly. KUF agreed to stick to the principle to fund only MSc level courses. However, the course organisers will be asked to consider converting the course to “upper BSc, lower MSc course”, alternatively to divide it into two parts – were the second week is at MSc level.

Decisions:

The following funding is approved:

*NorPATH, 2008	30.000 €
*BeeNOVA, 2008	5.000 €
*Peditnet	10.000 €
*NorPATH, intensive course	5.000 €
*Landsc Arch, int course	5.000 €
*Hebicide use, int course	4.000 €
*Housing, feeding, int course	4.000 €
* planning grant	5.000 €
*Plant Prot Biology, plan grant	5.000 €
In total	73.000 €

25.7 Administration of intensive NOVA Master courses – final document

Item: Administration of intensive MSc courses

Material: Administration procedures

Presented by: Hannah Jørgensen

The information will shortly be put on the NOVA website. Each local administration is responsible for keeping the NOVA Secretariat updated on administrative changes. Annual “check” of the procedures, will be added to annual routines.

Decision:

Local coordinators have one week to send last minute changes to the NOVA Secretariat before the administration procedures will be published on the NOVA website.

25.8 Evaluation procedure for PhD course applications – need for review?

Item: Review of Scientific criteria for evaluating PhD course funding applications

Material: Existing scientific criteria

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Some minor changes to the scientific criteria were agreed upon.

Decision:

The NOVA Secretariat will make the recommended adjustments to the scientific criteria.

25.9 Other items:

Item: Other items

Material: Written information from Knut Wålstedt

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt

Information from the Board meeting: faculty of Forest Science at Joensuu University is accepted as a new NOVA members from the 1st January 2008. The faculty of agricultural science Uni. of Århus will be accepted as “observed” in KUF for 2008 with the intention of becoming full member in 2009.

The Executive Committee have had a meeting with Kor Oldenbroek from the Research School in Wageningen (WRAS). It was agreed that NOVA and WRAS will search for common areas for cooperation within PhD level courses

The Board has recommended that the NOVA EC (at SLU) invites the BOVA CC (equivalent of KUF) to the annual seminar, and to arrange a common meeting between KUF and CC on the first day of the seminar.

Decisions:

The following dates for KUF meetings in 2008 were decided on:

- 11th March – video meeting (SLU responsible)
- 9th June – NVH
- 9th September – Video meeting
- 12th November – LIFE

25.10 Information from member institutions, End of meeting.

No additional information from the institutions since this was covered in point 25.5

The meeting was ended at 16.00.

Notes

25.1 Opening of the meeting and agenda – new version of working schedule

Apologies from Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Haavard Reksten and Riitta Kaitajärvi who could not be present at the meeting.

Lena Andersson-Eklund acted as Chairman for the meeting. There were no comments to the agenda

Small changes to the working plan – Board has decided that the final decision on the activity plan is formally placed with KUF.

There was agreement that a suggestion to stop using a “structure plan” in the Work plan should be forwarded to the Board.

25.2 Follow-up of decisions from KUF meeting no 24 – including information from the Board meeting.

Follow-up matters have either been dealt with or will be covered later in the meeting. Knut Wålstedt informed KUF about decisions at the last Board meeting.

- Lisa Sennerby-Forsse was elected new Chairman of the Board.
- Lena Anderson-Ecklund was elected new Chairman of KUF.

Lena informed KUF that an internal advertisement for a NOVA Secretary General has been posted at SLU, and five qualified persons have applied. Interviews will be held shortly.

25.3 Activity follow-up, financial report and prognosis 2007

The activity follow-up has only been subjected to minor updates since the previous meeting. New points are: None of the ERASMUS MUNDUS applications received funding. Since the next deadline for application is in 2009, there is plenty of time to prepare. In the meanwhile, the Board wants to discuss ERASMUS MUNDUS activities/interests at the different NOVA members in order to investigate possibilities for such applications/projects within the NOVA network.

The network of plant pathology is working hard; Knut Wålstedt and Michael Guldager visited a meeting with them yesterday. They are looking for additional funding opportunities. KUF members are encouraged to support this network and help them when possible.

Apiculture/BeeNOVA is an active group, and have an active coordinator but there are some problems in coordinating this network between the members. This may be due to the differences in focus between the institutions eg some mainly work with Bees as model animal, others focus on honey production.

There will be a surplus in the budget for 2007, it was decided at the Board meeting that the fees for 2008 from each “old” NOVA member will be reduced accordingly.

Outi Vainio asked why two PhD courses were cancelled during 2007. This was most likely due to too few students.

Lena Andersson-Eklund brought up the question of network coordination within the forestry area. It has been agreed previously that this area should seek greater cooperation with BOVA and west Russian universities. It was agreed that Marketta Sipi will contact Joensuu and ask them to consider coordinating this area.

25.4 Implementation of the new strategy – KUF a) Decision on the Activity plan 2008 b) Draft program for the Annual Seminar 2008

a) Decision on the Activity plan 2008

There was agreement that the use of the word “programmes” under the heading “MSc area” in the activity plan is confusing – one should call it “areas” instead.

It is difficult to define new areas for NOVA activities. This problem exists for most of the NOVA members. This challenge must be focussed on at all institutions. Yngvild Wasteson informed KUF how NVH plans to try and find new areas for NOVA activities, particularly for the MSc area. She has arranged a meeting with the NVH study committee in January to discuss possibilities to convert some of the existing “differensieringskurs” (differentiation courses for final year veterinary students) into NOVA courses.

Regarding accommodation to students the use of Youth Hostels has worked fine at NVH, and this will be continued.

Michael Guldager brought up the question of whether or not the NordPath network can start up already in 2008. Students will be offered some courses at LIFE and UMB from the autumn of 2008, but SLU will start up in 2009. This should be specified in the activity plan.

Two sentences on pg 2 in the draft activity plan “in the short run...” and “in the long run...” should be deleted.

Sari Mikkola took up the question of what sort of support project organisers etc can expect from local coordinators and local teams (referring to what is written under the “responsibility” heading for Aquaculture and NORBE on pg 2). There was agreement that mature areas, in particular, must be largely self-sufficient, but that new areas will need initial support and help. One method is to use experienced course organisers etc act as “mentors/advisors” for staff that are new to the NOVA system. Different institutions may approach these issues individually as suits best. This should be specified in the activity plan on pg 2.

Anna Lauritz commented that the word “preliminary” should be deleted on pg 7 “EC preliminary...”

b) Draft program for the Annual Seminar 2008

Brief discussion about the seminar program.

On day 1: “presentations from NOVA activities” – should be specified that these presentations will be focussed on experiences within ICT.

Question of whether “Quality assurance” is an interesting topic for the seminar – perhaps a little dull. Yngvild Wasteson suggested that since the seminar will be held in Finland, it might be an idea to have industrial innovation as a topic – how to successfully establish collaborations between research and the industry.

25.5 Implementation of the new strategy – local NOVA teams a) Follow up of 2007 plans b) Draft plans for 2008

Each institution informed about local activities during 2007, and the new activity plans for 2008. Draft activity plans for 2008 were handed out at the meeting from most institutions. These will be finalised at each institution, signed by the Rectors/Deans, and sent to the NOVA secretariat as soon as possible. The Plans will be presented at the Board meeting January 2008.

SLU: The action plan has been a success at SLU, they have followed through on most of the planned tasks. A functional local team has been established during 2007, and is an important improvement. They have also succeeded in making NOVA more visible at SLU. For 2008 the focus will be on visualisation, to arrange a seminar on international cooperation, implement NOVA windows.

LIFE: Pleased with achievements for 2007. Main priority was to create a better NOVA team, and this seems to have worked. They have also made NOVA more visible on the faculty website, and NOVA is included in all “study abroad” promotions. For 2008 the team in LIFE will focus on promoting MSc courses and mobility windows (these must be in august for LIFE).

NVH: NVH has participated in arranging two intensive MSc courses this year. Both courses were successful. NVH has started to implement the new strategy focussing on establishing new intensive MSc courses. Yngvild Wasteson suggested that it might be an idea for NOVA team members to travel to other NOVA institutions and present themselves. At least this might work well in NOVA vet.

HU-AF: Pleased with the achievements during 2007. NOVA is part of study abroad presentations. The faculty actively participates in several networks, Nordplus and KUF. Mobility windows have been announced. The plan for 2008 is to arrange a good seminar. The faculty is celebrating its 100 yr anniversary this year, and NOVA will be presented in parts of the events programme. During 2008 the team also plans to be more active in inviting new people to the team meetings. They have also tried to establish a mentor programme where experienced NOVA people help colleagues to get started in NOVA.

HU-V: Basically satisfied with achievements in 2007, but it has been difficult to find new areas for NOVA activities (new courses). Team meetings have been more frequent, and the Dean is an active participant. During 2008 the aim is to encourage teachers to start up NOVA activities.

LBHI: They have managed to establish a local team during 2007. Recently, Holar has been invited to send a representative to this team. Have had success in sending students out (depend on it in several of their programmes), but have to little to offer for visiting students. An intensive NOVA course was run on Iceland in cooperation with Holar this summer. There

is some difficulty in motivating teachers to arrange intensive courses, but the new strategy has been presented thoroughly to the faculty. NOVA is presented in forums where this is natural.

25.6 Applications for NOVA funding

Short discussion regarding applications from NorPATH, BeeNOVA and Pedictet. The NordPATH network is working well, and are applying for a planning grant. Agreement to approve €30.000 to NordPATH. It was also agreed to approve €5.000 to BeeNOVA for network management. Pedictnet shall be granted €10.000 for the time being for travel expenses and for planning the annual seminar 2008. KUF will get more information about this network and their plans at the seminar after which the network can be encouraged to send a new application.

Four applications were received for intensive MSc courses, and it was agreed that NorPATH and Landscape architecture should get €5.000 each. The course on Herbicide use will be granted €4.000.

The fourth intensive course application is for a BSc course, and was discussed in detail. It was agreed that one should stick to the principle to fund only MSc level courses. It was suggested that the course organisers could be asked if it is possible to make this course an “upper BSc, lower MSc course”, alternatively to divide it into two parts – were the second week is at MSc level. The planning grant of €5.000 for this group was approved, and €4.000 for running the course. A €5.000 grant was approved for planning a PhD course in Plant Protection Biology.

Knut Wålstedt informed KUF that the Board, at their last meeting, discussed the upper limit for intensive MSc course funding. It should be possible to increase the limit for courses that become more expensive due to increased number of students (ie when external students are included) and that have particularly high material costs. In these cases it is important that the courses are supported strongly/prioritised by the local teams/administrations. Board members were puzzled that the NOVA surplus was so high, when courses (such as the Ophthalmology course at NVH) are cancelled due to low funds. Following this discussion, the EC decided to increase the funding of the ophthalmology course from €5.000 to €10.000. KUF agreed to the suggestion to have a general possibility to get additional funding, maximum €5.000 extra, in situations when material and other relevant costs are extra high due to the number of visiting NOVA students.

25.7 Administration of intensive NOVA Master courses – final document

Some last changes have been requested from NVH: HU-AF and SLU to the administration procedures for intensive MSc courses. There will be opportunity to send changes to Hannah Jørgensen by 7th December 07 after this, the information will be put on the NOVA website. Each local administration are responsible for keeping the NOVA Secretariat updated on administrative changes. Annual “check” of the procedures, will be added to annual routines.

25.8 Evaluation procedure for PhD course applications – need for review?

Scientific criteria for evaluation of PhD applications were agreed on prior to the June meeting in KUF where the 2007 PhD applications were evaluated. The question is whether these

criteria need adjusting? Some KUF members expressed some discontent with the criteria “Nordic dimension”.

The new strategy emphasises that NOVA activities must be anchored at the home institution. A question came up of whether there a system in place which takes care of this? Should course applications be prioritised by the home institution? One suggestion was that local teams could grade applications with respect to priority at the home institution. However, it was agreed that KUF members are responsible for communicating priorities for their institution in KUF.

Several KUF members found the criteria “Nordic Dimension” difficult to evaluate. It was suggested that the number of Nordic teachers should be specified, and that the section is divided into two sections: “Nordic Dimension” and “NOVA dimension”. It was also suggested that only the CV from the “main” teacher should be included in the application.

25.9 Other items:

a) Joensuu as a new NOVA member.

It was decided at the last Board Meeting, that Joensuu is accepted as a new NOVA members from the 1st January 2008.

b) Application from the faculty of agricultural science Uni. of Århus for membership

It was decided at the last Board meeting that this faculty will be accepted as “observed” in KUF for 2008 with the intention of becoming full member in 2009.

c) Initiative from Wageningen

The Executive Committee have had a meeting with Kor Oldenbroek from the Research School in Wageningen (WRAS). It was agreed that NOVA and WRAS will search for common areas for cooperation within PhD level courses. The EC suggests that contact should be established between WRAS and relevant networks, primarily Animal Breeding and Aquaculture. A system should probably be established where NOVA students receive NOVA grants to attend courses at WRAS that are included in the cooperation.

d) Invitation to BOVA CC

The Board has recommended that the NOVA EC (at SLU) invites the BOVA CC (equivalent of KUF) to the annual seminar, and to arrange a common meeting between KUF and CC on the first day of the seminar. This was accepted by KUF and it was agreed that it will not be necessary for the coordinators to be present if they don't wish to.

e) Meetings 2008

The following meetings were agreed upon:

11th March – video meeting (SLU responsible)

9th June – NVH

9th September – Video meeting

12th November – LIFE

25.10 Information from member institutions, End of meeting.

No additional information from the institutions since this was covered in point 25.5

The meeting was ended at 16.00.