

NOVA KUF meeting number 23

June 13th

Copenhagen, LIFE

Agenda

- 23.1 Opening of the meeting and agenda**
- 23.2 Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 22**
- 23.3 Activity follow up and prognosis 2007**
- 23.4 Applications for PhD funding 2008**
- 23.5 Administration of NOVA intensive MSc courses**
- 23.6 Implementation of the new strategy**
- 23.7 Information**
- 23.8 Other items**
- 23.9 End of meeting**

NOVA

University Network

KUF

Meeting No 23

13th June 07

Present:

Trine Hvoslef-Eide
Yngvild Wasteson NVH
Björn Thorsteinsson
Lena Andersen-Eklund
Outi Vainio
Marketta Sipi

Coordinators and others:

Michael Guldager
Knut Wålstedt
Melanie Etchell
Hannah Joan Jørgensen
Anna Lauritz
Haavard Reksten
Britta Cathrina Poulsen

Absent:

Mårten Karlow
Representative from LIFE

23.1 Opening of meeting and agenda

Opening of the meeting. Excuses from Mårten Karlow and from LIFE who do not have a representative in KUF at the moment.

No comments to the agenda.

Suggested for discussion under other items:

- appointment of a Vice Chairman
- date for annual seminar 2008

23.2 Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 22

Item: Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 22

Material: Minutes from meeting no. 22

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Knut Wålstedt

No comments to minutes from meeting 22. Some items have been completed others are ongoing.

Decisions:

That KUF accepts the follow-up from meeting no.22.

That the KUF meeting initially planned for the 13th of November is moved to the 20th.

23.3 Activity follow up and prognosis 2007

Item: Activity follow up and prognosis

Material: Summary of activities, activity plan for 2007, financial report and prognosis

Presented by: Trine Hvoslef-Eide and Knut Wålstedt

No comments to accomplished items. Short discussion regarding items not yet accomplished: principles for selecting new MSc project areas, national incentives for running intensive MSc courses, and links on national sites for marketing such courses. Short discussion regarding application deadlines for intensive MSc courses.

The Board has agreed to increase the budget for PhD courses by 50.000 Euros in 2008, to 400.000 Euro.

Decisions:

That KUF accepts the activity follow-up, the financial report and prognosis for 2007

That new MSc project areas shall be anchored at the national level, within all participating member institutions, and that the main criterion for new MSc projects is quality.

That KUF accepts the information about new funding model and frame for 2008, incl the new frame for PhD funding (400.000 Euro).

That all KUF members are committed to make sure national figures and data reported to the Annual NOVA Report are accurate, because this data forms the basis for the annual fee for each NOVA member institution.

23.4 Applications for PhD funding 2008

Item: Evaluation of applications to fund PhD courses

Material: The applications, and the technical and scientific evaluations

Presented by: Knut Wålstedt and Trine Hvoslef-Eide

In total, NOVA received 23 applications and all were found technically acceptable. Each application was distributed to two KUF members for scientific evaluation. Knut Wålstedt performed technical evaluations. Scientific result were weighted higher than technical result.

Applications were presented in a table according to the calculated points from the evaluations. There were detailed discussions regarding individual courses (see notes). KUF agreed that a certain amount of over-budgeting is OK since some courses usually get cancelled. The NOVA secretariat will provide the official recommendations and answers to applicants.

Decisions:

To approve funding for 17 courses (see list in appendix).

That the NOVA secretariat will inform the applicants about the result.

23.5 Administration of NOVA intensive MSc courses

Item: Administration of intensive MSC courses

Material: Answers from coordinators and summary of problem areas

Presented by Knut Wålstedt, Hannah Jørgensen

Each institution should simplify their procedures and make their own descriptions. The NOVA secretariat will prepare draft descriptions. This information shall be made available on the national web-pages. The text on the NOVA web pages should be the same as on the home websites – these should be cross-linked. The problem of guaranteeing accommodation needs to be discussed and evaluated locally at the different institutions, and the solutions should be clearly stated in the descriptions of procedures at each institution.

Decisions:

That each local NOVA administration provides the secretariat with written information, that may be posted on the NOVA website. NOVA secretariat will provide a draft information document.

That each local NOVA administration evaluates the possibility for guaranteeing accommodation for visiting students or finds an alternative solution.

23.6 Implementation of the new strategy

For implementation of the new strategy KUF should focus on the key strategic areas for the new strategic period. The Local teams are crucial in this task.

Decisions:

That KUF agrees on the following list of actions for implementing the new NOVA strategy:

- Before the next KUF meeting
 - Basic structure of the NOVA plan for 2008 (EC responsible)
- Before the November meeting
 - Follow up of local plans (Local teams)
 - Basic structure of local plans for 2008 (Local teams)
- Need to be operated
 - Follow up of the new PhD application procedure (KUF)
 - Further development of intensive MSc application/evaluation/administration procedures (EC)
 - NOVA web site (EC)
 - Local initiatives to stimulate creation of networks and courses (Local teams).

23.7 Information

Information from the individual institutions (see notes for details)

23.8 Other items

Date for the next seminar: HU-V and HU-AF will be organising the seminar next year. Agreement that weeks 17 or 19 are reasonable alternatives. The 8th/ 9th May were the preferred dates and will be suggested to the Board.

Lena Eklund-Andersson from SLU was elected Vice Chairman of KUF.

23.10 End of meeting

The meeting was closed at 16.00.

Notes

23.1 Opening of meeting and agenda

Opening of the meeting. Excuses from Mårten Karlow who is taking exams. At present, LIFE has no KUF representative, but they hope to have a new representative by the autumn.

Dates for the next Annual seminar and election of vice chairman in KUF were suggested as new items under point 23.8.

23.2 Follow-up and decisions from meeting no 22

No comments to minutes from meeting 22.

The scientific criteria for evaluation of PhD course applications, which were decided on at the previous KUF meeting, have now been tried out. KUF was more happy with this procedure, but need further evaluation before next years' applications.

The administration of intensive MSc courses is still an ongoing item, and will be discussed later in this meeting.

The national plans for local teams were referred in the Board on the 1st June, and the improvement in local planning was appreciated. New plans requested in the November meeting.

Reminder that the next meeting in KUF is a video meeting on the 11th September – time.

Agreement that the KUF meeting planned for November is moved to the 20th Nov. in order that Trine Hvoslef-Eide can attend.

23.3 Activity follow up and prognosis 2007

The activity plan which the Board decided on in January was followed-up at the Board on 1st June. There is a long list accomplishments and there were no comments to these.

Short discussion regarding items not yet accomplished: Regarding principles for selecting new MSc project areas there was agreement that it is difficult to make criteria in advance. New areas must be treated individually, and new areas should be anchored at a national level. Regarding national incentives for running intensive MSc courses, and links on national sites for marketing such courses – these items should be dealt with at the national level.

There was also a short discussion regarding application deadlines for intensive MSc course organisers with respect to when the courses are planned for and whether they will make it into the institutional study catalogues. The deadline at end of June is early for some of the institutions because course planning etc mainly takes place during the autumn. It was agreed that another application deadline may be announced later if few applications are received in this round.

The Board has agreed to increase the budget for PhD courses by 50.000 Euros in 2008, and the Board decided to adopt a new model for internal funding. This model requires exact data from individual institutions, and all KUF members were urged to double check the figures provided from their own institution.

There was a question regarding the status of the NORBE network. Knut Wålstedt informed that he had a meeting with them yesterday. Nordplus has approved funding to activities since it is still a Nordplus programme. There were plans to start some specialisation courses discussion of whether to run the first courses due to few applicants. KUF may have an application from this network at the next meeting.

23.4 Applications for PhD funding 2008

In total, NOVA received 23 applications and all were found technically acceptable. Each application was distributed to two KUF members for scientific evaluation. Knut Wålstedt performed technical evaluations. Scientific results were weighted higher than technical results.

The old series of events will be approved if the criteria decided on at the previous KUF meeting are fulfilled.

The applications have been presented in tables according to the calculated points from the evaluations. The 11 courses with the highest scores (over the line) will be awarded funding and do not require further discussion. The four courses with the lowest scores will not be awarded funding. Six applications are listed as in the “grey zone”, and these need further discussion. Two courses are series of events courses, one of these has a high score and will automatically be funded, and the other needs further discussion due to a low score. Noted that score for course 1 is calculated wrong, but makes no difference to evaluation. Also, score for course no 11 was calculated wrong –see below.

Question regarding SNS: NOVA has asked for advice from SNS regarding the three applications in forestry. No answer from them yet. They will provide some money for courses that are approved by NOVA, and this money will come in addition to NOVA money.

It was suggested that KUF should discuss how to use the evaluation scale. People use the scale differently; exemplified by courses no. 10 which was evaluated very differently by the two evaluators. It was also suggested that the concept of “Nordic dimension” and “internationalism of the teachers” is used as two different/separate scientific criteria.

It was agreed to award the following courses funding: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 22. Further, that courses 6 and 9 will be awarded funding if the requested information is supplied. Course 9 will be accepted as a single course, not as a series of events.

The secretariat will prepare the written answers to course applicants. It was agreed that KUF members will not bring the news to applicants; this will be provided by Knut Wålstedt.

List of courses that were approved for funding:

Network	Course title
Plant cultures/ Crop production	<u>Crop production in a changing climate</u>
Animal Breeding	<u>Quantitative Genetics with Integration of Molecular Genetics for Animal Br</u>
Veterinary epidemiology	<u>Post Grad course in Vet Epidemiology Part 2</u>
Plant Pathology	<u>Understanding plant-pathogen interactions in the genomics era</u>

Wood technology	<u>Wood engineering, products and their utilisation;</u> <u>Wood products marketing</u>
Informatics (IT) in Agriculture	<u>Bootstrap Methods and their Application</u>
Agro Ecology	<u>Research Methodologies in relation to Principles and Practice of Organic Food and Farming</u>
Ethology	<u>Abnormal animal behaviour</u>
Agro-Biotechnology	<u>Novel technologies for management of the beneficial and harmful microbes in the root system</u>
Veterinary clinical research and scientific method	<u>Clinical- and Biomedical Research and Scientific Methods....</u>
Plant Microscopy	<u>Microscopy in Plant Biology Related Research</u>
Forest planning and inventory	<u>Markov Decision Processes: Methods and Applications</u>
Bovine Mastitis	<u>Mastitis Research</u>
Veterinary Pathology	<u>Veterinary Pathology: inflammation</u>
Multifunctional forestry	<u>Ecology, silvaculture and economics of multifunctional forestry in Northern Europe</u>
Veterinary Parasitology	<u>Annual graduate course in veterinary parasitology</u>
SoilSoc	<u>Soil Degradation, Erosion and Restoration</u>

23.5 Administration of NOVA intensive MSc courses

Each institution should simplify their procedures and make their own descriptions. This should be made available on relevant national web-pages. This needs to be followed up at each institution. Also, all local administrations need to consider the problem of accommodation for visiting students.

There was agreement that the text on NOVA web pages should be the same as on the home websites – these should be cross linked. NSF will be asked to evaluate the information when the job is done. Also NSF should be part of the NOVA team work to provide this information.

The secretariat requests each institution to provide the available written information on their local procedures. They will then work to consolidate this information and prepare necessary documents. NOVA secretariat will provide a draft document.

The problem of accommodation needs to be discussed with the respective rectors and deans. Each institution needs to find their own solutions.

23.6 Implementation of the new strategy

For implementation of the new strategy KUF should focus on the key strategic areas for the new strategic period. The Local teams are crucial in this task.

Networks and courses: KUF members should find areas within their own institution that could benefit from NOVA PhD and MSc courses, and stimulate establishment of networks and courses.

Political forums: No need to stimulate additional political forums in addition to the seminar, better to use the seminar and rather organise special meetings if extraordinary matters come up. It was also agreed that there is no need for a seminar on obstacles in administration of MSc intensive courses.

Mobility windows: KUF should consider awarding money only to courses planned in a mobility window; this would be a good way to enforce it.

Website: harsh criticism at seminar. There was agreement that it is not necessary to totally restructure the site, but that the website needs to become clearer in order for students to find what they need. Knut Wålstedt is gathering comments on the website from seminar participants. Some Seminar participants were not satisfied with the fact that the seminar programme was only accessible through an email based link. Knut Wålstedt and Hannah Jørgensen will try and improve the present site, and then ask NSF to evaluate it in the autumn.

Mobility funding: question of whether KUF should ask the Board to continue the guarantee for mobility funding? It was agreed that this was not necessary; KUF can take a decision at the next meeting. In the long run NOVA needs other solutions.

23.7 Information

UMB: There has been a pleasing increase in the number of applicants, especially to newly established courses. "Old" subjects are still suffering from low application numbers. The fields of aquaculture and feed technology are being evaluated next week. UMB is offering 1 course in the summer university this year and this started yesterday. This could probably be in NOVA in future. The local NOVA team at UMB consists of the pro-rector of studies the local NOVA coordinator and 2 students. They meet before each KUF meeting. Department heads are also included in specific discussions and information is spread directly to them.

LBHI: Everybody is spending a lot of time on the accreditation. A Bologna style description of all study lines with learning outcome etc has been made. Some increase in application numbers due to new programmes. New programmes established in equine studies. The university is looking into the possibility to build more buildings, and will also be transferring from the Ministry of Agriculture to the Ministry of Education.

NVH: No decision has been made on the merger with UMB. In May NVH had visit from NOKUT – quality assurance. Pleased with process and awaiting final report. Student numbers will be increasing from 60 to 70 for veterinary medicine and from 15 to 30 for veterinary nursing as from August. For the Masters courses student numbers will remain the same (at 15).

SLU: Most of the relevant information from SLU was given at the seminar. There will be an MSc course at SLU this summer on horse breeding.

NSF: had a meeting after the seminar, and talked about preparing/updating their own strategy. They also discussed how to spread information to the students about NOVA windows. The representative at UMB has already had an information meeting, and it was decided that all students should do that. NSF has made an evaluation of the seminar which will be sent to Knut.

LIFE: Officially searching for a new vice dean who will hopefully have started in October. This person will be the new KUF representative. Local team: decided to cut down to a core group (from 14 to 6/7). The local Team needs to become more efficient wrt information and decisions.

HU-AF: The number of applications was about as last yr. (1200). The university is still working on the quality assurance evaluation. They have also started to make a new marketing plan as the faculty is 100 yrs next yr. NOVA team: meeting before every KUF meeting and extra meetings if there are special things to handle or discuss. Spread information in faculty meetings and by email

HU-V: Local NOVA team meetings are held after KUF meetings. Difficult to get people to attend the meetings. The local team has focussed on integrating NOVA in the university system/events and has therefore decided not to have a special NOVA day. There is always a short NOVA briefing at the faculty meetings. HU-V is also working on the quality assurance

23.8 Other items

Date for the next seminar: HU-V and HU-AF will be organising the seminar next year. Agreement that weeks 17 or 19 are reasonable alternatives. The 24th/25th of April or the 8th/9th May was suggested. The majority preferred the latter.

Lena was selected Vice Chairman of KUF.

23.11 End of meeting

The meeting was closed at 16.00.