

NOVA KUF meeting

Nr 20

Date: Sept 14, 2006

Place: Video

Time	Items
20.1	Opening of meeting and agenda
20.2	Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 19 (Paul Jensen)
20.3	Financial follow-up and prognosis (Knut Wålstedt)
20.4	Guideline for developing joint programmes, periods for intensive MSc course windows included (Paul Jensen and Knut Wålstedt)
20.5	Reports from networks/local NOVA coordinators a. Aquaculture b. NORBE c. NOVA-Nordplus mobility (Paul Jensen, Knut Wålstedt) <i>Pause</i>
20.6	Procedure for evaluating applications for PhD course funding, incl. list of evaluation criteria (Paul Jensen and Knut Wålstedt)
20.7	Information (NSF, KUF members, NOVA rector)
20.8	End of meeting

Present: Reeta Pösö, HU-V, acting chairman
Björn Thorsteinsson, LBHI
Marketta Sipi, HU-AF
Trine Hvoslef-Eide, UMB
Ingrid Öborn, SLU (new member)
Yngvild Wastesson, NVH
Ronnie Babigumira, student representative, UMB
Mårten Karlow, student representative, SLU

Coordinators, others: Paul Jensen, NOVA
Knut Wålstedt, NOVA
Sari Mikkola, HU-AF
Haavard Reksten, UMB
Melanie Etchell, NVH
Riitta Kaitajärvi, HU-V, coordinator

Absent Flemming Frandsen, chairman, KVL
Anna Lauritz, SLU
Christina Hove Odgaard, KVL

20.1. Opening of meeting

The video-meeting was opened, short presentation around the table. The agenda was approved.

20.2. Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 19

Matter: Follow up of decisions from the latest KUF meeting.

Material: Minutes from meeting 19.

Short comments from NOVA rector, no comments from KUF.

Decision:

that KUF approves the presentation and the follow-up of decisions from meeting 19.

20.3 Financial follow-up and prognosis

Matter: presentation of a prognosis for 2006 and a draft budget frame for 2007.

Material: 20.3.1. Funding and activities/expenses, 2005-2006-2007

Short comments from NOVA rector and NOVA coordinator. Agroecology was added to the list of potential applicants for funding 2007. The funding of the annual seminar was discussed.

Decision:

That: KUF accepts the suggested prognoses for 2006,

That: amount available for additional funding of MSc and related projects is set to 56 000€

That: no additional funding of PhD 2007 is set aside from 2006 budget at this time,

That: KUF will ask the board for approval to spend a certain amount from budget 2007 for approvals at the November meeting. The amount will depend on the amount of funding applied for by the various networks (deadline November 1).

That: KUF accepts the draft 2007 frame as information.

20.4 Guideline for developing Joint MSc programmes, periods for intensive MSc course windows included.

Matter: Follow up from the June meeting on the matter of Guidelines for developing joint MSc programmes, and the matter of joint national windows for intensive courses.

Material: 20.4.1. E-mails from NIMC organizer John Pringle and to Göran Dalin, both in NOVA vet.

20.4.2. Letter from NSF regarding windows.

Short comments from NOVA rector, and some discussions about the words in some of the suggested decisions.

Decision:

That the draft document will be sent out to KUF and the coordinators as soon as possible,

That the veterinary area will be asked to find a common solution to the internal funding of intensive MSc courses,

That NOVA rector awaits the next (extra) board meeting on September 29 before making a final draft of the document,

That the document is anchored in the member institutions before taken up at the next KUF meeting on November 21.

That KUF agrees to take the suggested dates for windows (weeks 33 and 34 respectively 2 and 3) to the NOVA board for decisions

20.5 Reports from networks and local coordinators

- a) **Aquaculture**
- b) **NORBE**
- c) **NOVA Nordplus mobility**

Matter: Reports from the Aquaculture and NORBE networks, including some comments from local coordinators, and an application from the Nordplus network.

Material: 20.5.1. Reports from the Aquaculture area
a) Report from the network
b) Reports from local coordinators
20.5.2. Report from NORBE
20.5.3. Application from the NOVA Nordplus network

Introductions from NOVA rector and NOVA coordinator regarding the situation in the Aquaculture and NORBE projects.

Greetings from the Aquaculture network (running a joint intensive MSc meeting on Bornholm) asking for support on the matter of functional video links.

Decision:

That Sari Mikkola will inform Anders Kiessling about relevant Finnish partners at Helsinki University,

That NOVA rector will continue the discussion with KVL regarding their requirement for a joint programme,

That the Aquaculture network continues according to the report until the end of 2006, using the unused funds, and hands in a new application, for 2007, to the next KUF meeting on November 21.

That NOVA rector can approve limited extra funding for the fall of 2006, in case it becomes necessary,

That relevant local NOVA coordinators deliver a short report to the next KUF meeting, on the national progress in the project.

That the Aquaculture network will get help with setting up functional video-links.

Some discussion about the lack of support and consensus on the matter of developing NORBE programmes at some of the member institutions.

Decision:

That the NORBE network continues, according to the report, until the end of 2006, using the unused funds, and hands in a new application for 2007 to the next KUF meeting on November 21,

That NOVA rector can approve limited extra funding for the fall of 2006, in case it becomes necessary,

That relevant local coordinators (SLU, UMB, KVL and HU-AF) are asked to report on the national back-up and support from relevant administrative bodies (faculty, pro-rectors/-deans etc.), and on the progress in the national environment, to the next KUF meeting.

Decision:

That KUF approves 34 000 € as guarantee for Nordplus grants during 2006-2007, and that the NOVA support for Nordplus grants is evaluated by the end of 2007.

20.6 Procedure for evaluating applications for PhD course funding, incl list of evaluation criteria.

Matter: Follow-up from last meeting on the matter of new procedure for PhD course evaluation and criteria

Material: 20.6.1. NOVA PhD course funding - evaluation of applications and other procedures.

Introduction by NOVA rector, followed by a discussion on several relevant matters.

Consensus on the decision to choose alternative 1, which indicates that we should improve the current evaluation procedure.

Suggestion that a technical evaluation by the NOVA secretariat should give the result that applications PASS or do NOT PASS, after which a scientific evaluation is performed by KUF.

The evaluation done by KUF should result in an A/B/C classification, where A = fully acceptable, B = close to the line and C 0 not acceptable. Each member shall look closer on a limited number of applications.

Suggestion that Flemming Frandsen, Reeta Pösö, Marketta Sipi, NOVA rector and coordinator meet in Helsinki in the morning before the board meeting (Nov 7) to discuss and suggest draft procedures, including technical and scientific criteria.

Decision

That KUF decides to go for alternative 1, with applications in one step, followed by a thorough evaluation,

That Flemming Frandsen, Reeta Pösö, Marketta Sipi, NOVA rector and coordinator meet in Helsinki before the board meeting in November (7th) to discuss and suggest draft procedures, including technical and scientific criteria.

20.7 Information

Matter: Information from NSF, KUF members and NOVA rector

Material: No material.

Information from the different member institutions, and from NOVA rector.

20.8 Ending of the meeting

Helsinki and Alnarp, September 14, 2006

Reeta Pösö
HU-V, acting chairman

Paul Jensén
NOVA rector

Knut Wålstedt
Central NOVA coordinator

Minutes

Welcome, short presentation around the “table”.

All agreed about the suggested agenda.

20.2 Follow-up of decisions from meeting No 19.

Short comment from NOVA rector regarding the follow up from meeting 19.

No comments from KUF.

20.3 Financial follow-up and prognosis

Comments from NOVA coordinator and NOVA rector.

Agroecology was added to the list of potential applicants for funding 2007.

Some discussion on the expenses of the annual seminar, both 2006 and suggested amount for 2007.

Decision according to the suggestion from NOVA rector.

20.4 Guideline for developing Joint MSc programmes, periods for intensive MSc course windows included.

Comments from NOVA rector.

Suggestion to send the draft document to KUF and coordinators as soon as possible.

The draft should be anchored in the member institutions, local coordinators are just used as contact persons. Each member will choose how to proceed with the anchoring process.

Some problems with funding of intensive MSc courses were presented in an enclosure. Specific for the veterinary area, suggestion to ask the coordinator Göran Dalin to find a joint solution for the area.

Decision according to the NOVA rector suggestion, with relevant changes in the formulation.

Short discussion about the suggested periods for intensive course windows. Even if the suggested periods do not fit perfectly, all could agree to suggest these periods for approval in the NOVA board.

Based on the letter from the students there was a short discussion about how to inform local teachers about the possibility to run NOVA courses. Will be taken as a point at the next KUF meeting.

The functioning of the local NOVA teams will be discussed in connection with the new strategy.

20.5 Reports from networks and local coordinators

a) Aquaculture

b) NORBE

c) NOVA Nordplus mobility

Short report from the Aquaculture network activities, especially the joint intensive MSc course now running on Bornholm, with 27 students from KVL, UMB and NVH (18 different nationalities). There is a request from the network to get help with technical solutions on their trial to have joint video lectures.

On the matter of finding Finnish partners in the network, Sari Mikkola will inform Anders Kiessling about relevant persons at the University of Helsinki.

NVH was asked to clarify their offers in the joint Nordic programme.

UMB reported good feedback from the UMB representatives in the network.

From the report from KVL on the local development it is clear that we still need to clarify the definitions of “joint programmes and degrees”. NOVA rector will continue the dialogue with KVL to find out their preferences.

OK to decide according the NOVA rector suggestion, local NOVA coordinators will assist in the matter of solving technical video problems.

Short introduction to the NORBE network report. Comments from NOVA coordinator.

Report from UMB; they have no intention to establish a full MSc programme in Biosystems (Environmental) engineering, but have several course they can offer in the area.

This must be communicated to the institute and to the network representative.

SLU reported that formal decisions have been taken by the board to establish two programmes in the NORBE area:

- Environmental engineering
- Farm buildings

SLU reported that there seems to be differences in the ambitions in the area of Environmental engineering, these must be sorted out.

HU-AF reported on their plans to offer a full MSc programme in Machinery for Biosystems.

Terms and priorities for specialisations and pre-requirements to enter NORBE programmes must be clarified.

OK to decide according to NOVA rector suggestions.

Short comments on the matter of NOVA mobility guarantee, 34 000€ OK to decide according to NOVA rector suggestion.

20.6 Procedure for evaluating applications for PhD course funding, incl list of evaluation criteria.

Introduction by NOVA rector and NOVA coordinator.

Questions that were discussed:

1. Evaluation criteria; technical as well as scientific
2. Evaluation body; KUF or separate group
3. Weight between technical and scientific criteria.

KUF concluded that the technical evaluation should be a Yes or No classification. Only those applications that fulfil all technical requirements are sent to a scientific assessment.

The technical evaluation can be performed by the NOVA secretariat.

KUF prefers to take responsibility for the scientific evaluation, and that we use the first alternative, with a one step application process (like the current process).

Each KUF member must classify all applications, in three groups;

A = fully acceptable

B = close to the line

C = not acceptable

Like before, each member shall look closer into a limited number of applications, and use expertise at the home institution to get a good evaluation.

It was suggested that Flemming, Reeta, Marketta, Paul and Knut meet before the next board meeting in Helsinki, to discuss and suggest a draft process and technical and scientific criteria, to be presented at the next KUF meeting.

20.7 Information

NSF – were very pleased with the decision to suggest two windows for intensive courses, for the NOVA board.

UMB – presented a number of new MSc programmes, non with a NOVA perspective.

SLU – has decided on a large number of new MSc programmes, the list will be sent to KUF and coordinators. An offer was given to develop NOVA cooperation.

LBHI – BSc programme in equine science, together with Holar. Regulations of quality assessments from the ministry.

NVH – awaits the first students in the differentiation process after Christmas.

HU-AF – two new international MSc programmes

HU-V – still discusses the differentiation matter.

NOVA rector – informed about the draft strategic document, and about the negative outcome

of the Marie Curie application.

20.8 End of meeting

It was concluded that the video meeting went quite well.