

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

April 1, 2019, 10-12

BioC conference room A-436

Attending:

Petra Fransson (chair)

Christina Dixelius

Magnus Karlsson

Charles Melnyk

Peter Bozhkov

Mariana Kluge

Pernilla Elander

Lea Wittorf (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Mattias Thelander (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending:

Anis Meschichi

Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou

§ 1 Meeting was opened by Petra Fransson

- a) Mattias Thelander was appointed secretary
- b) Christina Dixelius was appointed adjutor
- c) Last meeting protocol was approved.
- d) Additional question: Should OB support "The Chemical Side of SLU" economically?

§ 2 Status of changes in steering group and on coordinator position

It was decided that Petra should double check that the following changes have been formally approved by FUN until our next meeting:

- a) Lea for Lina as coordinator
- b) Mariana for Miguel as student representative in steering group
- c) Anis for Minerva as student representative in steering group

§ 3 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) Workshop, how to become a postdoc, spring 18: Report postponed since we are waiting for info from other research school.

- b) Workshop, how to become a postdoc, spring 19: Report postponed since we are waiting for info from other research school.
- c) Workshop, global sustainable development goals, spring 19: Report postponed since we are waiting for info from other research school.
- d) Writing course, spring 19: Report postponed since economical closure is not yet done.
- e) Course, Visualize Your Science, autumn 18, 4 ECTS: Mattias reported that the course had 20 registered SLU PhD students. 15 have so far passed, 1 has dropped out and 4 need to send in one or more assignments to pass. SEK 100.000 was budgeted for the course. Registered costs so far add up to SEK 96.506. Costs may increase marginally since invoices for poster printing may still come in. The evaluation showed that students were very happy with the course as exemplified by an average score of 4.8 out of 5 on question addressing general opinion. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- f) Course, to communicate science, spring 19: Report postponed since we are waiting for info from other research school.
- g) Course, Advances in Enzyme Regulation, autumn 18 - spring 19, 5 ECTS: Peter, who was responsible for the course, reported that 9 students took the course, among which 3 were SLU PhD students and 3 were PhD students from elsewhere. All registered participants have passed the course. The course was run together with the FFB research school and OB contributed with SEK 40.000 which is also what was budgeted on beforehand. The evaluation showed that students were very happy with the course as exemplified by an average score of 4.75 out of 5 on question addressing general opinion. The report was approved by the steering committee.

§ 4 Progress reports from planned and ongoing spring activities

- a) Course, Visualize your science, 4 ECTS: Mattias reported that the course is filled with SLU PhD students to the last place, has recently started and will be concluded with a mini-conference at Ultuna on June 5.
- b) Course, Confocal microscopy course, 5 ECTS: Mattias reported that this course will be organized by Adrian Dauphinee and Stefanie Rosa and will start on May 2. All 15 slots have been filled.
- a) R course: Lea reported that this collaboration with the Ecology and FOSW research schools is ongoing.
- b) Course, RNAseq: Lea reported that efforts are being made to make SciLifeLab offer their RNAseq course on behalf of OB in the beginning of June. Contacts have been established and BioC students have been given heads-up. More than 5 students have declared interest so far.
- c) Annual workshop, focus on Applications: Lea reported that the workshop will take place at Marholmen on June 18-19 and that a working group consisting of Lea, Petra, Mattias and Minerva is planning the event.

§ 5 Economy update – funding available for autumn activities

Mattias reported that around SEK 695.000 had been spent on coordinator salaries from July 17 to February 19 and that he estimates that SEK 834.000 will have been spent on coordinator salaries halfway into the funding cycle by the end of June. This is about SEK 100.000 more than budgeted.

Mattias reported that around SEK 861.000 had been spent on activities from July 17 to February 19 and that he estimates that SEK 1.334.000 will have been spent on activities halfway into the funding cycle by the end of June. This is about SEK 378.000 less than budgeted leaving room for more activities during the remaining two years of the funding period.

§ 6 Autumn activities and budget

The following list of activities for the autumn, and budget posts to go with it, suggested by the coordinators was approved without additions or changes by the steering committee:

Career day	10.000
Forest pathology course, 4 HEC	100.000
Writing course, 4.5 HEC	70.000
Plant development course, 5 HEC	110.000
Visualize your science course, 4 HEC	100.000
Brassica genomics reading course, 3 HEC	30.000
Multivariate statistics course, 4.5 HEC	44.000
(Course X*)	100.000
Sum:	564.000

§ 7 Per capsulam decision since last meeting

Since the last meeting, the steering committee has agreed by e-mail voting to grant an application for mobility support from Phanu Theodore Serivischyaswat to attend a course on functional live imaging of plants in Japan. Mattias now reported that Theo never was selected for the course which means that his application has been withdrawn.

§ 8 Mobility support application

The steering group decided to grant an application from Anis Meschichi to attend a “FEBS advanced course in Functional imaging of (nuclear) organisation and signalling”. Anis had asked for 450 Euro to cover the course fee, but it was decided that also reasonable travelling costs up to a total sum of SEK 10.000 could be covered if requested.

§ 9 Additional questions

Peter raised the question if OB could economically support the conference "The Chemical Side of SLU" organized by the chemistry department and partly targeting PhD students at the BioCenter. It was agreed that this should be formally possible since it is explicitly stated in the document "Instructions for research schools at the NJ Faculty 2017-2021" dated 170629 that FUN-NJ approved the following principle 170119: "Research schools may use their funding for events such as conferences". It was agreed that OB should support this year's "The Chemical Side of SLU" with SEK 20.000 given that the organizers report back how many BioCenter PhD students that actually participated afterwards.


§ 10 Next meeting: June 5 2019, 10.00-12.00



Mattias Thelander, secretary

26/4 2019 Uppsala

Date and Place



Christina Dixelius, adjutor

26/4 2019 Uppsala

Date and Place