

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

June 05, 2019, 10-12.00

BioC conference room A-338

Attending: Christina Dixelius (chair)
Peter Bozhkov
Charles Melnyk
Pernilla Elander
Mariana Kluge
Mattias Thelander (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)
Lea Wittorf (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending: Petra Fransson
Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou
Magnus Karlsson
Anis Meschichi

§1 Meeting was opened by Christina Dixelius

- a) Lea Wittorf was appointed secretary.
- b) Peter Bozhkov was appointed adjutor.
- c) Last meeting protocol was approved.
- d) Additional questions: Should OB support a basic bioinformatics course organized by Tomas Linder?

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

- a) Lea Wittorf has been accepted to take over as coordinator after Lina Sjöholm by FUN.
- b) Mariana Kluge is accepted as new student representative from Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology replacing Miguel Ángel Redondo.
- c) New routines involving the NJ-faculty PhD student council have been established. Petra will check with the council how these routines should be implemented and whether Anis Mischichi can replace Minerva Trejo in the steering committee.

§3 Final reports from concluded activities

a) *Workshop, How to become a postdoc, spring 2018*: Lea reported that the workshop had 35 participants, which were all SLU PhD students. The workshop was organized in coordination with the other research schools from the NJ-faculty. Overall evaluation of the workshop was good with an average score of 4.0 on the general opinion. Cost for this workshop was covered by the research school Focus on food and biomaterials. The report was approved by the steering committee.

b) *Workshop, How to become a postdoc, spring 2019*: Lea reported that the workshop had 31 participants in Ultuna and a few via video link from Umeå and Alnarp. Overall impression of the workshop was very good with an average of 4.3 on the question about the general opinion about the workshop. As in previous years, the workshop was organized in coordination with the other research schools from the NJ-faculty. Cost for each research school will be 3000 kr, with a small additional cost for a few speakers that will be billed later this year. The report was approved by the steering committee.

c) *Workshop, Global sustainable development goals, February 2019*: Lea reported that the workshop had 55 participants. There was a small course given in conjunction with the workshop that included some reading before the seminar, an assignment after the seminar and one extra meeting. There were 9 PhD students participating in this mini-course, which gave 1 ECTS. The workshop was given in coordination with the RS Focus on Soils and Water, Ecology - basics and applications, Society and Landscape and Focus on Food and Biomaterials. Costs were covered by the RS Focus on Soils and Waters. Evaluation scores on the general opinion of the workshop were high with 4.2 for the workshop and 4.0 for the mini-course. The report was approved by the steering committee.

d) *Course, How to write and publish a scientific paper, 4.5 ECTS, autumn/spring 2018-2019*: Report postponed since the economical closure is not yet done.

e) *Course, To communicate Science, spring 2019*: Report postponed since information from other research schools is still missing.

f) *Course, Confocal microscopy, 5 ECTS, May 2019*: Report postponed as information about course evaluation and economy are still missing.

g) *Course, Understanding & Coding the R Programming Language, 2 ECTS, April 2019*: Report postponed as information is still missing from other research schools.

§4 Progress reports from planned and ongoing spring activities

a) *Course, Visualize your science*: Mattias reported that the course was filled to the last spot. The course was concluded with a mini-conference here in Ultuna, where the students had to present their research on a poster. The last day was June 5th.

b) *Seminar, How to transfer your academic skill sets to industry - transferable and soft skills perspective, June 10th*: Lea reported that the seminar will be given by job coach Tina Persson in conjunction with the annual workshop. Maximum number of participants was 30 and the seminar was filled quickly. After the afternoon seminar there will be a pizza-pub arranged here at the BioC. The students will then be prepared to update their CVs, which they should hand in for the annual workshop.

c) *Annual workshop, Apply for your future*: The annual workshop will take place 18-19/06 in Marholmen. In total 35 participants signed up for the workshop. Planned activities include talks and

active sessions with invited speakers from both industry and academia. The final wrap-up will be done by Tina Persson, who also gave the seminar before, in form of a webinar. Christer from the Academic Appointment Board cancelled on relative short notice and it was decided that senior researchers or the dean of the faculty should be asked to fill the spot. The syllabus was approved by the steering committee.

d) *RNA-seq data analysis*: The course was arranged together with SciLifeLab/nbis and all teachers were nbis bioinformatics experts. Participants were limited to 12 and all places were filled. The last day of the course was June 4th.

e) *Brassica genomics reading course*: Christina reported that there are 6 participating PhD students and potentially some interested postdocs. There will be a planning meeting in June and the course will start after summer. They will use a new online book and each student will make an assignment related to their own research interest.

§5 Metagenomics course

At the last meeting the budget was discussed including an undefined course (course X). After asking around among supervisors and students Sari Peura from Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology suggested to give a course on metagenomics. The course could take place in November this year and would cover the analysis of shot-gun metagenomic sequencing data. Length of the course was planned to be one week. In a quick survey at that department 5-6 students showed interest. The steering committee approved to include this course into the budget.

§6 Mobility application from Sanjana Holla

Due to a potential conflict of interest Peter and Pernilla left the meeting for this discussion. Peter returned for the next point, Pernilla left the meeting for good.

Mattias explained the rules for the mobility support. The instructions that have to be followed when giving out mobility support are:

- mobility support may be granted for course related activities, but not for conferences (faculty)
- some of the annual budget may be used to support participation in course activities organised by other universities, companies or organizations (our own)

It was decided that more information about the visit would be needed in order to decide whether this is a course related activity. The student will be asked to provide further information about whether a course is planned during the visit or whether some specific training will be given that can be viewed as a course related activity. Further, information about the SLU travel grants and EMBO short term visit grants will be forwarded to the student.

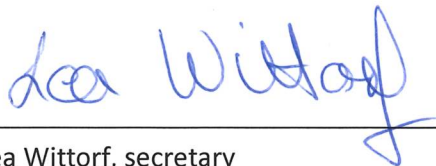
§7 Additional questions

Peter explained that he was approached by Tomas Linder who would like to organize a basic course in bioinformatics. This course would cover basics like sequence database handling and how to report

and visualize sequence datasets. The format would be one week in total, split over 2-3 course occasions with lectures and exercises. Students would work with web-based tools on their own computers and could bring their own data if they want to. The plan was to have this course in autumn. RS Focus on food and biomaterials were also asked and this course could be co-organized by the two research schools. The steering group decided that this was a good initiative and the RS should get involved. It does not fit into the budget but there is room to open an extra post for this. Concern was raised that many students are busy with teaching in autumn. It might be better to give the course in spring. Otherwise it will be important to coordinate dates, also with the metagenomics course in November. Mattias and Lea will get in contact with Tomas and start discussing.

§8 Next meeting:

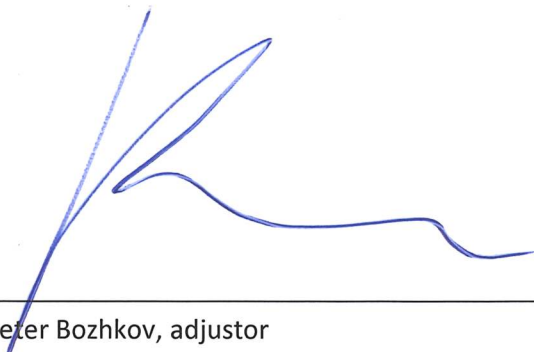
22 Oct 2019, 10-12.00



Lea Wittorf, secretary

12/06 - 2019, Uppsala

Date and place



Peter Bozhkov, adjutor

2019-06-12 Uppsala

Date and place