

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

October 22, 2019, 10-12

BioC conference room A-338

Attending:

Petra Fransson (chair)

Christina Dixelius

Magnus Karlsson

Charles Melnyk

Anis Meschichi

Sanjana Holla (personal substitute for Pernilla Elander)

Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou (via skype)

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

Not attending:

Peter Bozhkov

Mariana Kluge

Pernilla Elander

Lea Wittorf

§ 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 questions: Need for stress management and in depth RNAseq courses?

§ 2 Substitution for Lea as coordinator spring 2020

Lea plans for maternity leave from the end of 2019 to after summer 2020 and a coordinator substitute is therefore needed for this period. It was agreed that a candidate from Mykopat with some insight into the activities of the research school would be good. It was decided that Petra should take this question to mykopat with the ambition to present a suitable and interested candidate no later than at our next regular steering committee meeting.

§ 3 Status of changes in steering group

Petra reported that she had been in contact with the PhD student council regarding the routines for how they would like to be involved/informed about the appointment of new student representatives in the steering committee: As long as student representatives are put forward by the PhD students at the department they are representing, the council does not need to be directly involved in the process but they would like to be informed and asked for approval afterwards. It was decided that Petra specifically should ask the council for approval of Anis as a new member of the committee before our next meeting.

§ 4 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) To communicate Science, spring 19 (2 ECTS): Mattias reported that this collaboration between the different NJ research schools and the SLU division for planning attracted 10 students who all passed the course. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 3.78 out of 5. OB's part of the course cost was SEK 12.000 (SEK 20.000 was budgeted on beforehand). The report was approved by the steering committee.
- b) Confocal Microscopy course, spring 19 (5 ECTS): This course organized by Adrian Dauphinee and Stefanie Rosa attracted 15 participants including 13 PhD students and 2 master students, all from the BioC. 14 persons have passed the course so far while one is pending. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4 out of 5. Student's comments were positive but also pointed out that organization and information flow could be improved and that more supervised time by the microscopes would be good. The total cost for the course was SEK 113.667 to be compared to the SEK 100.000 that was budgeted on beforehand. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- c) Visualize your Science, spring 19 (4 ECTS): This course organized by Andreas Dahlin attracted 20 PhD students among which 14 were from the BioC. Among the students admitted, 15 has passed the course so far while 3 are pending and 2 dropped out. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4.8 out of 5. The total cost for the course was SEK 95.856 to be compared to the SEK 100.000 budgeted on beforehand. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- d) Writing course, autumn/spring 18/19 (4.5 HEC): This course organized by Mårten Lind and Geert Cornelis attracted 5 students who all have passed the course. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4.8 out of 5. We have not yet received all invoices but based on agreements, Mattias reported that costs for the course should land between SEK 70.000 and SEK 75.000 (SEK 70.000 was budgeted on beforehand). Given that the prediction of the course costs holds true, the report was approved by the steering committee.
- e) R course, spring 19: Report postponed as information from other research schools is still missing.
- f) Annual Workshop, theme Applications, spring 19. The workshop organized at Marholmen the 18-19 of June by Lea and Petra with help from Minerva attracted 32 participants including 29 PhD students and 3 postdocs, all from the BioC. Participants also attending the pre-seminar by Tina Persson (see below) were granted 1 ECTS. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4.6 out of 5. The total cost for the workshop was SEK 111.848 to be compared to the SEK 100.000 budgeted on beforehand. The extra cost is largely explained by a larger number of participants than anticipated. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- g) RNA-Seq data analysis, spring 19 (2 ECTS): This course organized by Lea and Jessica Lindvall (nbis) with teachers from nbis/SciLifeLab/UPPMAX (Martin Dahlö, Anders Sjölander, Johan Reimegård and Roy Francis) attracted 11 participants from the BioC, including 7 PhD students and 4 postdocs. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4.4 out of 5. The total cost for the workshop was SEK 87.351 to be compared to the SEK 70.000 budgeted on beforehand. The extra cost comes from the fact that SciLifeLab charged more for their engagement than anticipated. The report was approved by the steering committee.

- h) Seminar: How to transfer your academic skill sets to industry - transferable and soft skills perspective, spring 19. This one-day seminar with Tina Persson and organized by Minerva, Lea and Petra attracted 27 participants from the BioC, including 22 PhD students and 5 postdocs. Participants also attending the annual workshop (see above) were granted 1 ECTS. The average score on the evaluation question about the general impression of the course was 4.9 out of 5. The total cost for the seminar was SEK 22.511 (nothing had been budgeted on beforehand since this was an extra activity). The report was approved by the steering committee.

§ 5 Progress reports from planned and ongoing spring activities

- a) Plant ploidy with Brassica species as learning models (targeted reading course; 3 ECTS): Christina reported that the course is ongoing with 7 PhD students. Since Mattias had missed to formally register a syllabus for the course, a draft syllabus was now approved by the steering committee (attached with protocol). It was decided that Mattias should register the syllabus as soon as possible.
- b) Visualize your science (4 ECTS): Mattias reported that this course organized by Andreas Dahlin is ongoing. All 20 slots are filled with PhD students.
- c) Multivariate statistics (4.5 ECTS): Mattias reported that this long-standing collaboration between 3 NJ RS schools and Ulf Grandin is ongoing. Course is filled to last place.
- d) Workshop career outside academia: Mattias reported that this long-standing collaboration between NJ research schools will take place on Nov 27 with Lea from OB and Magda from FoSW as the main organizers. Registration is open.
- e) Forest Pathology (3 ECTS): Mattias reported that this course organized by Janne Stenlid and co. will run on Nov 18-22 and that registration is still open.
- f) Basics of Metagenomics analysis (3ECTS): Mattias reported that this course organized by Sari Peura at Mykopat will take place on Nov 11-15. Registration has recently closed and at least 10 students have registered.
- g) Plant Development: Mattias reported that this course has been postponed or cancelled due to problem finding a responsible organizer.
- h) Basic bioinformatics course by Tomas Linder: Mattias reported that this course will indeed be given, but not until early spring 2020.
- i) Scientific writing course: Mattias reported that this course has been postponed until autumn 2020 since the course organizer Mårten Lind is on parental leave.

§ 6 Economy update – funding available for spring activities

Mattias reported an economical closure of the two first years of the current funding cycle (July 17 to June 19): SEK 859.000 have been spent on coordinator salaries. This is about SEK 125.000 more than originally budgeted. SEK 1.458.000 have been spent on activities. This is about SEK 254.000 less than originally budgeted. The fact that we have not used all funding allocated for activities in the first two years means that there is room for more activities the last two years of the funding cycle.

Mattias also reported a prediction of how much we will have spent of activities in autumn 19: The estimate is that we will have spent SEK 390.000 on activities which is about SEK 174.000 less than budgeted in April 2019. The main reason for the gap is that courses in plant development and scientific writing had to be postponed/cancelled. This leaves us with even more room for additional activities the last three semesters of the four year funding period.

Taken together, there is plenty of funding available for activities in spring 2020.

§ 7 Suggestions for spring activities and budget

a) It was decided that the coordinators should work to realize the following activities during spring 2020 (funding budgeted within parenthesis):

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|---|----------------|
| - Root-Soil-Microbe interactions, 3.5 ECTS | (100.000) |
| - Annual workshop: Figures, Illustrations and Posters, 1 ECTS | (120.000) |
| - Visualize your science, 4 ECTS | (100.000) |
| - Programming in R, 2 ECTS | (35.000) |
| - How to become a postdoc, workshop | (5.000) |
| - Basic Bioinformatics, 2 ECTS | (55.000) |
| - qPCR course, 4.5 ECTS | (100.000) |
| - Reviewing and Summarizing Science, 2 ECTS | (40.000) |
| - Kappa workshop | (10.000) |
| | 565.000 |

b) In addition, it was also decided that the coordinators should investigate the possibility to offer the following additional activities during spring 2020:

- Seminar/workshop on stress management
- In-depth course on RNAseq

c) Finally, it was agreed that the following activities should be considered once it is time to discuss activities for autumn 2020:

- Confocal Microscopy, course
- Scientific writing, course
- Advances in enzyme regulation, course
- How to communication science, course
- Bioinformatics of community sequence data, course
- Plant Development, course

§ 8 Mobility applications from Sanjana Holla and Mudassir Iqbal

Sanjana Holla reported that her mobility support application discussed at the last steering committee meeting has been retracted.

Mudassir Iqbal's application for mobility support up to around SEK 3.000 to attend the Interdisciplinary-Multicultural-International PhD students Training in Warszawa organized by the Baltic University Programme was approved. Being the main supervisor of Mudassir, Magnus Karlsson did not take part in the decision. The application is attached to this protocol.

§ 9 *Per capsulam* decision course syllabus Basics of metagenomics analysis

Petra reminded the meeting that a course plan for the course "Basics of metagenomics analysis" was approved via a per capsulam decision on Oct 17. The decision is attached to this protocol.

§ 10 Additional questions

Anis informed the meeting about two activity suggestions from the students of the plant biology department:

- a) A more comprehensive in-depth course on RNA sequencing as a complement to the short and relatively basic course RNA-Seq data analysis given in June 2019. Anis presented a list of 6 students interested in such a course. It was decided that the coordinators should investigate the possibility to organize such a course. It was agreed that it would be good to consult/involve SLUBI.
- b) An activity focused on stress management. It was decided that the coordinators should investigate the possibility to organize such an activity.

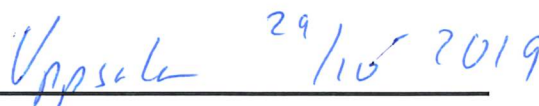
§ 11 Next meeting: 04 Dec 2019, 10-12

Attachments:

- a) Syllabus for the course: Plant ploidy with Brassica species as learning models
- b) Mobility application Mudassir Iqbal
- c) *Per capsulam* protocol Basics of metagenomics analysis



Mattias Thelander, secretary



Date and Place



Christina Dixelius, adjutor



Date and Place

