

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

October 16, 2020, 10-12

BioC conference room A-338 / Zoom

Attending:

Christina Dixelius (chair)
Magnus Karlsson
Charles Melnyk
Peter Bozhkov
Mariana Kluge
Dimitrios Kokoretsis
Sanjana Holla
Mattias Thelander (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)
Eddy Véléz (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending:

Petra Fransson
Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou

§ 1 Meeting was opened by Christina Dixelius

- a) Mattias Thelander was appointed secretary
- b) Peter Bozhkov was appointed adjutor
- c) Last meeting protocol was approved
- d) Additional questions: Per capsulam decisions since last meeting

§ 2 FUN approval of Eddy as coordinator also during autumn 2020

Eddy reported that Petra is yet to receive an official approval from FUN regarding the extension of his engagement as a substitute coordinator for Lea also in fall 2020.

§ 3 FUN approval of new student representatives in the steering committee

Petra reported through Eddy that Dimitrios Kokoretsis and Sanjana Holla were officially approved as student representatives from Plant Biology and Molecular Sciences, respectively, on June 8.

§ 4 Compensation to professors for organizing and teaching courses

Mattias reported that he had asked the chairperson of FUN, Johan Meijer, how the rule that faculty professors cannot be compensated for teaching courses within the research schools should be interpreted. Mattias understanding of the answer can be summarized in three points: 1) We are not allowed to compensate faculty professors for virtual teaching on our courses. 2) We are allowed to compensate faculty professors for work with our courses that cannot be defined as teaching (e.g. course organization and administration). 3) We are allowed to compensate professors that are not faculty professors both for teaching and for organizing and administering courses. It was decided that Mattias should ask Johan for a written confirmation of this after which we should work according to this interpretation of the rule.

§ 5 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) Forest Pathology in the 21st century, autumn 2019 (3 ECTS course): Report postponed since some information from the organizer is still missing.
- b) Plant ploidy with Brassica species as learning models, autumn 2019/spring 2020 (3 ECTS course): Christina reported that the course started in 2019 with 7 registered PhD students and was finished in 2020 with 6 students (1 dropped out). According to the course evaluation the students were very positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.7 out of 5). The total cost for the course was SEK 30.000 which is exactly what was budgeted on beforehand. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- c) Visualize your science, spring 20 (4 ECTS course): Mattias reported that the course had 15 registrants (11/15 from NJ faculty) (13 PhD students, 1 researcher, 1 research assistant) among which 13 have passed so far. According to the course evaluation the students were very positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.8 out of 5). The total cost for the course was SEK 68.260 to be compared with the budgeted sum SEK 100.000. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- d) Reviewing and summarizing science, spring 20 (2 ECTS course): Eddy reported that this collaboration between FOSW, Ecology and OB attracted 8 students from SLU. According to the course evaluation the students were generally positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.0 out of 5). Our part of the total costs for the course was SEK 32.135 to be compared with the budgeted sum SEK 40.000. The report was approved by the steering committee.
- e) How to become a postdoc, spring 20 (workshop): Eddy reported that this collaboration between all NJ research schools gathered 12 SLU registrants. According to the evaluation the students were generally positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.5 out of 5). We are yet to receive info about costs for the activity why approval of the report was postponed to the next meeting.
- f) To communicate science, spring 20 (2 ECTS course): Mattias reported that this collaboration between the division of planning and several NJ research schools attracted 15 PhD students (5 from NJ) among which 13 have so far passed. According to the course evaluation the students were very positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.7 out of 5). We had budgeted SEK 20.000 for the course. The preliminary total cost is SEK 53.000. This total cost is to be divided between several research schools why it is very likely that our budget will be kept. The report was approved by the steering committee under the condition that the budget is indeed kept (if it is not, the coordinators should report this to the committee).
- g) Understanding and coding the R language (2 ECTS course): This collaboration between the Ecology, FoSW and OB research school attracted 38 registrants (33 PhD students, 31 from SLU) among which 28 have passed so far. According to the course evaluation the students were very positive (average score on Q1 regarding general opinion of course was 4.7 out of 5). We had budgeted SEK 35.000 for the course. The preliminary total cost is SEK 120.000. This total cost is to be divided between three research schools why our part of the cost preliminary will be SEK 40.0000. The report was approved by the steering committee under the condition that our part of the cost will not exceed SEK 40.000 (if it is, the coordinators should report this to the committee).

§ 6 Progress reports from planned and ongoing activities

- a) Visualize your science, fall 2020 (4 ECTS course): Mattias reported that the course is ongoing with 20 registered PhD students. It is given on-line due to corona restrictions.
- b) qPCR course: Mattias reported that the organizer Alyona Minina was unable to give the course also in fall 20 why it is postponed until spring 21.
- c) Root-Soil-Microbe interactions (3.5 ECTS course): Eddy reported that this course postponed from spring 20 is ongoing right now. It is organized by Petra and has 13-15 registrants. It is given on-line due to corona restrictions.
- d) Academic productivity and stress handling (workshop): Eddy reported that this workshop originally planned to be included in the cancelled annual workshop in June will take place on Nov 6. It is organized by Åsa Burman and co-workers from "Finish on Time". It will either be given in a big lecture hall or on-line depending on corona restrictions at the time. The max number of participants is set to 30 and 11 have signed up so far.
- e) Plant Disease Epidemiology – From Theory to Application (4.5 ECTS course): Eddy reported that this one-week course organized by Jiasui Zhan on Dec 7-11 will consist of on-line teaching by in-house, national and international experts.
- f) Analysis of High Throughput sequencing RNA-Seq data (1+2+1 ECTS course): Mattias reported that this course organized and taught by SLUBI with Nicolas Delhomme as main organizer will start in late Nov and finish in Dec. It will have a modular design to suit both new-comers and experienced students with own data sets. It was recently announced and registration deadline is set to Nov 9.
- g) Career outside academia (workshop): Eddy reported that this one-day workshop collaboration between several research schools is preliminary planned for Dec 1.
- h) Multivariate methods for ecologists (3 / 4.5 ECTS course): Eddy reported that this course organized by Ulf Grandin and co-workers which is financed by several research schools is filled to the last place and will run from Nov 1 to Nov 20.
- i) How to write and publish a scientific paper (4.5 ECTS course): Eddy reported that this course organized by Mårten Lind is planned to start on Nov 6. The max number of participants is set to 10 and about 5 have signed up so far.

§ 7 Economy status – funding available for activities spring 2021

Mattias reminded the meeting that FUN granted OB a total budget of SEK 4.894.000 for the 4-year period from July 17 to June 21. Out of this 30% can be used for coordination leaving 70% or SEK 3.425.800 for activities during the 4-year period. On average, this means that SEK 428.225 can be used for activities each semester.

Next, Mattias showed the economy overview below for 2020 activities including both costs registered to date and an estimate of costs expected to come. Taken together, this overview shows that the total cost for activities during 2020 is estimated to land at SEK 722.313.

2020

Project	Activity	<u>Costs</u>				
		Registered	Expected	Total	Budgeted	Budgeted - total costs
66100435	Brassica genomics 19 / 20	29.263	737	30.000	30.000	0
66100446	Skills in sequence analysis 20	52.500	0	52.500	55.000	2.500
66100447	Visualize your science spring 20	68.260	0	68.260	100.000	31.740
66100448	Postdoc workshop 20	0	5.000	5.000	5.000	0
66100449	Reviewing and summarizing science 20	0	32.135	32.135	40.000	7.865
66100450	Kappa workshop 20	0	9.418	9.418	10.000	582
66100451	Communicate Science 20	0	20.000	20.000	20.000	0
66100452	R-course 20	0	35.000	35.000	35.000	0
66100453	Root-Soil-Microbe interactions 20	0	100.000	100.000	100.000	0
66100454	Visualize your science fall 20	47.219	52.781	100.000	100.000	0
66100455	Multivariate statistics 20	0	65.000	65.000	65.000	0
66100456	Carreer workshop 20	0	10.000	10.000	10.000	0
66100457	Writing course 20/21	0	80.000	80.000	80.000	0
66100458	Plant Epidemiology 20	0	70.000	70.000	70.000	0
66100459	Stress and academic productivity workshop 20	0	45.000	45.000	45.000	0
66100462	Mobility support 20	0	0	0	0	0
Cancelled	Hands-on qPCR	0	0	0	100.000	100.000
Cancelled	Annual workshop	0	0	0	100.000	100.000
		197.242	525.071	722.313	965.000	242.687

Next, Mattias showed the overview below of the total (partly estimated) costs for activities from fall 2017 to the end of 2020. Taken together, this overview shows that the total (partly estimated) cost for activities up until the end of 2020 will land at SEK 2.368.753.

	<u>Costs</u>		
	Registered	Expected	Total
Fall 2017	317.770	0	317.770
2018	530.537	0	530.537
2019	744.133	54.000	798.133
2020 (prognosis)	197.242	525.071	722.313
			2.368.753

Taken together, this leaves us with SEK 1.057.047 to spend on activities during 2021 (3.425.800 – 2.368.753).

§ 8 Program and budget for autumn 2020

a) It was decided that the coordinators primarily should work to realize the following activities during spring 2021:

1. Course: Hands-on qPCR	100.000
2. Course: Practical skills in sequence analysis	55.000
3. Course: Visualize Your Science	100.000
4. Course: Genome editing / CRISPR	100.000
5. Comparative and population genomics	100.000
6. Course: Understanding and coding R	40.000
7. Course: Pathogen-pathogen interactions	70.000
8. <u>Workshop: How to become a postdoc</u>	<u>5.000</u>
	570.000

b) In addition, it was also decided that the coordinators should investigate the possibilities to offer the following additional activities during spring 2021:

1. Course: Confocal microscopy	100.000
2. Course: Advances in enzyme regulation	40.000
3. Workshop: Thesis summary writing	10.000
4. <u>Bioinformatics of community sequence data</u>	<u>100.000</u>
	250.000

c) Finally, it was agreed to postpone the decision about a putative annual workshop during 2021 to a later meeting when we have a better picture of how the pandemic evolves.

§ 9 Additional questions

a) Mattias reported that the syllabus for the course "Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing RNA-Seq Data (1+2+1 credits)" and an increased budget of SEK 100.000 for the same course has been approved in a per capsulam decision since the last meeting.

b) Eddy reported that the syllabus for the course "Plant Disease Epidemiology – from theory to applications (4.5 credits)" has been approved in a per capsulam decision since the last meeting.

§ 10 Next meeting: 08 Dec 2020, 10-12



Mattias Thelander, secretary

201103 Uppsala

Date and Place



Peter Bohzkov, adjutor

2020-02-2020 Heraklion, Greece

Date and Place

