

*Protocol, Organism Biology Steering committee meeting
8 December 2020 10.00-12.00
BioC conference room A-338 / zoom*

Agenda

Attending:

Petra Fransson (chair)
Peter Bozhkov (Zoom)
Christina Dixelius (Zoom)
Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou (Zoom)
Mariana Kluge (Zoom)
Charles Melnyk (Zoom)
Dimitrios Kokoretsis (Zoom)
Mattias Thelander (Zoom; coordinator without right to take part in decisions)
Eddy Véléz (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending:

Magnus Karlsson
Sanjana Holla

§ 1 The meeting was opened by Petra Fransson

- a) Eddy Véléz was appointment secretary
- b) Charles Melnyk was appointment adjustor
- c) Last meeting protocol was approved.
- d) No additional questions were brought up

§ 2 Permanent coordinator from Mykopat – change from Lea to Eddy

Petra reported that Eddy received formal approval from FUN to replace Lea as coordinator until December 2021.

§ 3 Compensation to professors for organizing and teaching courses – update from last meeting (MT)

Mattias had asked Johan Meijer for clarification regarding compensation to professors for organizing and teaching courses. Johan stated that professors could receive compensation for organizing courses, but not for teaching. When Mattias asked for “written clarification”, Johan decided to get back to Mattias after further discussions from the administration.

§ 4 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) *Course, Forest Pathology in the 21st Century (3 ETCS), autumn 2019:* Eddy reported that the course was given in November 18-22 and was organized and lead by Jan Stenlid. Five doctoral students and about 10 others participated in the course. The general opinion on the course was good with a score of 4.33. Total amount for the course was SEK 75.704,43 from the SEK 100000 initially budgeted. The report was approved by the steering group.

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- b) *Workshop, How to become a postdoc, spring 2020:* Eddy reported that the one-day seminar was organized and hosted by the research schools (Focus on Soils and Water, Organism Biology, Ecology –basics and applications, Focus on Food and Biomaterials, Social Science Perspectives on Sustainable Development, Society and Landscape, Sustainable Biomass Systems), with Ali Moazzami and Helena Bylund organizing the event. During the seminar, the students met representatives from the Swedish research councils (i.e., Formas and VR), the union (SULF), and several post docs. They also had the chance to hear two invited researchers that discussed and gave their perspectives on writing applications and evaluating applications. Twelve students from SLU attended the seminar. The general opinion on the course was good with a score of 4,5. Since Eddy continues to wait for Ali for the final budget, no final report is yet available.
- c) *Course, Visualize your science, autumn 2020:* Mattias reported that the course ran from September 22 to November 27, 2020 and had just finished, so the final report was not ready yet. The course continues to be well attended.
- d) *Course, Root-Soil-Microbe interactions, autumn 2020:* Petra reported that the course ran October 12 - 16, 2020 and was given via Zoom, which was quite intense. A total of 21 PhD students participated in the course, representing SLU (8), Uppsala University (1), Lund University (4), Umeå University (1), Stockholm University (2), Chalmers (1), Helsinki University (2), Wageningen University (1) and Haifa University (1). The course consisted of individual literature studies and one week full time studies including lectures by scientists, literature discussions, group exercises and student project presentations. The general opinion of the course was high with a mean value of 4,6. Total amount spent on the course was SEK 91000 and SEK 100000 had been budgeted for the course. The report was approved by the steering group.
- e) *Workshop, Academic productivity and stress handling, autumn 2020:* Eddy reported that this Workshop was given by Åsa Burman and her group from “Finish on time”. It took place on Friday November 6th, 2020 via Zoom and 20 students participated. The overall impression of the workshop was good, and “Finish on time” had shared the syntheses/conclusions of the workshop that they had collected from the students at end of the day. The total amount spent was SEK 30000 from the initial budgeted amount of SEK 45000. The report was approved by the steering group.
- f) *Course, Multivariate Methods For Ecologists (PNS0074; 4,5 hp), autumn 2020:* Eddy reported the course was organized by Ulf Grandin and Sara Sandström from Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment and was a joint activity by the different research schools. The course was full and was given on-line via Zoom on November 2nd-20. Eddy is still gathering the pertinent data, so the final report was not ready yet.

§ 5 Progress reports from ongoing activities

- a) *Plant Disease Epidemiology– From Theory to Applications, autumn 2020:* Eddy reported that this new course has being organized by Jiasui and was running that week (December 7th to the 11th, 2020) via Zoom. There were 32 people signed up for the course. Otherwise, no problems so far.

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- b) *Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing RNA-Seq Data* RNA-seq, autumn 2020: Mattias reported that the course was running at the moment, but two of the three modules had finished. Twenty students had registered and 16 had finished the main module. So far, the evaluations were positive.
- c) *PhD-Careers Outside Academia*, autumn 2020: Eddy reported that he and Magda had organized the seminar via Zoom, and that it had taken place on December 1st. They had 24 students signed up, but only 18 attended. The evaluations had been sent out, but the final report was not ready yet.
- d) *How to write and publish a scientific paper (4.5 HEC)*, autumn 2020: Eddy reported that the course had been organized by Mårten Lind and was to commence the 2nd of November 2020. Initially, five students had signed up for the course, but in the end, only one remained. Mårten asked if the course could be postponed until the spring, so it was moved to spring 2021.

§ 6 Extension of research school initiative until end of 2021

Petra and Mattias reported on the budget and we still have a surplus of funds. In addition, more funds were granted to the research schools for 2021, while the vice-chancellor takes a closer look at the research schools and makes a formal decision regarding their continuation. A preliminary plan for the year 2021 activities, as requested by Johan Meijer, was submitted in Swedish:

Plan för forskarskolan Organismbiologi (OB), VT och HT 21

Vårterminen 2021

Följande plan antogs vid ett styrgruppsmöte den 16 oktober 2020:

Koordination: Fortgår som beskrivet i den beviljade ansökan inför nuvarande fyra-årsperiod, d.v.s. i en omfattning som resulterar i att ca 30% av de beviljade medlen för hela fyra-årsperioden förbrukats för detta ändamål efter fyra år.

Aktiviteter (* markerar samarbetsaktiviteter med andra forskarskolor):

• Course: Hands-on qPCR	100 k
• Course: Practical skills in sequence analysis	55 k
• Course: Visualize Your Science	100 k
• Course: Genome editing / CRISPR	100 k
• Comparative and population genomics	100 k
• Course: Pathogen-pathogen interactions	70 k
• Course: Understanding and coding R*	40 k
• Course: How to write a scientific paper (uppskjuten från våren)*	80 k
• Workshop: How to become a postdoc*	5 k

Höstterminen 2021

Följande preliminära plan är framtagna av koordinatörerna och ordföranden för styrgruppen. Det bör noteras att den kan komma att ändras eftersom den inte är formellt antagen av styrgruppen och dessutom återstår att slutgiltigt förankra med vissa organisatörer och samarbetspartners:

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Aktiviteter (* markerar samarbetsaktiviteter med andra forskarskolor):

- Course: Confocal microscopy 100k
- Course: Bioinformatics of community sequence data 100k
- Course: Visualize Your Science 100k
- Course: In-depth RNAseq course 100k
- Course: Advances in enzyme regulation* 40k
- Course: Multivariate statistics* 65k
- Workshop: Thesis summary writing* 10k
- Workshop/seminar: career outside academia* 10k

Mattias Thelander, koordinator OB

Eddy Véléz, koordinator OB

Petra Fransson, ordförande OB's stygrupp

The steering committee will revisit the submitted preliminary plan of activities during the spring 2021 for formal approval. Since there will be plenty of funds next year (2021), there will be opportunities to have new courses and activities.

§ 7 Suggestion workshop equality (Eddy/Dimitrios)

Dimitrios discussed a research school activity that was suggested by a fellow student (Gesa). The activity would be a special screening of the recent documentary film "Picture a Scientist". He explained that the film addresses diversity issues in science, and especially gender-based discrimination in STEM fields. The activity was viewed in a positive manner by the committee and will be included in the spring 2021 activities.

§ 8 Additional questions

No additional questions were brought up

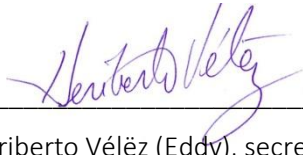
§ 9 Meetings 2021, set dates for meetings in April, June, October and December.

Mattias will send a doodle with suggested dates for the meetings in the coming year.

Attachments:

- a) Protocol from meeting 201016
- b) Letter from FUN-NJ (Johan Meijer) 201110
- c) Preliminary OB plan for spring and fall 2021, sent to FUN-NJ 201130

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Heriberto Véléz (Eddy), secretary

Uppsala, 2020-01-18

Date & Place



Charles Melnyk, adjutor

Uppsala, 2020-01-18

Date & Place

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Fakulteten för naturresurser och
jordbruksvetenskap
Nämnden för utbildning på forskarnivå
(FUN-NJ)

INFORMATION
2020-11-10

NJs Forskarskolor och information om aktiviteter i samband med Covid19

NJs Forskarskolor 2021

Tyvärr har besked om forskarskolornas (FS) framtid dröjt. NJs FS finansieras av medel från både rektor och fakulteten. En sammanställning av FS aktiviteter tom 2019 gjordes som underlag för diskussion i Fur. FS har uppfyllt alla uppställda mål map kursinslag och samverkan mellan FS och externa aktörer, vilket utmynnade i en rekommendation till rektor att stödja en ny fyraårsperiod.

Det har dock inte kommit något beslut om nästa cykel. Enligt andrahandsuppgifter vill rektor förlänga FS i ett år och utreda deras framtid under våren 2021 inför ett nytt beslut. Efter utredning och förhoppningsvis positivt rektorsbeslut kommer då en ny utlysning och ansökningsperiod, granskning med kompletterande information (tidigare som ett tvåstegsförfarande) följt av beslut i Fun och i fakultetsnämnden innan budget måste spikas i November med målsättning start 2022-01-01. Detta framstår som en optimistisk tidtabell och en övergångslösning kan inte uteslutas.

NJ-Fun har beslutat om ojusterad budget för FS år 4 (HT2020-VT2021) och föreslår fakultetsnämnden att FS kan disponera oförbrukade medel under hela 2021 (Beslut SLUID: SLU ua 2020.3.2.1-3900). Det finns en kapitalansamling för FS som beror på att aktiviteter gått på sparlåga eller fått ställas in med anledning av Covid19.

I veckan kom budgetunderlag från planeringsavdelningen som visar att det centralt reserverats medel för FS under 2021. Vid diskussion i fakultetsnämnden 2020-10-21 ställde sig dekanen bakom förslaget att FS kan fortsätta under hela 2021.

För att underlätta planering för prefekter, FS koordinatörer och styrgrupper vill jag därför meddela att FS får och uppmuntras att bedriva aktiviteter under hela 2021. FS får disponera oförbrukade medel under hela 2021.

Som nämnts finns också centrala medel reserverade för forskarskolornas verksamhet under 2021.

En kortfattad skiss för planerade aktiviteter HT2021 (inkl preliminär budget) ska inlämnas till NJ-Fun senast 30 november.

Om ni har ändrat tidigare planering för aktiviteterna under VT 2020 önskas också en förnyad sammanställning.

Johan Meijer
Ordförande, Fun-NJ

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