

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

November 11, 2021, 14.00-16.00

Zoom

Attending:

Petra Fransson (chair)
Christina Dixelius
Charles Melnyk
Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou
Peter Bozhkov
Carol Kälin
Mattias Thelander (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)
Eddy Véléz (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending:

Magnus Karlsson
Dimitrios Kokoretsis
Sanjana Holla

§ 1 Meeting was opened by Petra Fransson

- a) Mattias Thelander was appointed secretary
- b) Peter Bozhkov was appointed adjustor
- c) Last meeting protocol was approved
- d) Additional questions: None.

§ 2 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) Practical skills in sequence analysis (2 ECTS, PNS0191) organized by Tomas Linder. Mattias reported that the course was given from March 17 to April 14, 2021. The course was given entirely via zoom. It had six registrants, all of which were SLU PhD students. One student has been granted course credits so far while the remaining five students need to send in written reports before they can be approved. The activity was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.6 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. We had budgeted 55,000 kr for the activity and this is also what was spent. The final report was approved.
- b) Genome editing by CRISPR/Cas9 in theory and practice (5 credits, PNS0151) organized by Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou. Mattias reported that the course was given in May 2021. It had 13 registrants, all of which were from SLU (6 PhD students, 5 postdocs, 2 researchers). Five registrants have been granted course credits so far (four PhD students, 1 postdoc). The activity was well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.0 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. We had budgeted 100,000 kr for the activity but the sum actually spent will land at 55,000-60,000 kr. Panos added that the course was not optimal for distance teaching and should only be considered again if wet lab work can be included. The final report was approved.
- c) Visualize your science (4 ECTS; PNG0073) organized by Andreas Dahlin. Mattias reported that the course was given from March 2 to May 7, 2021. It had 13 registrants, all of which were from SLU (11 PhD students, 1 master student, 1 researcher). Eight registrants have been granted course credits so far. The activity was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.4 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. We had budgeted 100,000 kr for the activity but the sum actually spent was 54,724 kr. The final report was approved.

- d) From population to ecological functional genomics: Concepts, tools and applications (2.5 ECTS; PNS0221) organized by Adrien Sicard and Pär Ingvarsson. Mattias reported that the course was given from May 20 to May 28, 2021. It had 12 registrants, all of which were from SLU (9 PhD students, 1 postdoc, 2 researchers). Six registrants have been granted course credits so far (all PhD students). The activity was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.5 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. We had budgeted 100,000 kr for the activity and this is also what will have been spent. The final report was approved.
- e) How to become a post doc (one-day workshop w/o credits). Eddy reported that this collaboration between the research schools Focus on Soils and Water, Organism Biology, Ecology, Focus on Food and Biomaterials, Social Science Perspectives on Sustainable Development, Society and Landscape, and Sustainable Biomass Systems with Ali Moazzami and Helena Bylund as the principal organizers took place on March 4th, 2021. The event was zoom-based. 20+ students participated. However, no evaluation was performed, and, as contrary to the previous years, there was no registration required. As the cost for the online workshop was low OB will not have to pay anything. The final report was approved. Eddy was asked to inform Ali and Helena that we would like to get access to lists of registrants and results of evaluations if the activity is given again.
- f) Thesis summary writing workshop (one-day workshop w/o credits). Eddy reported that this collaborative activity was organised by the research school Focus on Soils and Water and specifically by Amélie Truchy from the Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment on the 19th of April, 2021. In total 57 PhD students signed up for the workshop, out of which 51 joined. Additionally, a few PhD students saw the recording of the workshop since they were unable to attend. The activity was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.7 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. The total cost for the activity was 22,703 kr and the OB share of this was 7,568 kr (we had budgeted 10,000 kr). The final report was approved.
- g) How to write and publish a scientific paper (4.5 HEC) organized by Marisol Sanchez-Garcia. Eddy reported that the course ran from March 10th to June 16th, 2021, via Zoom. The course had four registrants, all of which were from SLU. Two registrants have been granted course credits so far while the other two are pending. The course was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.7 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. The final budget is not yet available why approval of the report was postponed to a coming meeting.
- h) Pathobiome and Plant Immunity (PFG0079: five credits or PFG0080: two credits) organized by Salim Bourras. Eddy reported that the course was given from June 7th to 16th, 2021, via Zoom. The course had a total of 21 students enrolled full time and 23 part-time, from 28 institutions and 17 countries. The activity was very well received by students as indicated by a score of 4.8 / 5 on an evaluation question asking for their general impression of the activity. The final budget is not yet available why approval of the report was postponed to a coming meeting.
- i) Picture a Scientist (workshop w/o course credits) organized jointly by OB, the SLU University Library, which purchased a one year license of the film for on-line viewing, as well as the NJ and VH faculties. Eddy reported that the panel discussion took place on the 23rd of September. About 128 persons participated in the discussion, among which 42 were students (12 belonged to OB). The final budget is not yet available why approval of the report was postponed to a coming meeting.

§ 3 Progress reports from ongoing and planned activities

- a) Visualize your science (4 ECTS; PNG0073) organized by Andreas Dahlin. Mattias reported that the course is ongoing and will end on Nov 26th. It runs via Zoom. It is filled to the last place with 20 SLU PhD students.

- b) Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing RNA-Seq Data (PNS0208, 1+2+1 credits) organized by Nicolas Delhomme and Amrei Binzer-Panchal and colleagues at SLUBI. Mattias reported that the course will run from Nov 29th to Dec 17th via Zoom. We currently have 38 applicants and the organizers are considering accepting all.
- c) Advances in enzyme regulation arranged jointly with the FFB school and with Adrian Dauphinee and Galia Zamaratskaia as principal organizers. Mattias reported that only one or two students signed up for the course despite an impressive program with many high profile speakers. Based on this, the organizers had to cancel the course for now. The ambition is to give it in spring instead with physical teaching on campus. Peter filled in that the organizers will revise the course title and the course description until then to hopefully attract more applicants.
- d) Confocal Microscopy (PNS0138, 5 credits) organized by Adrian Dauphinee, Stefanie Rosa and Katarina Landberg. Mattias reported that the organizers were unable to give the course in fall why it will be given in the beginning of 2022 instead (February 7th to 18th). FUN (Johan Meijer) and the faculty economy administrator (Sanita Fröman) have been asked for permission to use funding from fall 2021 to pay for the course. The course has been announced and so far about five persons have signed up.
- e) Understanding and coding the R language (2 credits, PNG008) arranged jointly with RS's Ecology and Focus on Soils & Water and with Matt Low as the principal organizer. Eddy reported that this course will run for five intensive days in Nov/Dec and it may be given as both IRL and via Zoom.
- f) Multivariate methods for ecologists (3/4.5 credits, PNS0190; PNS0074) arranged jointly by several research schools and with Ulf Grandin and Sara Sandström as principal organizers. Eddy reported that this course is ongoing and will end on Nov 12th.
- g) Mycology - its basics and applications (4 credits) organized by Marisol Sánchez-García, Georgios Tzelepis and Eddy. Eddy reported that the course will run during the last week of Nov and first week of December. It will run mainly via Zoom, but with the possibility of having IRL interactions. It is being advertised right now and four students have signed up so far.
- h) Career outside academia (one-day workshop w/o credits) arranged jointly by several research schools and with Eveline Krab and Eddy as principal organizers. Eddy reported that the workshop will take place via Zoom on Nov 12th and that 22 students have registered so far.
- i) Bioinformatics of community sequence data (course). Eddy reported that he has been unable to find someone to organize the course in fall 2021 why it is cancelled for now. Hopefully, it can be offered in spring 2022 instead.

§ 4 Future of OB

Petra briefly informed about the call from FUN for applications for funding of research schools from 2022 and onwards (SLUID: SLU.ua.2021.3.2.1-3598, attached to protocol). She also informed that OB has received preliminary non-binding instructions from FUN that we can apply for up to 95% of the annual funding received during the 2017-2021 funding cycle.

The draft application sent out before the meeting (attached to protocol) was then discussed and the following was agreed on:

- We decided that all members of the current steering committee and the coordinators should be listed as applicants while heads of departments should be listed under the header "approved by".
- We decided that the course "advances in enzyme regulation" should be added to program range.

- We decided that Galia Zamaratskaia and Martha Rendón Anaya should be added under the header "suggested teachers".
- We decided that the possibility to include one or more courses suggested by Martha Rendón Anaya as a representative for the breeding platform should be considered for the program range.
- We decided that Mattias, Eddy and Petra should finalize the application and send it to the steering committee for feedback and approval well before the submission deadline (Dec 6th).

§ 5 Steering group composition, coordinators and temporary chairperson for spring 2022

The need for changes in the steering group and on coordinator positions in case we get funded also from 2022 and onwards was discussed. An inventory among meeting attendees gave the following:

- Petra wants to be temporarily replaced as chairperson and member of the steering group during spring 2022 due to other commitments.
- Carol Kälin would like to stay as a student representative in the steering group.
- Peter Bozhkov would like to stay as a member of the steering group.
- Christina Dixelius would like to stay as a member of the committee for now, but would probably like to be replaced sometime during 2022.
- Charles Melnyk would like to stay as a member of the steering group.
- Panagiotis Nikolaou Moschou is willing to be replaced in the steering group since he only works part time at SLU.
- Mattias will step down as coordinator by the end of 2021, but is open for joining as a steering group member instead if there is an interest for this.
- Eddy plans to stay as coordinator at least during spring 2022.
- As Magnus Karlsson was not present, it was agreed that Petra should check with him.
- As Sanjana Holla was not present, it was agreed that Carol should check with her.
- As Dimitrios Kokoretsis was not present, it was agreed that Mattias should check with him.

Based on all this, the following was decided:

1. At our next meeting, Petra should present...
 - a. who Mykopat would like to see as temporary substitute for Petra in the steering group during spring 2022
 - b. who Mykopat would like to see as a new senior steering group member if Magnus would like to step down.
2. At our next meeting, Mattias should present...
 - a. who Plant Biology would like to see as a new senior steering group member after Panos
 - b. who the PhD students of Plant Biology would like to see as student representative in the steering group if Dimitrios would like to step down
 - c. who Plant Biology would like to see as new coordinator after Mattias
3. At our next meeting, Carol should present...
 - a. who the PhD students of Molecular Sciences would like to see as student representative in the steering group from spring 2022 and onwards.

§ 6 Additional questions

No additional questions

§ 7 Next meeting:

7 December 2021, 10-12

Attachments:

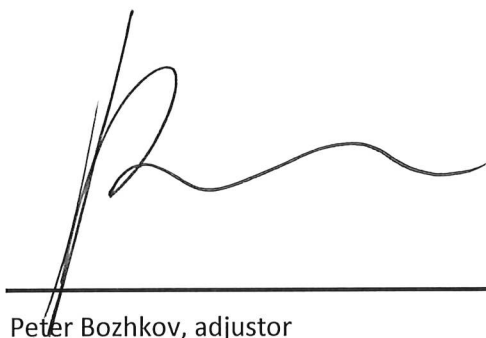
1. Call from FUN for applications for funding of research schools from 2022 and onwards (SLUID: SLU.ua.2021.3.2.1-3598)
2. Draft application for funding from 2022 and onwards



Mattias Thelander, secretary

2021-11-22 / Uppsala

Date and Place



Peter Bozhkov, adjutor

2021-11-22 / Uppsala

Date and Place

