

Protocol, Organism Biology steering committee meeting

October 25th 2022, 10-12

Room A-402

Attending:

Mattias Thelander (chair)

Peter Bozhkov

Charles Melnyk

Stefanie Rosa

Salim Bourras

Martina Leso

Carol Kälin

Anna Berlin (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Katarina Landberg (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Not attending:

Marisol Sánchez García

Florentine Ballhaus

§ 1 Meeting was opened by Mattias Thelander

- a) Mattias informed that Christina Dixelius has been exchanged for Stefanie Rosa in the steering committee. Anna Berlin presented herself as the new Organism Biology director of studies from 1st of July after Eddy.
- b) Katarina Landberg was appointed secretary
- c) Charles Melnyk was appointed adjutor
- d) The protocol from last meeting was approved. Mattias informed that he has informed the faculty about the election of Peter Bozhkov as the new vice-chair and that Nils Högberg, Head of Department for Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, has informed the faculty that Anna has taken over after Eddy. Mattias also informed that he recently contacted Magnus Huss, the director of studies for doctoral education at the Aqua Department, to bring up the question whether they want to be part of the OB research school. They have not had time to discuss this yet. We will come back to the question at the next meeting.
- e) Additional questions: Should we temporarily replace Salim Bourras and Marisol Sánchez García, who will both be on parental leave the coming months, in the steering committee?

§ 2 Final reports from concluded activities

- a) *Visualize your science, spring 2022 (4 credits)*: Katarina reported that this course organized by Andreas Dahlin was given on line March 1st to May 13th. 20 students were registered and all of them were SLU PhD-students (12 from Ultuna + 2 from Umeå + 6 from Alnarp). So far, 15 have passed the course and at least 2 more are likely to pass soon. Out of the budgeted 100 000 kr, 93 847 kr was spent. The activity was very well recieved by the students giving 4,9 / 5 as their general opinion about the course. The final report was approved.
- b) *Network activity suggested by BioC PhD students, spring 2022*: Katarina reported that this activity was arranged together with the research school Focus on Food &

Biomaterials. Klara Nilsson from Molecular Sciences and Anis Meschichi from Plant Biology organized the event. It took place at BioCenter the 19th of April and 19 PhD students took part. Out of the budgeted 20 000 kr, 19 480 kr was spent. On the question on general opinion about the event, where the students could give the grades Bad, Can do Better or Good, 11 out of 12 gave the grade Good. The final report was approved.

- c) *Understanding and coding the R language, autumn 2021*: Anna reported that this is a course that was organized in Nov-Dec 2021 via Zoom by Matt Low at the Ecology research school. We have still not received any final reports and they will not send any bill. Since we are not going to pay anything for this, and it was held during last funding period, it was decided that we do not need to finally approve this course.
- d) *How to become a postdoc, spring 2022*: Anna reported that this workshop is a collaboration with other research schools and Ecology was the main responsive research school. They had 15-20 participants. The cost for it was very low since they gave it entirely on-line and will probably be below 6000 kr which was the budgeted money. We have not received the final report yet so the approval of this course was postponed until next meeting.
- e) *Planning/info meetings 2022*: Katarina reported that in May and June the BioC PhD students were visited during one of their regular PhD-meetings at each department. They were informed over fika about the Organism Biology research school, the new funding period and about planned activities during 2022. They were also given the opportunity to give feedback on our activities and to suggest new activities. Overall the feedback was positive, it is a good mixture of courses and shorter workshops and the quality of the given courses is good. We also got a few suggestions on new activities. It was also brought up that it is sometimes hard to get in depths information about the courses. The budget for this activity was 4000 kr and 875 kr of it was spent. The final report was approved.
 - Stefanie Rosa suggested that it could be a good idea to invite the organisers of our courses to the next PhD student Information meeting, to provide more in-depth information.

§ 3 Status report of ongoing and planned activities

- a) *Annual workshop*: Anna reported that the workshop is planned to take place Nov 24-25 at Fagerudd outside Enköping. The focus is on how to incorporate the sustainable development goals into research and future career, and Jens Sundström is engaged to lead this session. Last date to sign up is Oct 25, and so far only five students have registered. It was agreed that we need at least 10 students to sign up in order to realize the event.
- b) *Visualize your science, autumn 2022, 4 credits*: Katarina reported that the course organized by Andreas Dahlin is ongoing, has 20 participants of which all are PhD students. The course now again gives the opportunity to meet on site (Ultuna) and will end Nov 17 with a one day conference including poster presentations.

- c) *Advances in enzyme regulation, 5 credits*: Katarina reported that this course, arranged by Adrian Dauphinee in collaboration with the Focus on Food and Biomaterials research school (main organizer), was postponed ones. It was moved to September, but also this time not enough students were recruited. They will not try to give this course again.
 - Peter Bozhkov informed that they are planning to replace this course with a new proteomics course which will be given in spring 2024, organized by Simon Stael and Adrian Dauphinee.
- d) *Understanding and coding the R language, autumn 2022*: Anna reported that the main organiser of this course is the Ecology research school. It has been advertised and last day for registration is Oct 28.
- e) *To communicate science, 2 credits*: Katarina reported that this course is arranged together with all NJ research schools, and the division of Planning and Communication (Lotta Jäderlund) is the main organizer. It had 12 registered participants, is ongoing right now and will end Nov 16.
- f) *Thesis summary writing workshop*: Anna reported that the "kappa" workshop, also a joint activity with several research schools, was held Oct 21 but we have not yet received reports on the outcome of this.
- g) *Careers outside academia*: Anna reported that this is a workshop that will be given on Zoom on Nov 11. It is organised by Anna and by Eveline Krab from the research school Focus on Soil and Water and includes invited alumni who have been in and out of science as well as a session on how to use linked-in for building a career, by the Union of Natural Sciences (Naturvetarna). Will be advertised shortly.
- h) *Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing RNA-Seq Data, 1+2+1 credits*: Katarina reported that the course leaders are Nicolas Delhomme and Iryna Shutava from The SLU Bioinformatics Infrastructure (SLUBI). It will be given 7th to 25th of November and the last date for registration is Nov 1. 23 students have registered so far (13 PhD students).
- i) *Practical skills in sequence analysis, 2 credits*: Katarina reported that this course is given by Tomas Linder at Molecular Sciences. It starts 7th of Nov and can accommodate a maximum of 12 students. The course is already full.
- j) *Quantitative real-time PCR, 3,5 credits*: This course is organized by Alyona Minina at Molecular Sciences. We needed to create a new syllabus for this course since the last course was only given on-line during the Covid restrictions, while it is now back to include practical parts. It has been advertised and is planned to run Nov 29 to Dec 19. Last date for registration is Nov 11.
- k) *Human Driven Environmental changes and their effects of organism biology - Eco-Evolutionary dynamics*: Anna reported that this is a course included in the application for this funding period, that was an initiative by the research school SILVA at the Forest faculty in Umeå who wanted to run this course in collaboration with us. We have been in contact with them via e-mail but they have not been able to realize these plans. We will therefor cancel this course for now.
- l) *Community profiling by sequencing*: Anna reported that a similar course is given by the research school Focus on Soil and Water and they now want to join our courses into a slightly new course that we give together. We had planned for this course during 2022, but it will instead take place next year.

Katarina and Anna informed the meeting that they received a mail last week with updates and information about what happens this year for the research schools from Petra Fransson, vice-dean at the NJ-faculty. One piece of news was that if we have funds left that will not be spent during 2022 we have a possibility to keep them until next year. The requirement is that we schedule the majority of the postponed activities during Jan-March 2023. Katarina and Anna had a look at the activities postponed to next year and think it might be possible to get two of these going during that period. One of them was already on the suggestion list that was sent out in the agenda, but the course Plant disease epidemiology was also added to the list for this reason.

It was decided that the coordinators should work to realize the suggested activities during spring 2023, and if possible get permission to transfer money from 2022 for the two postponed courses (marked with an asterisk):

• Planning/info meeting	4k
• Workshop: How to become a postdoc	6k
• Course: Visualize Your science	110k
• Course: Confocal microscopy	100k
• Course: How to write and publish a scientific paper	70k
• Course: Animate your Science	55k
• Course: Efficient data mining and management for..	50k
• Course: Community profiling by sequencing *	90k
• Course: Plant disease epidemiology*	50k

§ 5 Approval of syllabus for new courses

Anna shortly presented the new course Efficient data mining and management for biological sciences, 1,5 ECTS suggested by Edoardo Piombo at the department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology. Syllabus and budget was attached to the agenda. Suggestions to improve the Syllabus was raised by members of the committee and Anna will contact Edoardo to initiate a discussion on an update of the Syllabus. The new Syllabus will then be sent to the steering committee for approval.

§ 6 *Per capsulam* decisions since last meeting

One per capsulam decision taken via e-mail since our last meeting is attached to this protocol:

- a. Approval of syllabus, schedule and budget for the PhD course "Real Time Quantitative PCR – theory, experimental design and data analysis (3.5 credits)"

§ 7 Additional questions

Mattias raised the question whether Salim Bourras and Marisol Sánchez García, who will both be on parental leave the coming months, should be temporarily replaced in the steering committee for the coming two meetings. Mattias will bring the question to Petra and if she approves Mattias will ask Salim and Marisol for suggestions of substitutes.

§ 8 Next meeting:

December 2nd 10-12, room A436

Attachment:

a) Approval of syllabus, schedule and budget for the PhD course "Real Time Quantitative PCR – theory, experimental design and data analysis (3.5 credits)"

Katarina Landberg, secretary

Date and Place

Charles Melnyk, adjustor

Date and Place

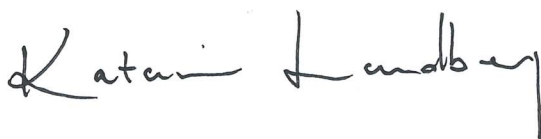
Per capsulam approval of syllabus, schedule and budget for the PhD course, 'Real Time Quantitative PCR – theory, experimental design and data analysis (3.5 credits)'

Decision

The steering committee for the Organism Biology research schools decides:
To approve the proposed syllabus, schedule and budget for the PhD course 'Real Time Quantitative PCR – theory, experimental design and data analysis (3.5 credits)'

Details

The proposed course syllabus, budget and schedule were worked out by Alyona Minina at the department of Molecular Sciences with assistance from the Organism Biology study director Katarina Landberg and is an updated version of the previous qPCR course syllabus. This decision has been taken by the following board members: Mattias Thelander, Peter Bozhkov, Charles Melnyk, Salim Bourras, Stefanie Rosa, Martina Leso, Carol Kälén, Florentine Ballhaus and Marisol Sanchez-Garcia via e-mail correspondence between Sep 30 and Oct 4, 2022.



Katarina Landberg

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