

Steering committee meeting research school Organism Biology
Friday, December 2, 2022 10.00-12.00
Room A-436

Attending:

Mattias Thelander
Charles Melnyk
Carol Kälin
Stefanie Rosa
Anna Berlin (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)
Katarina Landberg (coordinator without right to take part in decisions)

Absent:

Salim Bourras
Marisol Sanchez-Garcia
Florentine Ballhaus
Martina Leso

§ 1 Meeting is opened (MT)

The meeting was opened by Mattias

- a) Appointment of secretary
Anna was appointed as secretary
- b) Appointment of adjutor
Carol Kälin was appointed as adjutor
- c) Approval of protocol from last meeting
The protocol from last meeting was approved.
A few comments to the protocol:
 - Mattias contacted Magnus Huss about PhD students at Aqua. The Aqua PhD students active at BioC will be added to the Organism biology send list and one of the coordinators will visit and present the OB research school. At this point, Aqua will not have a place in the steering committee.
 - Mattias asked Petra about how to act when steering committee members are on leave. Petra took on the task but has not yet decided on a procedure for this.
- d) Additional questions
No additional question was added

§ 2 Final reports from concluded activities, decision (KL and AB)

- a) *Visualize your science, autumn 2022 (4 credits)*: Katarina reported that this course has finished. For the first time since the pandemic, the course was concluded with a final IRL meeting and approximately 20 students participated in this event. 20 PhD students from OB, 12 from Ultuna of which 5 from BioCenter, took the course. Until now, 10 students have passed the course, but it ended just a few days ago. The course was budgeted 110 000 kr, of which 109 442 kr was spent. Evaluation was good, the course got an overall score of 4.7 (excellent). The final report was approved.

- b) *Understanding and coding the R language (3 credits) autumn 2022*: Anna reported that this course is just finished and that she has been in contact with the research school Ecology -basics and applications, which is the main organizer of this course. They are collecting information and will bill the cost before the end of the year.
- c) *Career outside academia workshop*: Anna reported that this workshop was held on zoom on November 11th in collaboration with Eveline Krab from the research school Focus on Soils and Water (FOSW). 38 students applied to the course of which 7 belong to OB and the others were from other research schools within SLU (FSOW, Ecology, sustainable systems for Food, Energy and Biomaterials and Silva). The budgeted cost was 6000 kr and the actual cost was a bit higher, 8 645 kr. The general opinion of the workshop was score of 4.5. The final report was approved.
- d) *To communicate science (2 credits)*: Katarina reported that this course is organized together with all NJ research schools and Galia Zamaratskaia is the main responsible person. It is arranged this year by the division of planning, Lotta Jäderlund. The course had 12 registered participants and ended November 16th. The budgeted 20 000 kr were spent on this course. Unfortunately, we have not received the final report from Division of Planning about outcome and evaluation, so the approval of this course was postponed until next meeting.
- e) *Thesis summary writing workshop*: Anna reported that we are still waiting for the bill, outcome and evaluation of this event. The budgeted cost is 6 000 kr. No decision was taken.
- f) *Annual workshop*: Anna reported that this event was unfortunately cancelled due to too few registered students (minimum 10 students). The budgeted costs were 110 000 kr, but the booking of venue was cancelled in time and no cost is associated with this event.

§ 3 Status report of ongoing and planned activities, information (KL and AB)

- a) *Analysis of High Throughput Sequencing RNA-Seq Data*: Katarina reported that this course was given by Nicolas Delhomme and co-workers at SLUBI (SLU Bioinformatics Infrastructure). The course was filled. No further information to report since last meeting.
- b) *Practical skills in sequence analysis (2 credits)*: Katarina reported that this course is given by Tomas Linder at the Dept of Molecular Sciences. It is ongoing. No further information to report since last meeting.
- c) *Quantitative real-time PCR (3.5 credits)*: Katarina reported that this course is given by Alyona Minina. It handles basics of qPCR theory and practice, and guidelines for designing, performing and interpreting quantitative experiments in a reliable way. The course has just started and will end on December 19th. 15 participants (full course) of which 11 are PhD students (5 from BioC).

§ 4 Updated program and budget for spring 2023, decision (KL and AB)

Katarina and Anna presented an updated budget and plan for the spring. Differences from last updates are highlighted in grey in the table below. The activity "How to become a postdoc" is a shared activity by all NJ-faculty research schools. The research school coordinators have decided that the costs of the two annual events "How to become a postdoc" and "Career outside academia" will be taken by the main responsible research schools to avoid high administration costs for billing small expenses between research schools.

The course "Confocal microscopy" will be organized in collaboration with the FoSW research school who will then pay one third of the costs.

We have gotten the opportunity to apply to FUN to move some funding from 2022 to be used the first quarter of 2023. The suggested activities are marked with “*” in the table below, i.e. Application of NMR spectroscopy to protein structure elucidation (40 000 kr) and Applied population genetics in plant disease epidemiology (85 000 kr). In addition, when the Annual workshop of 2022 was cancelled, the annual workshop for 2023 was moved from the fall to the spring semester.

Type of activity	Name of activity	Estimated cost (1000 SEK)
Other	Planning/info meeting	4
Workshop	How to become a postdoc	0
Course	Visualize your science	110
Course	Confocal microscopy	67
Course	How to write and publish a scientific paper	70
Course	Animate your Science	55
Course	Efficient data mining and management for biological sciences	50
Course	Application of NMR spectroscopy to Protein Structure Elucidation *	40
Course	Applied population genetics in plant disease epidemiology*	85
Workshop	Annual workshop	120
Total sum:		601
		(476)*

Decision: The new plan was approved by the steering committee.

§ 5 Economy status 2022 (KL)

Mattias explained the background conditions for the research schools according to the instructions given by the faculty and this year’s conditions, that the schools were approved during the early spring. Katarina presented the current balance for 2022. If we can postpone activities and save the budgeted money (see §4) until first quarter next year, we will spend most of the budget, except 119 000 kr, which basically is the budget costs for the cancelled annual workshop 2022. If we can not move funding, we will return 244 000 kr to the faculty.

§ 6 Approval of syllabus for new courses, decision (KL)

- Animate your science (4 credits)*: Katarina presented the course. This is a course suggested by the students and is organized by Andreas Dahlin, and it is a follow-up course of his course “Visualize your science”. The focus is on how to do 3D images and small animations for presentations and publications. It has a similar arrangement as the course Visualize your science, it is web-based and with personal feedback sessions and seminars. The course starts in the end of March and the budget is 55 000 kr (10 students). The syllabus was circulated prior to this meeting. No comments were made and the syllabus was approved.

§ 7 Archiving

Steering committee protocols including decisions, and course syllabuses must be archived. After a short discussion about where and by whom archiving should be done, the steering committee decided that all archiving within the Organism Biology shall be done by the director of studies and documents shall be saved at the Department of Plant Biology.

§ 8 *Per capsulam* decisions since last meeting (MT)

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

- a) Navigating large biological datasets using simple bioinformatic tools, 2.5 credits

§ 9 Additional questions (MT)

No additional questions

§ 10 Next meeting (MT)

It was decided that the Directors of studies will circulate a doodle to plan for meetings in April, June, October and December of 2023

Attachments:

- a) Approval of syllabus and budget for the PhD course Navigating large biological datasets using simple bioinformatic tools, 2.5 credits

Mattias Thelander, chairperson

Date and Place

Anna Berlin, secretary

Date and Place

Carol Kälén, adjustor

Date and Place

Signature page

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Per capuslam approval of syllabus and budget for the PhD course 'Navigating large biological datasets using simple bioinformatic tools (2.5 credits)'

Decision

The steering committee for the Organism Biology research school decides:

To approve the proposed syllabus and budget for the PhD course "Navigating large biological datasets using simple bioinformatic tools (2.5 credits)"

Details

The proposed course syllabus and budget were initiated and developed by Edoardo Piombo at the Dept. Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology with assistance from the Organism Biology study director Anna Berlin. This decision has been taken based on e-mail correspondence between November 11th and November 25th by the board members:, Salim Bourras, Peter Bozhkov Carol Kälin, Martina Leso, Charles Melnyk, Stefanie Rosa and Mattias Thelander

Anna Berlin