



Centrum för statistik  
Centre for Statistics

# Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of Statistics@SLU and of the Graduate School in Applied Statistics & Scientific Computing

16.04.2018, 14.00 –15.00 hrs, by telephone.

## Members of the Steering Committee

Kristina Blennow (LTV), Claudia von Brömssen (NJ, deputy director), Harimurti Buntaran (SLUSS), Richard Johnson (NJ), Arne Pommerening (S, director), Göran Ståhl (S, chairman).

## Absent

Erik Bongcam Rudloff (VH).

## 1 Opening of the meeting, approval of the minutes of the last meeting and of the agenda

Arne gave a short summary of the minutes of the last telephone meeting on 29.11.2017, where mainly the annual budget for 2018 was discussed (see Appendix 1). The minutes of that meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

Decision

## 2 Short revision of the recent annual members' meeting

Arne gave a brief overview of what was discussed at the annual members' meeting of Statistics@SLU. Richard suggested that the conclusions from Jan-Eric Englund's and Adam Flöhr's interesting presentation at the member's meeting could be re-phrased in a recommendation document to be posted on the Centre's website.

Suggestion

### **3 Changes in staffing**

#### **Ultuna**

Claudia reported that the process of recruiting a new senior lecturer in statistics is still ongoing and that the new member of staff will probably be in place in late autumn 2018. At the same time a new, additional research position in statistics is currently advertised and the new candidate might be employed even before the senior lecturer. Claudia added that it may also be possible to continue a temporary position.

#### **Umeå**

Göran and Arne reported that Anders Muszta (statistical consultation for researchers, MSc teaching in statistics) and Jaime Uria-Diez (R consultation, coordination of graduate school, secretary of Statistics@SLU) have left Arne's team. Discussions between Arne and the head of the Forest Resource Management Department hosting Arne's unit have revealed different views of statistics and the role of professorships. As the different views could not be reconciled and started to affect personal working environment, a process has started which is led by Jan-Erik Hällgren, a former dean of the Faculty of Forest Sciences. As part of this process a new home for Arne's professorship and options for the future of the Statistics@SLU unit at Umeå are currently being explored. As a consequence Arne will most likely step down from his director positions of both Statistics@SLU and the graduate school in Applied Statistics & Scientific Computing. These changes are likely to be implemented in the next term after summer 2018. At the next meeting of the Steering Committee of Statistics@SLU Göran and Arne will present an action plan outlining the immediate future of Statistics@SLU unit at Umeå. In the meantime Arne acts on an emergency plan, where courses and workshops of the graduate school are continued for 2018 as best as possible. As part of this plan research consultations are temporarily covered by Dr. Mathias Lundin at Umeå University (Handelshögskolan). Hilda Edlund will remain at the Forest Resource Management Department and continue her good consultation and teaching work for MSc and BSc students. Arne has drafted an advert for the replacement of Anders Muszta as senior lecturer in statistics in January 2018, but to his knowledge the Forest Resource Management Department has not acted on this draft yet.

#### **Alnarp**

Jan-Eric Englund has attracted Adam Flöhr to his unit at Alnarp and they have started a fruitful cooperation which resulted in increased consultation activities.

Finally, Hilda Edlund and Adam Flöhr were officially acknowledged as statistical consultants by the Steering Committee. Decision

## 4 Group consultations and drop-in sessions

Current client demand has made it necessary to consider new models of disseminating knowledge in a group-wise fashion. Based on Appendix 3 Claudia motivated the need for introducing this new consultation model in addition to the 1 : 1 consultations, which, of course, will be continued. Jan-Eric Englund and Adam Flöhr have made good experience at Alnarp when applying the new model to R consultations (R drop-in sessions).

The drop-in sessions have also led to an increased cooperation with the SLU Bioinformatics Network (SLUBI) at Alnarp. The Network has many big-data applications and is therefore in need of R based data processing skills. In the drop-in sessions, statistical questions often come up on top of the data-processing problems.

The Steering Committee was in favour of this development and encouraged further discussions with SLUBI.

## 5 Termination of secretary post

Arne briefly explained that Jaime Uria-Diez is currently ending his employment at Umeå and therefore the secretary post of Statistics@SLU will terminate by 30 April 2018. As a consequence the monetary resources used for this post will fall back to the Centre's account as savings and are available for other activities.

## 6 AOB, next meeting and closing

No other business was raised by any member of the Steering Committee. In light of the imminent changes at Umeå (agenda item #3), it was decided to have another telephone meeting on **07 June 2018, 0200-0400pm**.

As previously decided, a face-to-face meeting involving the Steering Committee and the heads of the host departments will take place at Ultuna on **27 September 2018**.



Arne Pommerening  
Director



Göran Ståhl  
Chairman

### Appendices

1. Minutes of the meeting on 29.11.2017.
2. Minutes of the members' meeting on 22.02.2018.
2. Description of group consultations and drop-in sessions.