



Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences



Minutes – Steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water: 25th of February 2020, 13:00-15:00, room Biosfären (B2069) in the MVM centre, Ultuna & video meeting SLU6714750.

Participants: Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen, Jelena Rakovic, Magdalena Bieroza, Maria Kahlert, Brendan McKie, Prithvi Simha, Erik Petersson.

1. Chair, secretary

Erik Petersson appointed Maria Kahlert as chairperson and Magdalena Bieroza as secretary of the meeting. Prithvi will adjust the protocol.

2. Minutes steering committee 6th of December 2019 (attachment Minutes_FoSW_20191206) approved by all

3. Decisions

3.1. Mobility grant applications

We spent ~50 tkr (full mobility budget) in 2017, ~20 tkr 2018, then ~80 tkr 2019. These 4 new applications sum up to 52900 kr. The question was what we do with any new applications for 2020? We can reallocate costs from other activities that were planned but are not happening, if more applications are coming.

3.1.1. **Vera Franke**, research stay of 5 weeks at the The Catalan Institute for Water Research (ICRA) in Girona, Spain. Budget: 13000 kr.

Approved by all

3.1.2. **Charlotta Meriggi**, PhD course “Ecological Niche Modelling in R” 15-19 June 2020 at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Budget: 10000 kr.

Approved by all

3.1.3. **Gaëtan Martin**, PhD course AB-827 Arctic Microbiology (10 ECTS) at The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS), June 24-July 28 2020. Budget: 13500 kr.

Approved by all

3.1.4. **Tarquin Netherway**, EMBO course ‘Microbial Metagenomics: A 360° Approach’ at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany from April 20-27 (8 days), 2020. Budget: 16400 kr. Note FoSW rules: “The maximum amount rewarded for attending a one week course is 10k SEK, and 20k SEK for two or more weeks.”

Approved by all but with the restricted budget of 10 tkr because the course is shorter than two weeks (required for a budget of > 10 tkr).

3.2. Reports

3.2.1. **PhD course PNS0074 Multivariate methods for ecologists, 4,5 hp. VT 2019.** Research school cooperation, responsible RS: FoSW. Coordinator Ulf Grandin. 28 participants, evaluation, general opinion about course: 4.4 (good to excellent), budget: 188441 kr (planned: 180 kr, divided by 3 RS (Ecology & Organism Biology)).

Info: Course will be given again in October 2020. Please note that this course now has 2 syllabuses to be able to give 2 different levels of credits: PNS0074 with 4.5 hp, and PNS0190 with 3 hp (with "part 2" incorrectly included in the schedule, and no links between the syllabuses or explanation on which course to apply for...). The alternative would have been to establish an "individual assignment" for each student doing the non-obligatory project part, but this is much work as it needs to be done for each student separately in the Ladok system.

Approved by all but we should ask Ulf for the specific comments (not just a summary)

3.2.2. **Workshop Careers outside university.** 27th of November. Magda and Lea Wittorf. A nice mix of speakers and activities thanks to a chairing by Emma Lannergård and Vera Frank from the FoSW. Magda will submit a report at the next steering group meeting, decision to be taken at next meeting. Awaiting financial report.

4. Lunch seminars

Louis Mielke, PhD Student, Dept. Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology right now replacing Hannes Keck, organized Carlos A. Sierra, February 12th in Tammsalen, Ecology Centre.

We need to get more ideas for invited speakers. Let Louis and Hannes know. Jelena, Hannes and Prtihvi to meet to discuss future seminars.

5. RS coordinator meetings

5.1. **NJ-fak RS lunch meeting 2nd of February 2020.** Maria was present. Ladok handling different among RS, all RS need now to enter the credits for their courses; postdoc day Thursday 12 March 2020; suggestions for cooperation on new PhD courses: Grant writing, Collaboration outside university, Artificial intelligence and machine learning, Time management & stress-reduction (the latter now organized as workshops, but should maybe be part of general PhD education). Next meeting 14th of April 2020.

- Grant writing, Collaboration outside university, Artificial intelligence and machine learning will be organised, can we co-organise?
- Time management & stress-reduction, two other research schools organise seminar for their schools
- 2nd or 3rd October our stress management seminar with Åsa Bjurman

5.2. **SLU RS meeting 3rd of December 2019.** With Lotta Jäderlund. Neither Magda nor Maria could attend. Protocol attached (Short notes Joint RS meeting 2019-12-03).

Briefly: Most important: Follow up of Research Schools is planned for autumn 2020 and will mainly (only?) be a repetition of the “halve-time” follow-up we had, i.e. mainly content will be Excel files with lists of activities, completed with number of participants, evaluation scores, and budget. The follow-up will then give information to a new period of research school funding from the Vice-Chancellor. Maybe no new application will be needed? (not clear).

- LADOK: All new courses must now get a syllabus in Ladok, and a consultant is currently developing a new tool (instead of SLUkurs forskarutbildning) to then pick up the courses from there, and present them as a searchable overview on the SLU web.
- Ladok people to give a seminar? Canvas-Ladok link is tricky. A combined seminar like this for all research schools. Problem lies in connecting all systems together e.g giving credits in Canvas. Maria is keen to organise this.
- Maria to check which other schools if they have problems with Ladok, adding information to Ladok. Is it just us or others too? It should be a central person dealing with this rather than for each department separately.

6. Recent and coming soon activities

Places left, please make some advertisement:

- 6.1. **PNS0070 Reviewing and Summarizing Science** - Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Science* (*But Were Afraid to Ask), 2hp. March 2020 (Antonia Liess, Maria Kahlert). 6 registrations so far.
- 6.2. **PNS0134 Minerals in soils and sediments and their X-ray identification and quantification**, 5hp. 11 to 15 May 2020. Course coordinator Jon-Petter Gustafsson. 6 registrations so far.
- 6.3. **To communicate science, 2 hp, RS coop. (Elisabeth Müllner)**. Places left.

Full or will be:

- 6.4. **PNG0057 Ecosystem functioning: From theory to application, 3hp, May 2020 (Brendan McKie)**. Course full now, 6 out of 15 SLU PhD students.
- 6.5. **Thesis summary writing workshop on March 5th, workshop organisers: Torun Hammar & Kajsa Henryson**. 28 registrations so far!
- 6.6. **PNG0088 Understanding & Coding the R Programming Language (3 ECTS)**. May 11-15th 2020 at SLU campus Ultuna, Course organizer: Matt Low. Registration deadline 28th of February.
- Planned:**

6.7. Advanced R-courses, cooperation with RS Ecology, ongoing planning:

6.7.1. Data handling & Write better codes mini-course with R (1-2 days in May 2020), Course leaders: Lorenzo Menichetti, Alistair Auffret & Mathieu Paquet (postdocs at Dept. of Ecology),

6.7.2. Advanced R-kurs "Statistics in practice", ~3hp, autumn 2020, Course leader: Mohammad Bahram, Associate Senior Lecturer at the Department of Ecology

6.8. Any progress for Fundamental mathematics for environmental scientists? (Jelena). Jelena will be in touch with Hans, scope not clear yet, not only statistics but also focus on tools. Jelena to contact students/supervisors to crystallise the ideas.

7. Planned activities for autumn 2020:

7.1. Agricultural catchments in changing world, 4 hp, Planned for autumn 2020. Focus on agricultural catchments. Coordinator Magdalena Bieroza is preparing course plan & budget, to be completed for the next meeting.

7.2. Seminar/workshop series "Soils of Sweden, 1-2 days". Magda is discussing with Erik Karlton, he is interested in running this and has ideas about the content.

7.3. Soil systems – Anke Herrmann, new coordinator to be assigned, planned for 2021, more details to come.

8. Next meeting: 27th April, 13-15, Magda to book the room and prepare agenda. Room Marken is booked now.