



Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



**Minutes – Steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water: 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2020, 13:00-15:00, room Marken (B3051) in the MVM centre, Ultuna, SLU. Video meeting 6585713.**

**Participants:** Karina Clemmensen, Magdalena Bieroza, Maria Kahlert, Brendan McKie, Prithvi Simha, Erik Petersson. Hannes Keck, Jelena Rakovic and Lisbeth Lewan were prevented from participation. Hannes Keck sent in email notes.

### 1. Chair, secretary

Magdalena Bieroza chairperson and Maria Kahlert secretary. Karina Clemmensen adjusted the protocol.

2. **Minutes** steering committee 25th of February 2020 (see attachment). Approved by all.

### 3. Decisions

#### 3.1. Courses

3.1.1. **Application PhD course Agricultural catchments in a changing world, course leader Magdalena Bieroza. 5-9<sup>th</sup> October, online course (3 ECTS).** See attachment.

Magda's comment: External teachers confirmed: Mary Kelly-Quinn, Marc Stutter, Per-Erik Mellander. 5 PhD students interested, start advertising!

Budget: 110,580 kr (provisional as salaries for external teachers are not confirmed).

Suggestions of the steering committee for improvements: Break up e.g. in discussion rooms, not only lectures as this might get tiring via video. But otherwise looks like good course with attractive teachers.

All approved the course plan & budget.

3.1.2. **Report Career outside university, seminar 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019, co-organised with other research schools** (Focus on Soils and Water, Organism Biology, Ecology –basics and applications, Focus on Food and Biomaterials, Social Science Perspective on Sustainable Development, Society and Landscape, Sustainable Biomass Systems). Budget: 54,595 kr. Was more difficult to organize than previous years. Probably change to ½ day workshop. All approved the course plan & budget.

3.1.3. **Thesis summary writing workshop March 5th, 2020.** Research school cooperation, responsible RS: FoSW. Coordinators Torun Hammar and Kajsa Henryson, Department of Energy and Technology. 42 participating PhD students (!) in place & 3 on video link. Evaluation, general opinion about workshop: 4.4 (good to excellent). Budget: 37671 kr (planned: 30tkr, divided by 4 RS (Ecology, Organism Biology & Sustainable biomass systems). All approved the course plan & budget.

#### 3.2. Mobility grants – no new applications nor reports

Probably most travels postponed, we will see later.

#### 4. Lunch seminars. Info from Hannes keck by email:

- 4.1. 12<sup>th</sup> of May on Zoom at 14:00 Matthias Mauder from KIT: 'How well can we quantify evapotranspiration?' Hannes still need to figure out how to construct an online participation list, but that is of minor difficulty.
- 4.2. Later in May we will likely have Lutz Merbold, Head of the International Livestock Research Institute in Kenia. The title of his presentation is not yet agreed on.
- 4.3. Please let Hannes know if there are concerns about the online seminars or if you have suggestions for guest lecturers.

#### 5. Recent and coming soon activities

- 5.1. **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). The intense course week was started as planned, but cut after 1 day due to the university close-down. After that, the course was given online in a somewhat shorter version. Not all students could participate due to sickness or quarantine problems.
- 5.2. **Understanding and coding the R language**, 2hp. May 11-15th 2020. 42 registrations! Matt Lowe will do an online simplified version with start 11<sup>th</sup> of May. Maybe a IRL course will be given in autumn. Problematic is the "hands-on" part.
- 5.3. **Advanced R-course 1** in cooperation with RS Ecology: Technical programming course, incl. writing better and more robust code, testing it. Discussions ongoing if it will be postponed given as an online course, most probably later than May in any case. No details yet, Helena Bylund will contact the organizers again for an online discussion also with Maria K.
- 5.4. Postponed: **PNS0134 Minerals in soils and sediments** and their X-ray identification and quantification, 5hp. Postponed until April or May 2021.
- 5.5. Postponed: **PNG0057 Ecosystem functioning**: From theory to application, 3hp. Postponed until spring 2021.

#### 6. Planned activities

##### 6.1. Autumn 2020:

- 6.1.1. **Agricultural catchments in changing world**, 4 hp, Planned for autumn 2020. Focus on agricultural catchments. Please contact coordinator Magdalena Bieroza for more information.
- 6.1.2. **Advanced R course 2** hp, Planned for 2020. Statistics in practise. Research school cooperation, responsible RS: Ecology. Planning is ongoing, and we encourage all interested students to contact the coordinator Helena Bylund to participate in the planning.
- 6.1.3. **Multivariate methods for ecologists**, The course aims to illustrate the application of a number of multivariate methods on ecological data. Following the course, participants should

be familiar with different multivariate techniques, and how they can be applied on various types of data. The course will focus on developing an understanding of the application of multivariate techniques, with only a minimum amount of effort placed on comprehending the underlying mathematical detail. 3 or 4.5 ECTS, 12-29 October 2020. Course organizer: Ulf Grandin (ulf.grandin@slu.se), Department of Aquatic Sciences and Assessment.

6.1.4. **PNG0044 How to write and publish a scientific paper**, 4.5 hp, Planned for autumn 2020.

Research school cooperation, responsible RS: Organism Biology. Please contact Mårten Lind for info.

6.1.5. October 2nd. Whole day-workshop with **Åsa Burman: Finish on Time**. Maria will contact Åsa to prepare for distance workshop.

**7. Minutes of RS Coordinators meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**, participants: Helena Bylund, Mattias Thelander, Heriberto Véléz, Ali Moazzami, Emil Sandström, Suvi Kokko (Neither Magda nor Maria participated)

7.1. Discussion about how research schools have adapted activities due to the COVID-19 situation

- R-course will perhaps be organised on line. Course organizer Matt Low Matt.Low@slu.se, Research school Ecology-basics and applications
- On-going courses have been given on-line
- Other activities are postponed to autumn 2020
- Courses involving field work in the summer – unsure at the moment which solution will be taken

7.2. Discussion about how different departments handle PhD students with fieldwork abroad

7.3. Suvi Kokko and Ali Moazzami had a meeting with Martin Westin about a PhD course in Samverkan (Cooperation/Collaboration). Martin has given this course to SLU management and PhD students in Gothenburg University. He does not have time to coordinate a similar course for SLU students, but can give a lecture or two. If we want to develop this course for SLUs PhD students we need a course coordinator. Suvi share Martin's material with all RS coordinators and see if there are colleagues at SOL who are interested in being part of organizing the course.

7.4. Next meeting 26/5 at 11.30.

**8. COVID-19 Challenges and opportunities for the FoSW and new and existing courses.**

\* Maybe we should think of spreading lectures over a longer time if we need to continue digitally to not overtire the students. On the other hand, we then might get clashes, we need to think of that.

\* Different departments are handling Covid challenges differently. Not clear what opportunities we have as FoSW.

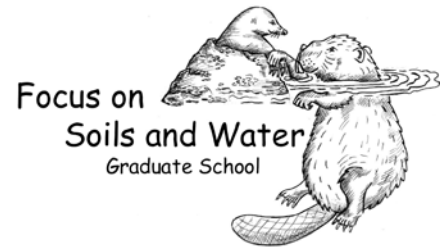
\* A lot of courses will be postponed, and we will need to handle this properly later. We should plan for distance courses, or at least the possibility to participate on distance for e.g. international teachers and students even for the autumn as we do not know about travel restrictions.

- Help from SLU:

Helena Alstergren and the



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Division of Learning and Digitalization:

<https://internt.slu.se/en/support-services/education/educational-and-digital-support/>

Pedagog online, 13.00-14.30

<https://internt.slu.se/stod-service/utbildning/pedagogiskt-och-digitalt-stod/Pedagogik/konsultation/Pedagog-online/>

Pedagogical discussions via Canvas

[https://slu-se.instructure.com/courses/171/discussion\\_topics/18374](https://slu-se.instructure.com/courses/171/discussion_topics/18374)

## 9. Other

Research ethics course. Erik wonders if students were satisfied with it. Prithvi said he taught the philosophy course was not so good, the ethics was better. Heavy schedule with lots of lectures. Should be done early in the PhD, but most people don't do it early. Maybe FoSW should suggest to improve it? Maria will ask the responsible coordinators about their thoughts.

## 10. Attachements:

Minutes\_FoSW\_20200225.docx

Career Outside University 2019 Report.pdf

2020 Preliminary course description\_Agricultural Catchments.docx

Agricultural\_Catchments\_PhD\_Course\_Budget.xlsx

**11. Next meeting:** Mon 8<sup>th</sup> of June 9.30-11.30, Maria to book the room and prepare agenda.