

**Minutes – Steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water: 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2019, 13:00-15:00, room Ekoln (B4051) in the MVM centre, Ultuna, SLU.**

Participants: Erik Petersson, Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen, Brendan McKie, Kate Rychel, Hannes Keck, Maria Kahlert, Magdalena Bierzoza

**1. Chair, secretary**

*Erik Petersson appointed Magdalena Bierzoza as chairperson and Maria Kahlert as secretary of the meeting. Karina Engelbrecht Clemmensen will adjust the protocol.*

**2. Minutes steering committee meeting 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2018**

**APPROVED BY ALL**

**3. Information on Halftime report** required by SLU Central via NJ faculty (Johanna Nilsson, Utbildningshandläggare at NJ faculty) (see attachment).

- We attract fewer people from outside the SLU compared to other schools. Maybe we need extra advertising, to attract UU students for lunch seminars. Not clear when the deadline is for submitting the final report, to date only Excel summary.
- Financial reports 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2017 – end of June 2019. Make sure that finance team is aware of this. What is missing? Some remaining invoices to be sent. Magda to coordinate before the next meeting, to get financial reports for different FoSW codes.
- How can we communicate better with other faculties?
- Next meeting with fika to work on the report. Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of May the next meeting. 13-16.

**4. Information on FoSW Activities**

**4.1. Ongoing activities**

**4.1.1.** “Global Sustainable Development Goals & Swedish Environmental Quality Objectives”. Workshop 8th of February 2019, Uppsala (Loftet, Stora Salen), and optional ‘mini-course’, PNG0079, 1 ECTS. 57 participants in workshop day, 12 PhD students in course.

- Maria to compile the feedback but generally ok.

**4.1.2.** PhD course PNS0169, New molecular methods (5+2 ECTS). 25-29th March 2019.

- Barcoding course, 27 students, 11 teachers, positive feedback. Be vigilant laptop and documents stolen. SLU has insurance and help in such occasions.
- 4.1.3. *PhD course PNG0171, Nitrogen course (4 ECTS, Course leader Anke Herrmann). End of March. 25-29/3. (info Magda).*
- Nitrogen course, 13 students, went ok.
  - Both courses with open lectures, 17 and 55 people. Very nice that Josh stayed entire week, lots of discussions.
- 4.1.4. *Understanding and coding the R programming (RS Ecology, Helena Bylund), 1-5/4.*
- R course, ongoing this week. Full from the announcement. Course leader thinking about giving it twice a year.
- 4.1.5. *Postdoc Workshop 15/3.*
- Postdoc workshop, report from Helena and Nina. 28 students signed up and video streaming to all campuses. Additional 10 people. But they are not part of the report, we need to make sure to get their names. Report to come.
  - If courses are popular and well attended by the FoSW students, we could contribute to run the faculty courses to run twice a year. Bayesian course, they will request official support.
- 4.2. **Planned activities 2019-2020**
- 4.2.1. *PhD courses:*
- 4.2.1.1. *Carbon course (4 ECTS, Course leader Björn Lindahl), planned for May 2019*
- Carbon course under control. Scheduled for May 2019.
  - We are behind schedule with the courses, C carbon and X ray course. X ray course should run in the autumn but not enough students this year, to be run next year.

- Repeated courses were planned every two years but this is too often so maybe every 3 years.

Also course leaders are busy. This produces problems for us with the planning.

4.2.1.2. *Uncertainty modelling (Lisbeth, info Magda). Suggested title: "Calibration of hydrological models at field to catchment scales – The art of handling uncertainties". Potential modules: 1. Calibration of process-oriented field-scale models*

- This module will be based on expert key-lectures combined with computer exercises on selected tutorials (training modules) of 1-2 process-oriented soil hydrological models of contrasting degree of complexity.
- 2. Calibration of hydrological catchment scale models
- Similar to (1) this module will be a combination of expert lectures combined with computer exercises or demonstrations of 1-2 catchment based hydrological models.
- Hopefully we could tie together researchers and expert-lecturers from both Zurich university (Jan Seibert), SLU and Uppsala University (Geocentrum).
- The course concept could include 3 hp covering the two components above + reading literature + an additional option of potentially 2 hp consisting of written individual tasks, where each student sketch the application of a model to own data and reflects on thereby associated problems and data-requirements.
- However, Lisbet have not yet had time to plan the course – only brief hasty discussions with Jan Seibert the last couple of times he visited SLU.
- Uncertainty course. Lisbet. No time to follow-up. No one who wants to take lead. Ask her if she can commit, is there any post doc who could drive this? Magda?

4.2.1.3. *New suggestion: HT2019: coordinated workshop on DNA-methods, repetition of success with UMBLA and EDNA*

- DNA methods 1 day workshop in Biocentrum in 2017. Shall we repeat it this year? Before paid half and half by us and Biocentrum. Maria to suggest a budget. It was open to everyone, researchers and post-docs. External experts and people who want to use the methods. Maria to give details for consideration by the Steering Group. Stefan Bertilsson who could contribute or coordinate. Maria to talk to Stefan.

- Students are interested in molecular tools. Maybe a mini-course? Along the workshop?

#### 4.2.1.4. Originally planned for ht19/vt20:

- 4.2.1.4.1. *Ecosystem functioning: from theory to application (3 ECTS, Course leader Brendan McKie). Brendan can give this course preferably spring 2020 (BiodivERsA project finished; alternatively late in 2019). No info from Agforee if they want to cooperate. Autumn 2019. (info Maria & Magda)*
- Brendan. Timing is an issue. Spring 2020. Course plan ready for autumn. Possibly bigger course than before.
- 4.2.1.4.2. *Catchment and connectivity modelling of water bodies. Update on AGFOREE communication, connected to catchment course. Students don't see the need for this course as courses in Birmingham and Krycklan. No coordinator available, Faruk D., Martyn F. and Mattias happy to contribute, but not to lead this course (info Magda).*
- Catchment connectivity course. We need a local coordinator even if we have Finnish coordinator. Krycklan course. Mattias and his colleague, are they prepared to co-organise this with Agforee? In discussion with interested students. Can they come up with a plan – when and major topic. Magda to be involved.
  - Mattias interested in life cycles analysis in soils as in Tomas Kätterer.
  - Maybe combine those two courses? As there is a bit of overlap.
  - Magda to ask Mattias. What is the best way to proceed? We want to proceed with the uncertainty. Ideally Mattias in charge. Can he include some aspects in Lisbet's course.
  - Make the courses more general? Uncertainty in general? Not only in hydrology. What type of modelling? Dynamic or Bayesian?
  - Some involvement from Agforee will be nice.
  - Maybe Tomas K. part as a mini course? Just this part? Magda to ask Mattias.

4.2.1.4.3. *PhD course “X-ray image processing and analyses”, PNS0115 (John Koestel). Last: 2017, next: was planned for 2019 (info Maria).*

- X ray image processing. Planned to 2019 but too few students. So maybe 2020 in spring.

4.2.1.4.4. *PhD course Agriculture in practice? Interested students or coordinator? ht19/vt20 (info Maria)*

- Agriculture in practice. Course. There was a suggestion from a student. Farm outside Umea. Or Lovsta. Brendan thinks it should be more than just a visit.

4.2.1.4.5. *How to write scientific papers. This winter 2018/2019 with Organism Biology. Next? (info Maria)*

- How to write scientific papers – only 5 students registered. Organised by Organism Biology. Ecology more peer-review from senior researchers. At the moment both course overlap, so it will be good to have them separate. Next year.

4.2.1.5. *Originally planned for ht20/vt21:*

4.2.1.5.1. *Organic micropollutants in the aquatic environment 2020??? Must be enough students. (info Maria)*

- Micropollutant course. 2020 with improvements if enough students. No news at the moment.

4.2.1.5.2. *Aquatic sciences: theory, practical methods, management, threats 2020/2021. Aquatic ecosystems; environmental assessment; environmental data acquisition and analysis; scientific basis for aquatic conservation. Lectures coupled to a 1-week field trip. (info Maria)*

- Aquatic sciences – made up course, we need to check if students are still interested.

4.2.1.5.3. *Soil systems2020/2021: (info Magda)*

- Soil systems 2020-1. Anke? Magda to ask Anke if she is willing to do it again.

4.3. *Responsibilities for coordinated activities: Maria: responsible for courses R, statistics, communicate & postdoc workshop Magda: carrier workshop*

- Coordinated courses: Statistics in autumn, how to communicate science completed. Poorer evaluation compared to before but maybe technical issues affected. It will be given again next year. Galia is away next year so not sure who will run it. Maybe Ali?
- Post doc and career continues next year.
- Magda to ask Josefine to split the costs for the Career day. Email which schools who want to participate.

#### 5. Lunch seminars

- Lunch seminars. Hannes. April - Blue targeting seminar. To inform people what it this. May - Carsten Muller. Tomas Keller. June – Chris Evans.

#### 6. FoSW inquiry on activity suggestions & input of FoSW steering group

- Maria to put together planned activities for the next 2 years.
  - How to discuss with students about planned activities? Not many reply to emails. Brainstorming with fika, there was one before and it was very good. To join existing Meetings with PhD students. To ask direct questions about courses. We need suggestions for courses but no one replied to email. Contact Kate and Jelena to know how to proceed. Join supervisor meetings? Forward a formal request to study directors. Ask directors of study what form they have to communicate with PhD students and supervisors. Hannes to bring this up during the next breakfast meeting.
  - Probably both good to join existing meeting and organize brainstorming.
7. **Economy/orders:** Advice on how to write Reference & account numbers. Maria & everybody to order via Magda! Ref: 435MBA. Add FoSW projectnummer/activity to the invoice. Ask Magda beforehand in case of doubt.
- Economy, all invoices through Magda.

8. *Homepage: Jelena? Possibility to employ Simon Hallstan (IVM)*

- Simon could help with webpage. Is Jelena interested? We need Sb/Simon to start asap.

Decision made, all agreed.

9. **LADOK information:** LADOK informed us that we from now on should send the list of SLU PhD students to LADOK directly to register their credits in courses where students are from different department: Needed info is: Namne, personal number, course code, course "tillfälle" and how many credits. To be send to: Ladok [ladok@slu.se](mailto:ladok@slu.se)

- Ladok. Not linked to Canvas or Fronter. Before coordinating institution could enter the grades.

Now they only issue the certificate and home institution should put it.

- Ladok people will issue an email with recommendations how to do it.
- The question who should be putting those grades? Brendan feels like it is too much for study directors.

10. *Mobility grants: none*

11. *T-Shirts: no reply from company...*

12. *Other issues*

- Lisbet will be on docent board. Ask her if she wants to stay on the steering board. Magda to ask.

13. *Next Meeting date*

- 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 13-16, Magda to book the room and fika.

14. *Attachments*

- *Minutes steering committee meeting 7th of December 2018*
- *Halftime report summary: Sustainable Biomass SystemsSSPSDEcologyOrganism BiologyFocus on Soils and WaterFocus on food and biomaterialsSociety and LandscapeAntal doktorander (ej unika)2014116316814573130Doktorander utranför SLU:1004043161810*