



Swedish University of  
Agricultural Sciences



**Minutes steering committee meeting Research School Focus on Soils & Water: 4<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, 10:00-11:30, room Marken B3051 in the MVM centre, Ultuna, SLU.**

**Participants:** Maria Kahlert, Anke Herrmann, Björn Lindahl, Lisbet Lewan (Soil & Environment), Erik Petersson, Katrin Rychel, Andreas Hagenbo

### **1. Chair, secretary**

Anke Herrmann chair, Maria Kahlert secretary, adjustment of protocol: Katrin Rychel

### **2. Minutes steering committee meeting 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2016**

**Approved by all**

### **3. FoSW steering committee update**

Björn Lindahl decided to leave FoSW's steering group as a regular member due to lack of time, but offered to continue as deputy. Discussions regarding replacement for Björn, with the aim to include all founding departments of FoSW, and the aim to get somebody with time, enthusiasm and a broad network to engage in FoSW, and with experience in PhD supervising. Additionally, there were several changes among the PhD representatives. Anke to contact the candidates and FUN for approval when the steering group suggestion is ready. FoSW is planning for a continued mission from the faculty.

### **4. Follow-up research schools activities 2013-2016 update**

#### 4.1 SWOT analysis

Brainstorming within steering committee led to many suggestions, to be summarized by Maria and sent to steering group by email for corrections and a polish before including in FoSW report to NJ faculty.

#### 4.2 Other issues

All RS to send in reports to SLU 1/6. All NJ RS to send their reports to FUN 23/5, including a description of organization and working routines, a self-evaluation, a SWOT, and a summary of all activities from 2013-2016. Anke is responsible for the economical part, Maria is responsible for the activity report, and a first draft of the other parts. In general, there is a risk that no funding for the RS will be available for 2017, which we agreed is a risk to a continuous provision of activities for the PhD students. FoSW agreed to suggest FUR to bridge the possible evaluation year 2017 with extra funding so we can continue planning activities, otherwise there will be a 2-year stop. Suggested text for a common request of all NJ-RS (to be discussed among coordinators):

"FoSW föreslår att vi igen kontaktar Johan Mejer med följande förslag:

I avvaktan på en eventuell utredning av forskarskolorna förslår NJ-fakultetens samlade forskarskolor att finansiera ett övergångsår 2017, där all verksamhet fortlöper som vanligt, för att garantera kontinuitet och ett kvalificerat kurs och aktivitetsutbud till doktoranderna. Risken är annars att det a) doktoranderna blir utan kurser/aktiviteter under ett helt år och b) att en eventuell uppstartsfas 2018 tar mycket energi, och pengar igen för att få i gång en fungerande verksamhet igen, igen med risk att doktorander kommer bli lidande eftersom planeringen för kurser etc. minst ta ett år i förväg." Maria to contact the other coordinators, Lisbeth to contact FUN.

### **5. Course report**

5.1 Course report Ulf Grandin: Multivariate methods for ecologists (PNS 0074); in total 157 240 kr (research schools cooperation: FoSW, Ecology, Organism Biology): planned 177 796 budget kr  
Alternative 1) I approve that 157 240 kr will be reimbursed to Ulf

**Was approved by all.**

5.2 Course report Karin Wiberg: Chemometrics - with applications from spectroscopy (PNS 0127); budget 10 000 kr

Alternative 1) I approve that 10 000 kr will be reimbursed to Karin

**Was approved by all.** However, FoSW notes from the evaluation and the course credits that there is room for improvement. If the course is given again, the ECTS and the syllabus must be discussed in a better way together with the FoSW steering group.

### **6. Short update activities 2016**

6.1. Spring term 2016



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February: PhD course PNS0074 Multivariate methods for ecologists. 23 PhD students, overall credits 4.5.  
2. March: How to become a postdoc? 24 PhD students, overall credits 4.4.  
11. April: PhD course PNS0134 Minerals in soils. Ongoing, 18 registered PhD students.  
11. April: PhD course Understanding & Coding the R Programming Language. Ongoing, lacking info about registered PhD students (main organizer: RS Ecology).  
25. April: POS0007 To communicate science. Ongoing, 15 registered PhD students (main organizer: RS Food in Focus).

#### 6.2. Autumn term 2016

PhD course Soil systems (organizer: Anke Herrmann)

PhD course How to write and publish a scientific paper (organizer: RS Organism Biology & Anke Herrmann)

Career day: main organizer: RS Ecology

Excursion: (planning: Anke Herrmann)

Workshop current topic: none planned yet

#### 6.3. WEBB-16 project

The entire SLU web will be transformed from episerver6 to 7, meaning a complete new structure of all homepages, including FoSWs. The SLU plan was to publish the entire new pages before summer 2016. Minh and Maria now officially registered as editors (webbredaktör) of Episerver7, meaning they went to a certain education program and that no one else now can edit the homepage. PhD students must reorganize their responsibilities as Minh will take over most of the editing. Cajsa Lithell was employed to move FoSWs old pages to episerver7 (done 10/5, result can be found here: <https://epidrift-ext.slu.se/en/research-schools/focus-on-soils-and-water/>). Remaining problems are the calendar-events: Minh needs to transfer all of them to a pdf file manually, and new events need to have a new calendar event created meanwhile. No new pages shall be created in episerver6, but from now on, Minh & Maria can work in the new system, creating pages there. Open for suggestions by all!

### 7. Mobility Support

No current applications, more advertisement before next steering group meeting

### 8. Lunch seminars

Update from PhD student representatives

2 were given in spring, 2 more to be planned. Room for more in autumn. Planning meeting in August together with directors of study.

### 9. Other

Ideas for courses. A good course on community ecology across departments, top-down activity 2017, group of teachers. Björn's suggestion, bacteria to animals and plants, highlighting different aspects

2017 Organic matter course

### 10. Next meeting

5th to 9th of September, Anke to send a doodle.

Maria Kahlert, FoSW

Signed protocol: Katrin Rychel