NTNU
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Energy and Process Engineering

Date 08.06.2026
Reference arvesk

Minutes – Extended Leader Group Meeting
Referat – utvidet ledergruppemøte

Present:	Ole Gunnar Dahlhaug (HoD), Ignat Tolstorebrov, Odne Stokke Burheim, Francesca Verones, Johan Berg Pettersen, Armin Hafner, Jacob Joseph Lamb, Laurent Georges, R. Jason Hearst, Simen Ådnøy Ellingsen, Morten Gunnar Grønli, Sondre Martinussen, Bjørn Støle Almlöf, Linus Gabriel Berg-Høisæter, Camilla Ackermann, Priyanka Gautam, Juudit Ottelin, Hanna Øian, Guro Hoel Sjøberg, Maren Agdestein and Arve Skjærvø (HoA)
Not present:	Dmytro Konovalov
Copy to:	
Subject:	

Time of meeting: 08.06.2026 kl. 14-16	Place: Møterom C239 Watzinger, VATL

Signature:

Agenda

Please see the PowerPoint presentation for more information regarding the different agenda points.

Item 06/26 – New leadership
Head of Department, Ole Gunnar Dahlhaug, initiated a round around the table for introducing the members.

Dahlhaug made a short presentation himself and his background.

Item 07/26 – Student recruitment numbers for 2026/2027
Deputy Head of Education, Ignat Tolstorebrov, presented the numbers.

Our international programs have low application numbers. This is tending to be classified as a crisis. This is specially in effect for MSSE (Sustainable Energy Systems). These low numbers are mainly a result of the self-cost system for these programs.

There will be some changes in the rigging of the study programs, so that also Norwegian student will apply for the MSSE program, since the plan is that this programme will give a master's degree, as well as removing the demand for 6 extra study points in mathematics.

There are also some positive signs. We have an increase in with study directions the students choose at their 2nd year at MTEK. MTEK is very popular in Norway at the time, and this is something that we gain from, since many of them chooses subjects at EPT. Regarding Energi og Miljø, we have a decrease of number of students, but we had an abnormal high number last year.

Item 08/26 – Economic reporting 1st Tertial 2026, Long term plan and BOA activity
EPT Controller, Hanna Øian, presented.

Due to the new extended leader group, there was a bit more extensive presentation. Please see the presentation attached.

We started the year with a negative incoming balance of 4,5 MNOK. This is a planned situation, and we also have a plan to build the balance up again in the long-term period. Our prognosis requires a net income from BOA on about 70 MNOK. Our prognosis is also built on a presumption that our activity level will decrease slightly. Should we be able to stay on our current level of BOA activity, we will get a larger action room in the long-term period.

We are building the balance slowly up to the wanted level in order to keep as much as a regular activity level as possible.

Regarding the Tertial reporting it appears that we are on track to make the budget numbers for 2026 in total on Ramme Drift (RD).

Regarding the BOA activity level, Øian presented the “Ordrereserve”. We have healthy numbers now but need to generate new BOA activity to keep our activity level up.

Item 09/26 – Project portfolio – status
Research adviser Camilla Ackermann presented the numbers.

2023: 33 granted proposals (36 % success rate)
2024: 17 granted proposals
2025: 22 granted proposals (32 % success rate so far)

We are in general terms doing good and we have a high level of success rate.

In 2025 EPT applied for 254 MNOK, 137 MNOK from RCN and 105 MNOK from EU. In 2024 we applied for 310 MNOK. The prognosis shows that we will send in more proposals in 2026 than the previous years.

Item 10/26 – Strategic personnel plan, status May 2026
Head of Administration, Arve Skjærvø, presented the updates and status.

The SPP has been updated in accordance with the new department strategy, but there have only been small adjustments. The document has been updated also regarding the long-term prognoses,

that have been presented earlier in the meeting. Our plan is to have a stable number of PhD candidates.

At EPT, we are fortunate to currently have a good balance of both capacity and expertise in most areas. At the same time, we are committed to adjusting and strengthening our competencies in areas where we anticipate needing more—or less—expertise over the longer term. This will require long-term planning, but we are fortunate to have a staff that is both adaptable and willing to embrace change.

We are in a sound financial position and have sufficient flexibility in our long-term planning horizon. This enables us not only to make the strategic decisions necessary for sustainable operations and development, but also to effectively address shorter-term situations and challenges as they arise.

The SPP will from now on be revised and adjusted continuously as we get more information. It is natural that the SPP will be subject to discussion in our leader group as the group gets into operation.

Item 11/26 – Student's 10-Minute Presentation
The students want a clarification of what are required from them. The feedback was that any type of problems or cases could be raised.

There was a question about exams. There have been examples of delay in digital exams due to capacity problems. Many students would rather like to have paper exams rather than having a delayed digital exam. What are EPTs thoughts about this. Tolstorebrov commented that there are several difficulties with changing a digital exam to a paper exam. And it varies from exam to exam. In addition, a delay is communicated to the teachers simultaneously as the students themselves. We have no saying in this.

Nevertheless, EPT acknowledge the students wish of rather having paper exams than delayed digital exams. This has also to do with the organization of the exam execution from level 1, and therefore partly out of our hands.

Item 12/26 – Action Plan
Dahlhaug introduced the case and initiated a discussion about what type of important areas we should prioritize. Two areas were discussed in this meeting:

1) Excellence
    - Research grants
    - Publications
    - Academic awards
    - Producing professor's trough collaborations with our professors as trainers or supervisors

There came questions regarding excellence. The things that we mentioned were based on research, but it is important to include education as well.

2) Industrial collaboration
    - Industrial funding of positions (or co-funding) – also when it comes to professorships for a certain amount of years
    - We have to show relevance
    - Sintef as an (even more) important partner
    - NTNU as a competence hub for certain industry branches or companies.

Item 13/26 – Any Other Business (Eventuelt)
No items.