
Møtereferat, Research Committee meeting, October 27th

Til stede: Bjørn Munro Jenssen (for Martin), Glaucia Fragoso, Veerle Jaspers, Stefan Vriend, Christophe Pelabon, Aline Lee, Henrik Jensen, Atle Bones, Lena Van Giesen (for Fredrik), Silje Lundgren (for Maja)

Forfall: Fredrik Jutfelt, Daniela Sueldo, Siv Anina Etter, Maja Haaker, Martin Wagner
All FK representatives are requested to send a vara in case they cannot attend the meetings.

Kopi til: Kjetil Rasmussen

Møtetid: 27/10-2021, 1030-1200 Møtested: DU2-150

1. Welcome to new Associate Professor in the Animal Physiology group, Lena Van Giesen.

2. Input to the IBI Strategy: research and innovation

- We had a round for input to general comments on assessment of the research and innovation parts in the IBI strategy. Specific comments can be sent to Henrik by the 5th of November. He will then combine all our comments into one document that will be sent to IBI's leader group. The extended leader group will use our assessment of the department's strategy on research and innovation in the meeting on November 24th.

Sum up from the round table discussions:

- Christophe identified some unclear goals, especially related to innovation and business. It was decided that we need to invite people and get info from TTO on what innovation is, then we will discuss the issue within IBI. Henrik will follow this up.
- Glaucia commented on the PhD education, follow-up and completion. We need to get an overview of the number of PhD students that start and finish and the number and time of any delays (and causes for the delay) in the different section. The RC discussed the drafting of potential guidelines or minimum requirements for a PhD at IBI as this does not exist and so "unwritten expectations" can become the rule. Henrik will take this up with a meeting with the PhD students next week and also in the PhD program board. Glaucia also called for the need to establish career plans for researchers in the same way as has been done for postdocs. Henrik will ask Kjetil to implement this.
- Bjørn commented on whether we should change the formulation in the research strategy related to the centre of excellence applications. We discussed in the RC to mark this as completed as the process is done for this period, but that our ambition is that we should have one or more groups suitable for SFF at the next round.

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Adresser korrespondanse til saksbehandlerne. Husk å oppgi referanse.

- Atle commented on the research strategy that the first ambitions seem to be completed and that some are only partially addressed. He will send input on that to Henrik. For innovation he feels that this is mostly completed, but that there seems to be no increase in collaboration with industry or private partners, except for some people in the marine group. We should discuss the possibilities for shared PhDs with industry and the public sector (Miljødirektoratet?).
- Lena commented on the structure of the NTNU website and content of webpages at IBI. Keeping websites up to date is very important for both internal and external people to find collaborators. This needs to be taken up by the leader group and put on the agenda higher up at NTNU. She also addressed the need for clear and easily accessible information to new (and old) employees on administrative procedures and research-related issues such as available instruments/infrastructure and contact persons.
- Veerle identified some priority areas for the next period to work on including focus on strengthening internal collaboration within IBI, facilitate research stays abroad for PhDs and post docs as well as renewed attention for attending physical conference (where corona situation allows it), and the increased need for streamlining and optimising the technical support. The administrative support has indeed improved over the last year and we now need focus on the technical support.
- Aline commented also on improving internal collaboration within IBI, to raise the success of project applications (see point 4 on the agenda), and to reformulate the item in the research strategy on increasing publications. This last point is not in line anymore on how we have changed our focus in the last couple of years, not only looking at output in terms of number of publications or high impact journals.
- Stefan asked about how common it is to have external national and international PhD co-supervisors and if that is a goal of IBI. Further he meant that there is a need for further follow-up after the mid-term evaluation (for example 6 months before the end of the PhD contract). This may also help with minimising delays in PhD students finishing. Further, the mid-term evaluation seems to be perceived as stressful for some PhD students. This may have to do with a lack of communication of the goals of this evaluation: this is not an evaluation of the student, but rather an evaluation of the process and help with the supervision. There needs to be a change in the email that announces the mid-term evaluation that this is part of the system to support the PhD process.
- No comments from Silje.

3. Roadmap to large Research Infrastructure

- TBS would like to have a large computing facility and access to servers. We refer the interested people to the fact that NTNU has High Performance Computing (HPC) and data storage capabilities. IBI needs to buy access to that, but in order to do so, we want to make an overview of what people need. Please fill out the following form made by Martin Kuiper: <https://forms.office.com/r/atpQyXCTZV>
- We discussed the issue that SeaLab/TBS can be considered as a very large research infrastructure that is essential for many people at the Department (and not only the people currently seated at SeaLab/TBS are interested in the research infrastructure there). The rent at SeaLab is running out in 2026 and there is an urgent need for a plan on where the research infrastructure can be placed and to ensure sufficient capacity.
- Atle mentioned that they would like to apply for an algal cultivation facility.
- Christophe and Henrik argued that IBI's long-term data series, such as the house sparrow metapopulation study system and biobank, should be regarded as large research infrastructure.

Such data are used across multiple research groups at IBI, multiple departments and faculties at NTNU, and is also an infrastructure which is very attractive for national and international collaboration. There is a plan at CBD to submit an application for this.

- The Mass Spectrometry lab will also send in an application. <https://www.ntnu.edu/nv-mslab> Veerle is the biology contact for this facility and if you have an interest in special types of analysis or equipment, please take contact with her. Zdenka Bartosova is the research engineer at IBI who can do analysis in the MS lab.

If you plan to send in an application for large research infrastructure, please send **max. 1 page by the 15th of November** to Henrik and Kjetil.

4. Support to NFR applications

- Christophe commented that this would perhaps be more useful to organise group-wise, however several members of the RC meant that comments from people not directly in the field can be very useful.
- We will make a list of volunteers who can review proposals. People on the list can get feedback on their proposal if they also at least review one other proposal.
- Deadline for sending in drafts for review will be before Christmas. This way the comments can be given in the beginning of January so there is still time to rework the proposal (NFR deadline 2nd of February). Henrik will organize this.

5. Update on level 1 and level 2 journals

IBI is publishing well in level 2 journals (ca. 45% of our papers the last years) and therefore one article less or more in a level 1 journal will not affect the general trend. IBI's employees should publish in the journals that they feel is best for their career.

6. AOB

- A wiki system is about to be put in place to archive the minutes. It will be accessible to all from the right-and side menu on Innsida.
- There is an online survey to map needs for HPC and data storage at IBI. The survey should be filled out by all who want support:
<https://forms.office.com/r/atpQyXCTZV>

We thank Stefan Vriend for serving nearly four years on the FK as the PhD representative. From next meeting Inka Anglade will be the PhD representative (vara: Anastasiia Ivanova).