

Møtereferat, Research Committee meeting, March 15th

Til stede: Veerle Jaspers, Lena van Giesen, Atle M. Bones, Martijn Vandegehuchte, Christophe Pelabon, Aline Magdalena Lee, Inka Anglade, Siv Anina Etter, Henrik Jensen

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Kopi til:

Gjelder: Research Committee

Møtetid: 14/3-2022, 1405-1430 Møtested: DU2-150

Signatur:

1) Ranking of large infrastructure/equipment applications from IBI

Five equipment applications for equipment costing 0.7-4.8 mill NOK (+ 20% own financing) were received before the internal deadline March 14th. All applications were for equipment which will be important for the research and teaching in one or more sections and research groups at IBI. We discussed the ranking of the applications relative to the potential internal importance for research and teaching within and across sections at IBI, and relative to the evaluation criteria in the call from Rector's office (see Notat 2022/9459 dated 18.02.2022).

Our ranking is:

1. Cellular and molecular bio-energetics lab: a facility for molecular phenotyping and bio-energetic measurements. PI: Kang Nian (Jeff) Yap.
2. Acoustic infrastructure for marine ecosystem and ocean noise pollution studies. PI: Ana Sirovic.
3. Iskoras Ecosystem Observation Site (Iskoras-EcOS). PI: Hanna Lee.
4. Utstyr til undervisning og til analyseplattform ved NTNU Sealab. PI: Bengt Finstad.
5. Båt til marin forurensnings-forskning. PI: Bjørn Munro Jenssen.

We believe this ranking corresponds to the relative benefits that multiple groups within the department will have from the proposed equipment to improve the quality and scope of their research and teaching. Furthermore, we think the ranking reflects the relative probabilities the different proposals will have to be included among the four that will be forwarded from the NV-faculty to Rector's office, given the evaluation criteria in the call.

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2) How should we organize a Teams system to give all IBI's employees an overview of funding opportunities?

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU, has been invited to a (digital) meeting to inform us about their system for collecting information on funding opportunities and giving such information to their employees. They have however not responded to this request yet. The message from Kjetil is in any case that there unfortunately are no resources available at IBI that can be allocated to run such a system by any administrative/technical staff, and he therefore ask us to make a system in Teams ourselves. Veerle will set up a Teams team for the RC, which will also include a draft Excel-document for funding opportunities. The goal is to end up with a shared file that anyone with information about funding opportunities can add to.

3) How do we increase the societal/political impact of our research?

Sparked by the strong message in the talk "*The University in times of Climate and Ecological Crisis*" given by Dr. Charlie Gardner at NTNU on March 11th, (a YouTube video of a similar talk given earlier at Lund University can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4CZy7BDiWs>), we started a discussion about how we can increase the societal and political impact of our research. The discussion was quite brief and focused both on how we can adjust our own activities to be more sustainable (=environmentally friendly), and on how we can do outreach to inform the public about important results from our own research and inspire the next generation. Moreover, we agreed that allocating working hours to these activities and/or rewarding these activities in some way (e.g. in the DVA) will be important. We decided that a) the RC Teams team (see item 1) on the agenda) should include a document where we list different contact persons/opportunities for outreach activities, and b) that the input from the discussions and group work about sustainability on our IBI day in December should be followed up by the leadership at IBI. Henrik and Veerle will bring this up in the Leader group. Furthermore, this topic will also be discussed at future RC meetings.

4) The current situation with digital PhD-defenses – good or bad?

In general, we think hybrid defenses with opponents joining digitally are a very sad end to an important part of a PhD-student's work. Also, we can use the opportunity to invite scientists we want to collaborate with in the future as opponents, so the defense is an excellent chance for networking for both the PhD-student and the research group, which is missed if virtual defenses are the norm. We discussed the digital vs physical PhD-defense with respect to three main points:

- 1) Economy: Having two opponents travelling to Trondheim for a PhD-defense is very expensive, and cutting these travel and accommodation costs will help reduce IBI's budget deficit
- 2) Sustainability: Reducing the traveling needed for opponents is good because it reduces the negative effect of the PhD-defense on the environment
- 3) Fairness principle: In principle, all PhD-students at IBI should have the same opportunity to have a PhD-defense where the discussions are with persons in the same room

The RC did not reach a unanimous conclusion regarding these issues. However, we think that the head of department cannot forbid researchers and research groups to invite visitors to come, as in person discussions with other scientists are a crucial part of progress in science research and also the best way to generate ideas for future projects and successful external funding. If such visitors act

as opponents in a PhD-defense while visiting this is a win-win situation. Furthermore, we have discussed the fact that if environmental impact (sustainability) is a driving force for this decision, this should not exclusively concern PhD-defenses but should also affect all kinds of travels at IBI (e.g. Martijn has experience with a system at his previous university on how travel can be limited by paying an amount in addition to sustainability projects). The committee acknowledges the existence of differences between PhD-projects in the levels and types of resources available (e.g. whether they are part of an externally funded research project or internally funded by NTNU). The question remains whether specific actions should be taken to minimize these differences. The committee did not reach a consensus on this.

5) Any other business (AOB)

Nothing this time.