

Møtereferat

Til stede: Daniela Sueldo, Lena van Giesen, Bjørn Munro Jenssen, Trond Amundsen, Vidar Grøtan, Aline M. Lee, Inka Anglade, Veerle Jaspers, Henrik Jensen

Forfall: Atle Bones, Glaucia Moreira Fragoso, Martin Wagner, Siv Anina Etter, Maja Haaker

Kopi til:

Gjelder:

Møtetid: 1300-1430

Møtested: DU2-150

Signatur:

1) Position in Marine Sciences

We discussed the current announcement text for the position in Marine Sciences (replacement for Yngvar and Elin). As a general comment the RC wants to emphasize that during the process of determining the focus of new positions, we think IBI should try not to sectorize positions without aiming for positions fulfilling the joint departmental strategic goal of developing cross-cutting research that links to activities within and across sections. One can potentially ensure that IBI's goal of cross-section collaboration is achieved at the interview stage but it should be clear already in the announcement.

For this particular position in Marine Sciences, we have the following comments:

- The description of the position seems very narrow. There are probably very few people that would fit the description, and the position seems to be written for someone specific. We are not sure that this is a good strategy if the goal is to hire the best qualified person. For example, if the focus was on research related to fish health and fish diseases in a more general sense (not only within aquaculture health management), this would surely attract many qualified applicants.
- It is unclear what is required versus preferred regarding qualifications for the successful applicant. We think the list of requirements and preferred qualifications need to be properly checked and revised. For example, it seems on one hand that Norwegian/Scandinavian is required, but elsewhere it says that non-Norwegian/Scandinavian speakers are eligible applicants as long as they reach level 3 within three years. If Norwegian/Scandinavian is required, the announcement could be written in Norwegian to save time spent by evaluators

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as well as the time of non-Norwegian/Scandinavian speaking applicants who will otherwise apply. The language should not be in the section “personal qualities” but be specified in the required or preferred qualifications.

- Research should be highlighted more as a major part of the successful applicant’s qualifications. It should not be sufficient to have “worked with”, but the successful applicant should be able to show research in the field; we do not want a manager but a researcher.
- The expectation that the successful applicant should be able to link his/her research to other activities in the section and outside the section should be emphasized.
- It is unclear what is meant by “aquaculture health management”. Does this mean simply implementing health management, or actually doing research on interactions between environment and fish health?
- It says that researchers at all levels are encouraged to apply but only qualifications for associate professor position are described; if the person will be hired as associate professor (and not professor) this should be clearly stated.
- The text needs to be proofread to tighten up the language and remove some typos and small errors (e.g. the position is an “associate” and not “associated” professorship).

Henrik will forward the points from our discussion to the Leader group at IBI.

2) Research funding opportunities-status and internal research proposal feedback system

The results from this year’s FRIPRO call will be announced next week (September 5th-9th). Due to cuts at the RCN we can expect an approximately 20% reduction in funding overall relative to the original call, and that there will be no FRIPRO calls in 2023. Because researchers in the UK (and Switzerland?) are no longer eligible for ERC grants, it may be strategically smart to apply for ERC grants now (competition may be somewhat reduced). The ERC 2023 calls calendar can be found here: <https://erc.europa.eu/news/calls-2023-tentative-dates>. In addition, the deadline for Marie Curie is September 14th.

Due to the RCN cuts, there is no need for an internal research proposal feedback system for FRIPRO this autumn. However, we will maintain the system for other project applications. Henrik has a list with volunteers from last year, and anybody who wants, can be added to this list. Anyone who wishes to receive feedback from their colleagues on project proposal drafts to any funding source can contact Henrik.

We discussed the urgent need to set up a system for information flow to potential applicants about sources for research grant funding, especially now that FRIPRO will not happen next year. Some resources (personnel and/or money) needs to be allocated to this at the department or faculty level. This will have the short-term consequence of spending a bit more money but the long-term consequences of giving us an increased income through externally funded projects. Competing

researchers and groups at other universities (nationally and internationally) as well as research institutions (e.g. SINTEF, NINA) already have such systems in place, and thereby have a competitive advantage. Our conclusion is that we strongly advise the department to allocate resources for searching for and spreading information about potential funding opportunities of our research. Henrik and Veerle will present our view in IBI's leader group.

3) EVALBIOVIT 2022-23

We discussed various aspects related to the on-going evaluation of research within life sciences for the past 10 years, which is organized by the RCN. Henrik informed about the overall time plan, and the internal plan that has been sent to section leaders. The deadline for submitting our self-evaluations (one per section and one for IBI as a whole) is December 5th. Some points from our discussion were:

- The contribution of new employees hired during the 10-year period should be counted from when they started working at IBI and started to contribute to our research activities.
- Sections are asked to set their own benchmarks (in discussion with the leadership at IBI). These benchmarks must reflect the performance and what the section has achieved the past 10 years, and sections should look at this as a way to describe to the evaluation panel what the main work of the section actually consists of and how the section sees its role in academia and the national and international scientific society (the RCN specifies: "a reference to an academic level of performance or to the group's contributions to other institutional and sectoral purposes"). The benchmarks should align with any strategic goals that the section has had during the past 10 years.

4) PhD-courses

PhD-courses will be discussed in our next meeting.

5) Any other business

- There is a need for the NV-faculty and higher levels at NTNU to know who plans to apply for funding from ERC. Anyone who plans to apply for ERC should send a message to Henrik as soon as possible. Henrik will forward the information to the appropriate people in the NTNU organization.

It is important to do this:

- 1) to be allowed to apply to ERC (due to the obligations NTNU will have economically for ERC project proposals that get funded),
- 2) to get the necessary help to set up for example budgets, and
- 3) because it will increase the researcher's visibility and likely label her/him "ambitious and worth supporting" in other contexts as well.

NTNU has various support mechanisms for ERC applicants. Eugene at the NV faculty can help with the project proposals, and the ERC economy group at Rector's office will help with budgeting. Information on incentives can be found here: <https://i.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/English/Horizon+Europe+-+financial+incentive+programmes>, and information on project development support (PES-money) can be found here: <https://i.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/English/Apply+for+project+establishment+grants>.

- The agenda and supporting documents should be sent out to committee members at least on the Friday before the RC meeting, to allow RC members to have some chance of discussing the issues with others in their group. Henrik will improve on this point.
- The Gjærevollcenter, which will focus on research and outreach related to sustainability and biodiversity conservation, will be officially opened somewhere in Trondheim city center at 1200 on September 23rd. Talks will then be given by people (researchers, politicians etc.) relevant to the focus area of the center.

Our next RC meeting will be at 1300-1430 on a Tuesday around October 1st.