
Møtereferat

Til stede: Henrik Jensen, Ivar Herfindal, Glaucia Moreira Fragoso, Lena Van Giesen, Thorsten Hamann, Siv Anina Etter, Vidar Grøtan, Veerle Jaspers, Maja C. Haaker, Martin Wagner, Inka Anglade

Forfall: Atle Bones, Daniela Sueldo, Aline M. Lee

Kopi til:

Gjelder:

Møtetid: 1st November,
13:00 -14:30

Møtested: DU2-150

Signatur:

1) Information from the NV-faculty about RCN- and EU-funding (PowerPoint document)

For us, the general message in the project applications and funding information from the NV-faculty is that IBI is doing well (given the circumstances). We received two Young research talents from the RCN and one ERC Starting Grant (StG) this year, and one professor has been invited to an interview for an ERC Advanced Grant (AdG). There will be no FRIPRO call in 2023, but a number of people at IBI have applied to the ERC this year (1 ERC StG) or will apply to the ERC next year: 1 ERC AdG, 4 ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG), 2 ERC StG, and one ERC Synergy Grant. The expectation is that there will be relatively much funding available at the ERC this time, but that funding may be reduced in the years to come.

The RC discussed whether there is something we can do to improve our applications and hence success rate. ERC is well supported by administrative staff at the NV-faculty (Eugen and Thais), and NTNU centrally (economy group). For ERC applicants there are also special events such as the day at Scandic Lerkendal last year where applicants could look into old approved applications and get ideas for their own applications. This was very fruitful both for applications and networking. Another very helpful and centrally organized support action was the mock interviews with a broad selection of "interviewers" for applicants that reached stage two.

The RC's suggestions to help increase the quality and hence success rate of our applications are:

- Successful applications should be shared within the department. Currently most successful applicants are happy to share their application if asked.
- Organize "reading day" where applicants can look at and read through successful applications to the RCN.

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Tlf:

- Organize “mini-symposium” where people can present their project ideas and get feedback from a broad group of people from the department. This is currently being done within some sections with a feeling that this is helpful.
- Compile an overview of more and less general characteristics of successful applications, and a similar overview of characteristics that are given as reasons for not getting funding.
- The internal feedback system set up last year should be continued, and internal reviewers should get access to any previous feedback on (previous versions of) applications they review.

Henrik will take the points from our discussion to the leader group.

2) IBI’s action plan for 2023

The RC went through the research-part of IBI’s action plan for 2023 and discussed the points in the plan.

Infrastructure:

- Bookitlab: There is a general feeling that the implementation of this system was premature and would have benefited from involving the users of the system in its development at an earlier stage. There is still a lot of unclarity about the economic part of the system, as well as the booking system for (especially smaller kinds of) equipment. A well working system is characterized by involving little administrative work for everyone and having transparent and reasonable economic consequences for the users. The way the system was introduced now and communicated to users has generated a lot of frustration and does not contribute to a good working environment. For example, it is unclear how MSc-students and PhD-students with different kinds of funding will be charged for use of different kinds of equipment, and which kinds of equipment-use should be booked through the system. A general bench fee is in general a much better solution than having to pay for use of most instruments (especially the smaller ones). In principle it is a good system to book larger instruments and for getting an overview of equipment and instruments we have available, but it is then crucial that naming is standardized so that similar kinds of equipment have similar names. It is also important that people still talk with the PIs and room responsible persons of labs and equipment they want to use. The Bookitlab system is no substitute for personal communication. We are missing critical discussions of reasonable bench fees, actual costs of using our labs and their equipment (and for repair and maintenance), and of how we should use the Bookitlab system. We recommend that these issues are on the agenda for a faglærermøte in the near future, and thereafter in regular faglærermøter once every semester.
- Technical support: It is very good that IBI has made a Wiki-overview of technical staff and their main expertise. However, we are missing a proper and transparent system for how to ask technical staff to help us with research. We are also missing an overview of how much help each section and researcher receive from our technical staff, as we think there should be a “fairness-principle” in their support to our research. In this respect it is important to visualize clearly the general lack of field-related research support at IBI in contrast to lab-based research support. It should also be clearly communicated to new employees if they have to budget for technical support in project applications, how much and whom to ask. Our recommendations are: First, to invite Stig to a future RC meeting to inform us about the

current status and practices. Second, organize a faglærermøte where the topic is how technical support is and can be used at IBI.

For the other items in the action plan the RC had no major comments. Henrik will take the points from our discussion to the leader group.

3) Status regarding the Teams group for PhD courses

The Teams team with information on PhD courses at IBI, NTNU and elsewhere is up and running. There are currently 26 courses listed. Our PhD-students would also like to have an Excel-sheet with courses they can teach in to get hours for their teaching duties. The IBI administration is working on a fair and transparent system for how to divide teaching duties hours between courses and PhD-students, so this will be updated later.

4) Status for common practices in the lab and the BookitLab system

A message should be sent to all about who to ask if one would like to borrow equipment or use a lab. The default starting point is the room responsible (and PI). Also, word about this should be spread in the different sections.

Forms with names of room responsible persons for different labs will be updated shortly.

On the up-coming HSE-round it is important to check with the room-responsible if proper training and information is being given. Siv Anina will inform our HSE boss Kjersti about this.

5) Update from Stig about which engineer can help us organize and spread information about funding opportunities

Stig is still working on the "low-cost" option of finding a person among our technical staff who can receive input and coordinate information flow to researchers about possible funding opportunities. We think that putting resources into this is an important investment for IBI that will pay off by increasing future income.

6) Travel grants from IBI to PhD-students next year?

The budget will come in mid-November, then the leadership will see how much money it is for travel grants.

7) Any other business

- When will the feedback to sections on their self-assessment for EVALBIOVIT be given? Henrik is not sure, but it will probably be close to the deadline on December 5th.
- Will there be tuition fees for international students? We hope not but will have to wait for the national budget to see the how this works out.