

Research committee minutes

Present: Tereza Ticha, Atle Bones, Inka Anglade, Stig Koteng, Augustine Arukwe, Lena Van Giesen, Glaucia Moreira Fragoso, Martijn Vandegehuchte, Veerle Jaspers, Henrik Jensen

Not present: Vidar Grøtan, Daniela Sueldo, Maja C. Haaker

Copy to:

Subject:

Time of meeting: 1300-1410

Place: DU2-150

Signature:

Tereza Ticha and Rasmus Ern are new RC-representatives from the postdoc and temporary researchers group. They will alternate in attending the RC meetings.

1. Ranking of infrastructure 2024-applications from IBI

Researchers at IBI are involved as active partners in two infrastructure applications for funds from NTNU (Scientific equipment 2024). Both applications are for equipment that will be used in research and teaching, and which is useful for research groups at IBI. We discussed how to rank the two applications and decided to rank the one with most active partners and potentially most users from IBI first. Thus, our ranking is:

- 1) Renewal application for the NV-Mass Spectrometry Laboratory
- 2) Confocal and multiphoton microscope

It appears that the call for infrastructure applications was not sent to all scientific employees at IBI, only to the permanent scientific staff. In future the RC recommends that these and similar calls are sent to all scientific staff.

2. New application procedures at the RCN – how to organize support at IBI?

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) are introducing several measures to reduce the time and resources spent on writing and processing grant applications. The measures are also expected to increase the percentage of grant applications that receive funding (because fewer applications will be submitted per year). The two main measures are:

Address	Org. no. 974 767 880	Location	Phone	Executive officer
7491 Trondheim Norway Høgskoleringen 1	postmottak@ntnu.no www.ntnu.no	Hovedbygningen	+47 73595000	

Please address all correspondence to the organizational unit and include your reference.

- 1) Replace the yearly application deadline with **open-ended calls** for proposals and application processing. This measure includes a one-year waiting period for project managers to apply again.
- 2) Introduce a **submission restriction period** for project managers for applications that do not receive one of the highest marks, so that they will have to wait for another year (score 3 – 5.5) or two (score of 3 and below) before applying again. For young research talents a score of below 4.5 leads to a one year restriction period.

The waiting period (1) will start at the date the application is submitted whereas the submission restriction period (2) will start at the date the waiting period ends. This means that in worst case (project scored 3 or below), one has to wait up to 3 years before being able to submit a project again.

The waiting and submission restriction periods are introduced starting with the Researcher Project for Young Talents call for proposals for the March 15th 2023 deadline. The open-ended calls and application processing will be from and including the FRIPRO calls for proposals that will open for application submission in the autumn of 2023. The RCN will make funding decisions for grant applications several times a year, and the peer review process will be the same as before.

More information about the FRIPRO changes in the RCN can be found here:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/about-the-research-council/Portfolios/ground-breaking-research-fripro/>

The RC discussed potential internal procedures that can help our researchers improve the quality and potential success rate of submitted project grant proposals. Because of the submission restriction period it is important that people do not submit proposals that are likely to get a low score/mark. Thus, **our internal proposal feedback system will increase in importance**. It may also be more important than before that the research groups make strategic decisions on who will be PI on given project proposals, and that other group members support applications from the group in ways that will increase the probability of success. We suggest that IBI should have four deadlines per year for internal project proposal evaluation and feedback, for example mid March, June, September and December. Such **internal deadlines** will make it easier for applicants to plan their work as they can choose a deadline that fits with their other work and duties, but also help internal reviewers because they can sign up for deadlines that fit with their schedules. Although the goal should be helpful, open and fair processes without risks for e.g. people “stealing” others ideas, applicants should have the possibility to suggest who should and who should not read their project proposals.

3. Some info about IBI's strategic staffing plan

IBI has a deadline May 31st to submit a strategic staffing plan to NV. We have potentially up to three permanent scientific staff and up to 2.5 engineer positions that can be replaced in 2023-24. The three sections with retiring/resigning staff (MSB, Animal Physiology, Marine Sciences) have been

given the opportunity to fill in a requirement form that should be submitted to Kjetil by March 31st, and that will be discussed in a general meeting for all permanent scientific staff on April 26th.

The RC agreed that with the current economic situation it is **crucial that any replacements should strengthen IBI as a whole**, which means that an IBI-level discussion of strategies for positions is necessary. In such a discussion it is important to consider teaching load and any on-going or planned reorganization of teaching and study programs. Furthermore, it is probably better to bring in new people based on their strengths (given strategic considerations at the IBI level) than trying to design a position in detail.

The suggestions for replacements submitted to Kjetil by March 31st will be discussed in our next RC meeting, which will probably be on Tuesday April 11th. It is good if the three sections without retiring/resigning staff also discuss their views for how IBI as a whole could make best use of any replacement positions before the next RC meeting and the meeting for all permanent scientific staff on April 26th.

4. Any other business

- Although we do not know exactly when the next call for SFF (Centre of Excellence) applications will be out, a call is expected in a few years' time. It is very important that IBI starts identifying research topics and researcher groups for future SFF applications already now. Such discussions should be cross-sectional and open-minded, such that our strengths can be used to their best potentials when developing new SFF applications. As a starting point we will try to organize a **“brain storming” start-up meeting about future SFF possibilities in the second week of June.**