

Minutes

Present: Henrik Jensen, Inka Anglade, Siv Anina Etter, Veerle Jaspers, Maja Hatlebakk, Vidar Grøtan, Maja Haaker, Paul Acker, Lena van Giesen, Daniela Sueldo

Not present: Atle Bones, Augustine Arukwe, Ana Sirovic

Copy to:

Subject:

Time of meeting: 13.00

Place: DU2-150

Signature:

Agenda:

1. Department of Biology (IBI) procedures for RCN FRIPRO project proposals.
2. The ERC incentive system.
3. The processes of potentially re-organizing sections at IBI.
4. The process of making our new IBI strategy.
5. Initiative(s) for our next SFF(s) based at IBI.
6. Discussion of actions and matters the RC should focus on this autumn.
7. Any other business.

Minutes:

1) Department of Biology (IBI) procedures for RCN FRIPRO project proposals.

- Information on new procedures for project applications to the RCN and internally at the Department. The RCN FRIPRO program will from October this year have running application deadline, and submission quarantine for proposals that do not reach a certain quality. We therefore need an internal process to help people in the Department apply and then with excellent applications. A document describing the procedures was sent out from Hans Jacob Jacobsen some time ago. This will be resent.
- The feedback-system depends on internal feedback groups and will have 4 rounds of feedback process every year, starting 1st of October this year. Feedback will be sent on the first submitted draft within 3 weeks, and feedback on a reworked second draft within 14 days. For the first

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.

round the expectation is submission in mid-December. Drafts should be submitted to Henrik. Remember to sign up to be member of the feedback groups. This is done by sending an email to Henrik.

- The financial assistance and follow-up process requires that applicants send their budget to the economy-people at the Department at least 3 weeks before.
- The document describing the feedback and financial assistance systems will be sent along with the minutes so it can be spread within the groups.

2) The ERC incentive system.

- The NV-faculty has made a document describing ERC support. The head of Department has decided that anyone who applies through the Department and receives an ERC StG or ERC CoG will get a tenure track permanent position at the Department. There will also be funding for an additional PhD-student or postdoc connected to any funded projects. A question is whether if such tenure track permanent positions also come with teaching duties? Another comment is that the funding for such tenure track positions and additional PhD-student/postdoc positions should come from central NTNU and not the Department or NV-faculty to avoid any conflicts with lower level economic and strategic priorities.
- At the NV-faculty we have a dedicated advisor who should help with ERC proposal development (Eugene Sørmo). In addition to formal application assistance, he can also read and give help on the science. Feedback: there was no help for Basil, so this system is not working properly. If someone is on sick-leave there should be a clear message about who will take over ERC assistance responsibilities. As part of the ERC support it is possible to obtain project establishment support (PES) from NTNU (in the order of ca. 50 kNOK). This can be applied for through the ERC advisor at the NV-faculty.

3) The processes of potentially re-organizing sections at IBI.

- As part of the on-going re-organization process at the NV-faculty we will be asked to evaluate the number and structure of sections at the Department. For example, when CBD ends November this year, should it become a new section, be split into two or more sections, or merge with an existing section? Some other sections at the Department are quite small, and should some sections be merged? In some sections there is a feel of little coherence, and how can this be improved. Should some people be moved between the sections?
- We started a discussion of what the scientific (research), educational and management purposes with the section are, and what we as employees want with the sections. Should the sections be more open, should the meetings be merged? Should there be fewer meetings on group levels, but instead more regular meetings for all. Should there be some structure for teaching, and other structures for research and management? Will the hiring of replacements be done at the section level, or rather at the department level which seems to be the general opinion? Are there any consequences for the students regarding for example possible study directions? Sometimes it is unclear where the important decisions are made, and this should in any case be more transparent. The question is really: How do we want to organize ourselves? As part of this process, it is important to know what the NV-faculty board decides (in October) about the top-

ranked replacement positions we submitted in spring, as well as whether/how our teaching will be re-organized. The NV-Faculty has suggested some changes to our study programs, and UK is working on this.

4) The process of making our new IBI strategy.

- There is a group working on the future strategy for the Department (2026-2030). The group is led by Jane Reid and has one (relatively recently employed) member from each of the sections. A document with information and a set of questions has been sent out to the sections for discussion before feedback is given to the working group. The group has a deadline in November for a preliminary document outlining some suggestions for strategy. Our future strategy will also be discussed on the Department strategy day on the 1st of December.

5) Initiative(s) for our next SFF(s) based at IBI.

- Jane Reid is leading a department-wide SFF-initiative. There is currently an open process where people from most sections are involved. The first step is to write a document which will be sent to the Faculty before September 15th. The call for new SFFs is expected in 2027 with potential start-up in 2028, but it is important for NTNU to identify and support excellent groups and initiatives already now.
- In addition to the initiative led by Jane, Geir Johnsen is leading an initiative which is based on their previous (nearly funded) SFF-initiative connecting marine biology with robotics.

6) Discussion of actions and matters the RC should focus on this autumn.

- It is important that the leadership and committees at the Department are transparent to the rest so that good information flow is ensured.
- We should organize departmental seminars with internal and external speakers. Lena will work on this, and ask Kjetil if there is money to invite people to give talks. These seminars should not be on Friday afternoons, but maybe on Friday mornings so that we can have a joint Department lunch after.
- It is important to focus on the positive things we have influence on in our meetings and daily work-life (not only focus on the bad economy).
- Should the form of our "Allmøte" be changed? Currently it is very impersonal. Would it be better with a physical Allmøte, or a hybrid one?

7) Any other business.

- Inka will finish her PhD period spring 2024, so we will need a new PhD in the FK meetings after Christmas. Inka will bring this up in the PhD meeting in October.
- NTNU will get 10 gift professorships from Equinor, and one is given to the Department. Equinor will pay for the position for 5 years, but after this the Department will need to take over paying the salary. Probably the person will then be a replacement for Geir when he is retiring. Whether

Equinor also pays for any start-up package is unclear. The gift professorship will be in the marine section and connected with AMOS (“Observasjonspyramiden”), but research topic will be relatively open even if it is coming from Equinor. We discussed whether it is OK to accept gift professorships “at all costs” (are there ethical and moral issues related to be so closely connected with Equinor?), and whether this position is fitting in our current and future strategy? Would it be better to wait with accepting such a position until we have a clearer view of how it would potentially fit with the future strategy of the Department?

- Fewer students coming to take master’s in biology. Someone should look into when the confirmations were sent out. These low numbers should also be compared with the other universities in Norway. Is this a general problem, within NTNU, within Norway? Kjetil will also look into this. Should we have a “fair” where sections/master programs are presented to potential future MSc-students?