

## Minutes

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Present: Henrik Jensen, Joachim Marthinsen, Daniela Sueldo, Lena van Giesen, Augustine Arukwe, Atle Bones, Rasmus Ern, Ana Širović, Maja Haaker

Not present: Vidar Grøtan, Veerle Jaspers, Siv Anina Etter

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Copy to:

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Subject: Minutes FK-meeting

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Time of meeting: 14.00

Place:

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Signature:

### 1. Large infrastructure applications.

There was only one large infrastructure application based at the Department of Biology this year: "Upgrade and renewal of a Multiphoton Microscope (MPM) for biophysics and life science research at The Center for Advanced Microscopy NV (CAM)", lead by Thorsten Hamann. The RC supports this application.

We also discussed several important issues regarding support of existing infrastructure: It is extremely important that enough technicians with the necessary expertise are connected to all infrastructure. This is crucial to ensure that the infrastructure is well maintained so it is always operative and functions optimally. Furthermore, one must ensure that engineers can provide appropriate teaching and training to other users (students/PhD-students/researchers), so that the infrastructure is used correctly and does not get damaged by wrong use.

Another point that was raised is that there also exists a similar microscopy-lab at the MH-faculty, which currently functions better than the facilities at the NV-faculty. Maybe it would be strategically and economically smart for NTNU to merge all advanced microscopy-infrastructure and -activity in one core facility?

### 2. Discussion of ideas for follow-ups of the EVALBIOVIT.

We discussed the main points raised for IBI and the sections in the EVALBIOVIT (see the attached summary of main assessment and recommendations points). Some sections have discussed the EVALBIOVIT-results, but not all.

One of the important recommendations is to replace retirements, and another is to re-structure the sections at IBI. We need to think carefully about how we would like to do this, and as input for this process we need to know better what others at IBI are doing and what suggestions and ideas that were brought up during the IBI-day on December 1<sup>st</sup>. A summary of the group discussions on the IBI-day is being generated by Kjell Inge and Henrik, and will be circulated to the sections and RC/TC in April. Regardless of any restructuring of sections it is important to continue the work that has started to improve interactions across IBI and organize

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joint IBI-wide activities, such as the IBI-seminars. Organizing a IBI science-day with talks, posters and other kinds of scientific activities would be useful, combined with social event such as a barbeque. The best would then be to go away from Trondheim (perhaps to e.g. Slettvik?). Incentives for cross-sectional MSc-projects would also be very helpful.

RC members should read and make any modifications to the attached summary of main assessment and recommendations points from the EVALBIOVIT as soon as possible. This document will then be discussed in the Leader group.

### **3. What is happening in the sections regarding RCN FRIPRO application developments? We update each other on this.**

The different RC representatives gave a brief overview of the status regarding planned and submitted project applications (to FRIPRO and other funding sources). The general conclusion is that we all need to help each other develop RCN FRIPRO applications.

- Multiscale: Daniela plans to send a project draft to the IBI feedback system by the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.
- Marine section: Ana has submitted a project application to xxx.
- CBD section: Bernt-Erik has applied to FRIPRO through the Gjærevollssenteret. Some others (e.g. Christophe and Henrik) are planning to develop FRIPRO project applications this year.
- Animal Physiology: Basil is working on a FRIPRO project application. Lena has already an RCN FRIPRO project. Jeff has recently submitted/is about to submit a project application to FRIPRO.
- Cell and Molecular: Nothing concrete is planned.
- Environmental Toxicology: Veerle is developing a FRIPRO application.

Remember that there are other funding sources than FRIPRO! Henrik will put a message on Innsida reminding people that NTNU is subscribing to the ResearchConnect funding source data base.

### **4. Any other business.**

The process of announcing the position for Head of Department has started. This is organized mainly by the NV-faculty, but we can give feedback on the announcement text and provide persons for the search committee and the evaluation committee (requests have been sent to the section leaders). Planned date for publishing the announcement is May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and planned application deadline is August 15<sup>th</sup>. All of us need to try find good candidates.

It is clear what will be done with the remaining money after PhD-travel grants were awarded. The RC suggested in our previous meeting that this could be used by the PhD-students for a retreat etc., but it is unclear whether this will be the case. Henrik will check with Kjetil. [Kjetil's response was that there is funding at IBI for the PhD-students to organize a retreat for PhD-students and postdocs, and that a budget for this has to be sent to Kjetil for approval. Henrik informed Joachim about this, who has started this process.]

## **EVALBIOVIT 2022-23**

### **Overall assessment**

- IBI has a clear research strategy we are clearly focused on achieving.
- Our research continues to make an important contribution to increasing our understanding of biological processes, with research in microplastics and biodiversity being particularly important.
- We have also contributed to advances in biology research in general, and especially genome editing, environmental toxicology, climate change and animal physiology.
- Our national and international collaborations are very important.
- IBI has a very good and high-quality scientific reputation with a few very high quality research groups.
- We have a good overall management structure with inclusive research culture and cooperation.
- We have access to state-of-the-art facilities.
- We have demonstrated leadership roles in national and international projects/initiatives, and we have been very successful in obtaining funding (but external grant capture could have been somewhat greater).
- There is clear evidence that the applied aspects of our work has an economic impact at a national level.
- There is less clear evidence that our work has socioeconomic impact.
- Our future is dependent on the recruitment of new staff and the reorganisation of some of the research groups.

### **Recommendations**

- The six research groups should develop coherent research plans and future strategies that better align with IBI's overall strategic research.
- Research groups need to identify how to maximize their scientific, economic and societal impacts, using existing expertise and identifying key expertise needed to be retained or acquired to ensure sustained future development of research groups.
- Reorganization of research groups is urgently needed.
- Some research groups need to target scientific journals with higher scientific profiles to increase international profile.
- Policy for career development, mobility and retention of staff should be implemented across all groups at IBI.
- IBI should build on the opportunity that exists through recent recruitment of high-quality Associate professors and researchers with ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grants (the career progress of these people are key to ensure the future sustainability of research groups and IBI).
- It is important that IBI recruits new staff to replace retiring staff ASAP, and this is especially important for the Envitox and Cell/Mol groups.