

## Minutes

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Present: Daniela Sueldo, Lena van Giesen, Augustine Arukwe, Atle Bones, Vidar Grøtan, Siv Anina Etter, Joachim Marthinsen, Henrik Jensen

Not present: Ana Širović, Rasmus Ern, Maja Haaker, Veerle Jaspers

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Subject: Minutes FK-meeting

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Time of meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 14:00 Place: DU2-150

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Signature:

### 1. New section structure at IBI. Should we change our section structure? If so, what structure should we have?

Each representative in the RC presented their group's view on the section structure. Discussions about section structure had so far been carried out in the Animal Physiology, Biodiversity Dynamics, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Environmental Toxicology sections, whereas the Marine Sciences and Multiscale Biology sections, as well as PhD-students will discuss this topic next week.

The RC agreed that the sections serve many important functions, and that the most important factors determining our structure are teaching-related. Research collaborations should and will be more dynamic and likely arise within sections and, most importantly, across sections regardless of how we are organized. The sections should make life easier for people, and any competition between sections should be avoided.

The RC's advice is that sections should mainly be organized so that they provide the best grouping of people with respect to our main fields/topics in teaching. Thus, given the on-going process of adjusting our BSc- and MSc-course portfolios, this seems to be the right time to carefully consider changes to our sections. The challenging financial situation and opportunities to give people fewer administrative duties by more efficient sharing of those also means that the timing for a section structure change seems right. Furthermore, re-organizing the sections is the perfect and much-needed opportunity to also re-organize our labs and technical support to improve efficiency and maintenance routines in our labs. We recommend having "core-labs", which will also help increasing interactions between people in different groups because they work together in the same lab.

We are worried that making too few sections will make each section so large that a formalized level 4 is needed. This should be avoided, which means that the optimal solution most likely is four sections with approximately 40-50 people in each. Most found some mix between suggested alternatives B and C to be the best, and there was some agreement in the RC that it may be beneficial if we organize us into the following three or four sections:

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Alternative B):

- Ecology, Evolution, Biodiversity and Sustainability
- Marine Sciences
- Mechanistic Biology (Cell- and molecular biology, physiology and environmental toxicology)

New alternative E):

- Cell- and Molecular Biology
- Ecology, Evolution, Biodiversity and Sustainability
- Marine Sciences
- Physiology, Neurobiology and Environmental Toxicology

Marine Sciences should probably remain a separate section due to the physical locations of its members away from Realfagbygget. For other sections there may be some changes of membership depending on where each person feels they belong most.

## **2. FRIPRO-applications and other research project applications. What is the status in your group? Who plans to apply where, and how are you helping each other develop the best project applications?**

People at IBI urgently need to apply for more research project funding. There is now an Excel-sheet on our "Forskningskomite @ IBI" Teams Team where each of us should fill in the information on people in our group who plan to apply for research projects within the next year or so.

## **3. Any other business.**

- NTNU subscribes to the research funding data base called "ResearchConnect". Unfortunately, this is still unknown to most people. Henrik will put a message on Innsida about this opportunity to find funding for our research (see information here: <https://i.ntnu.no/wiki/-/wiki/Norsk/ResearchConnect>). Another useful web-page for project funding is "Weave": <https://weave-research.net>
- The current technical research support situation is extremely challenging! Key technicians are on sick leave, meaning that for example maintenance of critical instruments is not happening anymore. In addition, two more technicians are retiring in near future putting even more workload on the few remaining ones. The ARK identified that lack of a good work-home life balance is a major challenge in this employment group, indicating that an even heavier workload may result in further sick leaves and reduced technical assistance for scientific staff. We urge the leadership to consider whether the technical positions that were put on hold are sufficiently critically need to allow hiring despite the challenging economic situation.
- The PhD-students are very happy to have received funding to organize a retreat, and have a committee who will make plans for a retreat in autumn. The PhD-students look very much forward to this.
- Daniela participated on a workshop in life sciences some weeks ago called "One health", where she made clear that there is more to health than humans. It is important that the "One health" program considers all kind of organisms, including plants, invertebrates and other vertebrates than humans.