

Minutes from NordForsk 62nd Board meeting Zoom-meeting, 2 June 2020

Present:

Board Members:

Kloo, Lars	Swedish Research Council (Chair)
Agerhus, Gitte	Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Sciences
Danielsen, Kristin	The Research Council of Norway (Item 1, 7 and 10)
Haanes, Vidar	Nordic University Cooperation (NUS)
Helgadóttir, Ragnhildur	Science and Technology Policy Council of Iceland
Maijala, Riitta	Academy of Finland

Observers and guests:

Begtrup, Jens	NordForsk Administration (staff representative)
Holmberg, Daniel	Nordic Council of Ministers
Sogge, Sverre	The Research Council of Norway
Sølvará, Annika	The Faroese Research Council

Not present:

Springfeldt, Christina	Nordic Council of Ministers
Mattila, Johanna	Åland University of Applied Sciences
Reimer, Gitte Adler	University of Greenland

Present from the NordForsk Administration:

Flåøyen, Arne
Minge, Marianne Aastebøl (Minutes)

01 BM 20/984 Approval of the Agenda. Any conflict of interest to be announced

The Chair opened the meeting. No conflicts of interest were announced.

Action:

The agenda was approved with changes in the order, where item 7 and 10 were handled directly after item 3.

02 BM 20/985 Quorum

The Board has quorum when at least 50% of the Board members, i.e. minimum three members, are present.

Action:

The Board noted quorum with six board members present.

03 BM 20/986 Approval of the minutes from the Board meetings on 12 December 2019 and 2 April 2020

The Board has had the chance before the meeting to make corrections and changes to the minutes. No further modifications were suggested.

Action:
The minutes were approved.

04 BM 20/987

Auditor's report 2019 and Accounts per April 2020

Arne Flåøyen presented the Auditor General's report 2019 and the accounts pr 31.04.2020. The Auditor General's report contains no remarks. The accounts show that most activities have been carried out according to plan.

Action:
The Board was notified

05 BM 20/988

Financial prognosis 2021-2024 and status for Open Invitation

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for Open invitation and the long-term financial prognosis.

Action:
The Board was notified and had no comments.

06 BM 20/989

NordForsk 15 years anniversary

Arne Flåøyen presented the plans for the NordForsk 15 years anniversary. The anniversary is planned to be celebrated with a NordForsk Summit for invited core stakeholders in October 2020. The celebration will, if possible, be held in connection with the next NordHorcs and NordForsk board meetings. The invited stakeholders will be able to choose to participate in place in Copenhagen or digitally in the event through streaming or as a Web-based seminar.

Action:
The Board was notified.

07 BM 20/990

NOS-HS – status

Arne Flåøyen presented the status for the plans for transferring the NOS-HS secretariat from the Academy of Finland to NordForsk. In late November 2019 and late April 2020, the Director met NOS-HS to discuss the plans for transfer of the responsibility of providing a secretariat. These discussions have shown that it is difficult to reach a common view on how NordForsk will undertake this responsibility.

Action:
The Board asked the NordForsk Chair and Director to write a letter to NordHorcs and ask for their input on how to proceed with the discussions.

08 BM 20/991

Nordic cooperation bodies - status

Arne Flåøyen informed that the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) has decided to transfer the budget for the Nordic cooperation bodies to NordForsk from 1 January 2021. NordForsk will be responsible for funding the cooperation bodies for the period 2021-2023 and for signing a contract between NordForsk and the host institutions for each of the cooperation bodies. NordForsk has also been given the task to develop a new funding mechanism, a programme, that may offer future funding to the cooperation bodies involving an application procedure. Daniel Holmberg informed about the current discussions in NCM regarding the budgets for 2022 and 2023.

Action:

The Board was notified. Considering the uncertainties regarding the budgets for 2022 and 2023, the Board emphasised that the main priority for the administration in 2020 in this matter should be to establish the contract and the financial agreements with the host institutions of the cooperation bodies.

09 BM 20/992

Impact of Covid-19 on Nordic research cooperation

The Board members and observer gave a brief status for the situation in each country.

Action:

The Board was notified.

10 BM 20/993

Process for nominating Chair and Vice Chair of the NordForsk Board

The NordForsk Chair Lars Kloo will leave the NordForsk Board in the end of November 2020, and a new Chair must be elected this year. The Board members discussed the process for nominating a new NordForsk Chair.

Action:

The Board discussed the process based on the statutes and history of previous chairs. The Board noted that based on these criteria, the next Chair should preferably be selected among the representatives from Denmark or Sweden. Denmark declined an interest in taking on a chairmanship the coming mandate period. The election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair will take place at the next Board meeting in October.

11 BM 20/994

Information from the Nordic Council of Ministers

Daniel Holmberg informed about the ongoing work on the new vision for the Nordic Council of Ministers. 4 x 40 MDKK has been allocated to new cross-sectorial initiatives, and the sectors have been asked to give their priorities. EK-U has prioritised three proposals that involve NordForsk: 1) A research programme on Green transition, 2) A research programme on societal security and Covid-19, and 3) A continuation of the Arctic research programme. He also informed that EK-U will appoint two new members to the NordForsk Board in the upcoming meeting: Jussi Vauhkonen from the Academy of Finland (from 1 July 2020), and Jonas Björck from Forte (from 1 December 2020). Vidar Haanes representing NUS will be appointed for two more years from 1 July 2020.

Action:

The Board was notified.

12 BM 20/995

Board decisions taken per capsulam

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

13 BM 20/996

Information about decisions on delegation from the Board

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

14 BM 20/997

Information about Director's Decisions

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

15 BM 20/998

Information from the Administration

The information was presented in writing in the documentation to the Board meeting.

Action:

The Board was notified.

16 BM 20/999

Information from Board members and observers

The Board members gave a short update from their respective country/organization.

Action:

The Board was notified.

17 BM 20/1000

Any other business

No other business was brought up at the meeting.