
The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 45, 23 September 2020

Present members

Carl-Henrik Heldin (UU)(chair), Fredrik Elinder (LiU), Anders Gustafsson (KI), Anders Karlhede (SU), Göran Landberg (GU), Lotta Ljungqvist (Cytiva), Katrine Riklund (UmU), Stellan Sandler (UU)(§§ 1-6, 12), Annika Stensson Trigell (KTH)

Other participants

Olli Kallioniemi (Director)(absent § 6), Siv Andersson (Co-Director), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (NSC), Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of operations), Johan Gerdin (KTH/GVS)(§ 7), Anna Lidin (OO)(§ 1-5), Heidi Törmänen Persson (OO)(§§ 8-9), Anna Höglund Rehn (secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Carl-Henrik Heldin opened the meeting.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Göran Landberg to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no 44.

2. Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented the quarterly update from SciLifeLab.

3. International infrastructure evaluation - results

Dnr VC-2019-0034

The international Infrastructure Evaluation Committee (IEC) panel meeting was successfully carried out virtually on April 20-22, 2020, and the IEC has submitted a written report. As a parallel process to promote transparency and national views, universities were invited to make an individual university assessment of the presented platforms and facilities based on overall quality as well as importance for and impact on their own university in 2021-2024.

Annika Jenmalm Jensen gave an update regarding the evaluation results.

4. Infrastructure organization 2021-2024

Dnr VC-2020-0029

The combined written feedback and numerical data received in the international Infrastructure Evaluation has been considered by the SciLifeLab management group. Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair of SciLifeLab National Committee) together with the Director, Co-Director and Infrastructure Director have formed an action group making suggestions for the board approval.

Annika Jenmalm Jensen gave an update regarding the process, key principles in creating the next-phase organizational structure, discussed the possible phase down of SciLifeLab funding to some facilities, reorganization of others to bigger entities as well as approval of new candidate facilities.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the principles for the new organization.

Final funding decisions will be taken at the next board meeting.

5. Preliminary SciLifeLab infrastructure budget 2021 – Platforms and organization

Dnr VC-2020-0030

The overall SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget is divided into two major parts: Platforms and Operations. The Platforms part contains the basic funding to the platforms and facilities. The Operations part covers all other operations of SciLifeLab and includes: activities for the Research community, Management, Support functions, Center Infrastructure, Collaborations/External relations and Training and courses.

Jenny Alfredsson presented an update on the financial management at SciLifeLab, the current status of the SciLifeLab finances, as well as a preliminary national infrastructure budget for 2021. Final decision will be taken at the next board meeting.

6. Changes in the regulation for SciLifeLab (SFS 2013:118)

Dnr VC-2019-0037

The SciLifeLab board has earlier discussed the irregularity between the regulation for SciLifeLab (SFS 2013:118) and the SciLifeLab Arbetsordning. The board decided to ask the government for a reinterpretation or an amendment of the regulation for SciLifeLab, to make it possible to extend the initial

contract for the Director with a maximum of 3 additional years (meeting no 41).

The government has decided to change the regulation for SciLifeLab so that the contract for the Director can be extended with one year (SFS 2020:773).

Carl-Henrik Heldin informed about discussions with the Minister for Higher Education and Research.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board asked Carl-Henrik Heldin to continue discussions with the Ministry.

Olli Kallioniemi was not present.

7. Arbetsordning för SciLifeLab - revision

Dnr VC-2019-0037, V-2020-0637

A revision of all the SciLifeLab steering documents was initiated last year. The KTH university director has assigned a working group for this task consisting of lawyers from KTH and representatives from SciLifeLab Operations Office.

Johan Gerdin, GVS/KTH, informed about the work and the planned process until final decision in December by the KTH University Board.

8. Data-driven life science (DDL) program

Siv Andersson gave an update about the initiative for data-driven life science (DDL).

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board decided to call for an extra board meeting in the end of October to discuss the initiative and process and to make a decision about appointment of a Program Director.

9. International Advisory Board (IAB) – meeting in 2021

Dnr VC-2020-0031

SciLifeLab IAB had its last meeting on March 13-15, 2019. Meetings have typically taken place every other year, such as in 2017 and 2015. The IAB has had an important advisory role in providing international feedback on how SciLifeLab performs its mission and the IAB feedback has typically centered on the general strategy of SciLifeLab, the national infrastructure as well as the SciLifeLab

Fellows' program.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the plans for the IAB meeting in 2021. In view of the Corona pandemic it will most likely not be possible to have a physical meeting in the spring of 2021. It may therefore be better to postpone the IAB meeting to the autumn of 2021.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decided to invite the International Advisory Board to a site visit in the autumn of 2021. . If it will not be possible to have a physical meeting at that time, a Zoom meeting will be arranged.

10. Members in the National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC)

Dnr VC-2019-0038

The National SciLifeLab Committee is an advisory group to the Director. The SciLifeLab board decided at meeting no 39 (2019-11-11) to prolong the appointments of members in the NSC until May 2020 or until a new decision was taken. The board also appointed Gunilla Westergren-Thorson as chair of the National SciLifeLab Committee for the period 2020-01-01--2022-12-31.

Siv Andersson informed about the nominations.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board decided to appoint members of the National SciLifeLab Committee for the period 2020-10-01 – 2022-12-31:

Organization	Ordinary member	Deputy member
University of Umeå	Maria Fällman	Mikael Elofsson
University of Lund	Martin Olsson	Thoas Fiorettes
University of Agricultural Sciences	Jan Stenlid	Sara Hallin
University of Göteborg	Carin Mallard	
University of Linköping	Maria Jenmalm	
WCMM	Tommy Olsson	

Deputy members from the universities of Göteborg and Linköping, and WCMM, will be appointed later.

11. Collaboration with EMBL (European Molecular Biology Laboratory)

SciLifeLab has attracted interest and attention at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). EMBL sees SciLifeLab as an important national network organization which can serve as a link to individual universities across

the country in the field of life science.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the proposal to collaborate. Rectors of the host universities have been informed and are positive towards this collaboration.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board was positive to the proposal and gave the Director the mandate to negotiate the issue forward in terms of content as well as to negotiate with the legal office(s) at KTH and other host universities on how such an agreement can be done.

12. Co-Director recruitment process

Dnr VC-2020-0016

According to the 'Arbetsordning' for SciLifeLab the Co-Director is appointed by the SciLifeLab board.

Siv Andersson has asked to step down as Co-Director from January 2021. The SciLifeLab board decided at meeting no 44 to approve the recruitment process for Co-Director and to appoint Stellan Sandler (chair), Mathias Uhlén, Katrine Riklund, Carl- Henrik Heldin and Olli Kallioniemi as members in the search committee.

Stellan Sandler informed about the ongoing process. Final decision will be taken at the next board meeting.

13. Infrastructure Director recruitment process

Dnr VC-2020-0017

According to the 'Arbetsordning' for SciLifeLab the Infrastructure Director is appointed by the SciLifeLab board.

The SciLifeLab board decided at meeting no 44 to approve the recruitment process for Infrastructure Director. Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair) and Lotta Ljungqvist was appointed as members of the search committee for the Infrastructure Director. The Integration Directors of the host universities were invited to, after consultation with their Rectors, nominate one member each to the committee. The committee should consult with Olli Kallioniemi.

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson informed about the ongoing process. Final decision will be taken at the next board meeting.

14. COVID-19 activities

SciLifeLab activities have been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, SciLifeLab and its scientists, together with the host universities, have had a very active role in setting up virus and serology diagnostics, biobanking as well as a national research program on COVID-19.

Olli Kallioniemi gave an overview over the SciLifeLab national COVID-19 program.

15. URFI report – suggestion about career path for infrastructure personnel

Universitetens Referensgrupp för Forskningsinfrastruktur (URFI) gave Stefan Nordlund (SU) the task to investigate possibilities for alternative career tracks for infrastructure staff focusing on SciLifeLab and MAX-IV.

Annika Jenmalm Jensen informed about the report and links to the strategic plans for SciLifeLab. The report was considered positively, but further work is needed for implementation at the universities. SciLifeLab will do what it can to promote career development and training of staff scientists and other infrastructure personnel.

16. Board meetings 2021

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved dates for meetings 2021:

- *Wednesday February 3, 10.00-15.00 in Solna*
- *Wednesday May 19, 11.00-17.00 in Uppsala (dinner afterwards)*
- *Wednesday September 22, 10.00-15.00 in Solna*
- *Thursday November 11 (preliminary)*

17. Feedback from the steering board of the Genome Medicine Sweden

Olli Kallioniemi informed about a letter sent by Professor Mats Ulfendahl to the chair of the board and the director of SciLifeLab on behalf of the steering board of the Genomics Medicine Sweden program.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the suggestions on how to response to the letter.

18 Other issues

There were no other issues.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday November 10, 10.00-15.00 in Solna.
- Wednesday February 3, 10.00-15.00 in Solna
- Wednesday May 19, 11.00-17.00 in Uppsala (dinner afterwards)
- Wednesday September 22, 10.00-15.00 in Solna
- Thursday November 11 (preliminary)

Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Carl-Henrik Heldin

Göran Landberg