SciLifeLab

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 65, September 26, 2023

Present members

Ylva Engström (SU) (chair), Martin Bergö (KI), Henrik Cederquist (SU), Lena Eliasson (LU), Mats Larhed (UU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Carina Mallard (GU), Katrine Riklund (UmU)

Other participants

Olli Kallioniemi (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director, absent § 11), Annika J Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations/OO), , Marija Cvijovic (§§ 5d-f), Sandra Falck (Vice Head of Operations/OO), Anna Frejd (OO, §§ 6-7), Disa Hammarlöf (OO, § 9), Lars Johansson (OO, §§ 1-4, 6-10), Anna Lidin (OO, §§ 1-4), Mojgan Seraji (OO, § 5), Alice Sollazzo (OO, § 12), Staffan Svärd (§ 12), Ulrika Wallenquist (OO, § 5), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson, Anna Höglund Rehn (OO, secretary)

1.   Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board appointed Carina Mallard to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 64.

The SciLifeLab board approved the agenda with minor adjustments.

2.   Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented the quarterly update from SciLifeLab.

3.   Financial update

Jenny Alfredsson presented a brief financial overview of the different sources of funding to SciLifeLab and a preliminary forecast for the year 2023, in light of the agreed budget for 2023, and the estimated year-end national surplus at KTH and UU.

4.   Preliminary SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget 2024
VC-2023-0049

The SciLifeLab national budget is divided into three parts: Platforms, SciLifeLab joint initiatives and Operations. The funding to the platforms and joint initiatives is

transferred to recipients each month according to the budget, whereas the operations part reflects the on-going operations, i.e. all the operational activities that SciLifeLab have planned for the year. 2024 is the last year of the current 4-year Infrastructure cycle as well as the last year of funding from the present Research Bill.

Jenny Alfredsson presented the framework for the preliminary budget for 2024. The final budget will be brought up for decision at the next board meeting.

5.   DDLS

5a.   Director's status update

Olli Kallioniemi gave an update regarding the DDLS program.

5b.   DDLS Advisory Committee, DAC, joint review report
VC-2022-0071

On June 21, 2023, a review meeting of the DDLS program was conducted and the DDLS Advisory Committee joint report has been received.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the recommendations from DAC, discussions with the DDLS steering group and the draft response that will be presented to the IAB. The DAC report will be published.

5c.   DDLS Phase 2 application and budget
VC-2023-0050

The donation letter (KAW 2020.0239) specifies the funding framework for the full 12-year period of the SciLifeLab and Wallenberg national program for data-driven life science (DDLS). The funding is distributed over five phases and for each new phase, an application has to be submitted to KAW, meaning that the program can be stopped, or the funding revised, after any of the phases. In accordance, an application for prolongation of the DDLS program going into phase 2, for the time period 1 April 2024-31 March 2026, is currently being prepared. For phase 2 a total grant of 740 MSEK is specified in the donation letter.

Jenny Alfredsson gave an update on the preparations, process, and budget principles. Deadline for the phase 2 application is 2023-11-17 and the application must be approved by DDLS steering group and SciLifeLab Board before it is sent to the KAW. The final application for phase 2 including the phase 2 budget will be brought for decision at the next board meeting.

5d.   New DDLS Research School Director
VC-2023-0051

The DDLS Research School (RS) Director is a two-year assignment of approximately 0,4 FTE with a possibility of prolongation. The assignment was openly advertised during summer 2022 and the position was offered to Marija Cvijovic, Chalmers. Due to increased responsibilities at her department Marija Cvijovic decided to resign from the position as director for the Research School as of September 30, 2023.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggestion on a recruiting process.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board delegated to the DDLS director and the chair of SciLifeLab board to decide on the temporary replacement of the Research School Director and on the process for recruiting the new Research School Director.

5e.   DDLS Research School – recruitment model for PhD students
VC-2023-0052

The DDLS Research School will, according to the donation letter, start in phase 2 during fall 2024. In total about 200 PhD students will take part in the Research School program (about 25 admitted per year).

Marija Cvijovic informed about the model for recruitment of PhD students to the DDLS Research School that has been developed and sent to the DDLS partners for referral. The model will be brought up for decision at the next board meeting.

5f.   DDLS Research School – call for projects for PhD students
VC-2023-0053

The DDLS Research School will start in phase 2 during the fall of 2024. To find the best projects and research environments for the doctoral students, there will be an open call for principal investigators (potential PhD student supervisors) to submit proposals for PhD research projects within the four DDLS research areas. The funded projects should be in line with DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine the life science and data science research areas, potentially by co-supervision arrangements. Also the research and training environment for the PhD candidate should be ideal.

Marija Cvijovic informed about the plans and process for the call. The call details and process will be brought up for decision at the next board meeting.

6.   Infrastructure international evaluation 2024
VC-2023-0033

Annika J Jensen informed about the timeline and preparations for the Infrastructure

International evaluation 2024.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board mandated to the Infrastructure Director to update the document "SciLifeLab Infrastructure - General terms and conditions for funding" to specify measures for the future, particularly in cases where a unit is not collaborating with the platform leadership or with the infrastructure management or if is otherwise not following good infrastructure practices. The updated document should be presented at the next board meeting for approval.

The SciLifeLab board delegated to the chair of the Board to approve a final list of IEC members to invite.

7. SciLifeLab Roadmap 2.0
VC-2023-0054

SciLifeLab has developed substantially since the launch of the Roadmap in 2019 and there have been major changes in the life science community and society (covid pandemic, the rise of AI, new technologies etc.). To stay relevant and aligned with the scientific community's and research infrastructures' goals and objectives, the strategy document needs to be revised. The revision is also needed as many of the goals originally envisioned for the 10-year roadmap have already been achieved. The aim of the revision is to reflect emerging research and infrastructure developments globally; organizational changes (e.g. SciLifeLab sites); and the new challenges. The goal is to increase clarity about SciLifeLab's strategic orientation and to prioritize strategic actions.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggested outline and strategic objectives.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the suggested outline and strategic objectives for the revision of the Roadmap:

- *Provide excellent and impactful life science infrastructure.*
- *Facilitate the transformation of life science data into knowledge.*
- *Strengthen capabilities, research communities and global partnerships.*
- *Attract scientific excellence and provide advanced training.*
- *Support innovation and bridge-building for the benefit of society.*

8. Research bill – SciLifeLab contribution
VC-2023-0055

SciLifeLab is preparing to submit an "inspel" text with suggestions for the research bill. The draft bullet points have been discussed in the management group and strategic council with input also from e.g. the capabilities, Data Centre, DDD

platform. Dialogues have been held primarily with the SciLifeLab host universities with the aim to align messages with their "inspel" texts when relevant. Some dialogues have also been held with other stakeholders.

Sandra Falck informed about the suggested bullet points and about the process.

<u>Decision:</u>
The SciLifeLab board approved the general outline and suggested SciLifeLab "inspel" points and gave the Director mandate to approve the final version for submission.

9. International Advisory Board visit 2024
VC-2022-0070

The International Advisory Board (IAB) typically visits SciLifeLab every other year. The next meeting is planned to take place in Uppsala on 7-9 February 2024. A report is to be sent to the IAB which includes events and actions that have taken place since last IAB visit, including major developments that have happened at SciLifeLab over the four-year government funding period 2021-2024.

Olli Kallioniemi gave an update on the content of the draft report and the process. The final report will be approved in the November 8 board meeting.

10. National SciLifeLab Committee, NSC, update

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson gave an update from the meeting with the National SciLifeLab Committee on August 14, 2023.

11. Director for SciLifeLab – nomination process
VC-2022-0060

The mandate for Olli Kallioniemi as Director for SciLifeLab ends June 30, 2024. In the regulation (Förordning om Nationellt centrum för livsvetenskaplig forskning), 3§, it is stated that the SciLifeLab board appoints the Director for SciLifeLab.

At meeting no. 60, December 6, 2022, the board appointed a nomination committee and established tasks for the committee.

Ylva Engström informed about the work of the committee and the nomination process.

12. Grants for testing of PLP capabilities
VC-2023-0056

The PLP program at SciLifeLab has decided to launch a new call, which will make it

possible to test and improve the existing capabilities and technologies within PLP.

Staffan Svärd informed about the suggested call.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the launch of the call according to the time plan.

13. Board meetings 2024

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved dates for meeting 2024:
Tuesday 13 February, 8.30-12.00 (Zoom)
Thursday 7 November, 10.00-16.00 in Solna.

The board will decide about dates for the May meeting and the September meeting at the next meeting.

14. Other issues

No other issues were raised.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday November 8, 10.00-15.00 in Solna
- Tuesday February 13, 2024, 8.30-12.00 via Zoom

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Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

Minutes approved by:

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Ylva Engström   Carina Mallard