



BALTECH
Board meeting, October 26, 2006
Protocol

Participants

Bruno Grasmanis, RTU
Andrius Guzavicius, KTU, new board member
Per Hagander, LTU
Outi Krause, TKK
Toomas Käbin, TUT
Jakob Kübarsepp, TUT
Lennart Nilsson, KTH
Ulf Nilsson, LIU
Liudvikas Rimkus, VGTU, replacing Algirdas Valiulis
Hedvi Valgemäe, TUT

The participants were welcomed by Prof Outi Krause.

Election of Chairman and Secretary

Jakob Kübarsepp was elected chairman of the meeting.
Toomas Käbin was elected secretary of the meeting.

1. Conference 1-2 March, 2007

The topic „New approaches to university structure and management” was confirmed.
KTH has started with preparations.

The draft is enclosed.

The possible participation of EIT is considered.

All board members are asked to inform the potential target groups already now.

2. Erasmus Mundus

2.1 There is still no reply to the two FP6 applications, *Environmental management and Cleaner Production* and *Industrial Engineering and Management*, submitted in the spring of 2006. The likelihood of approval seems small

The next application round could be done within FP7, whereby improvements should be done, keeping in mind the priorities of as stipulated in the rules of „Regional Centres of Excellence”.

Decision:

- Once the decision on the Erasmus Mundus has been announced, this has to be evaluated in order to learn for future applications and look into new projects.

- An inventory should be made to clarify if any other applications for Erasmus Mundus have been handed in by the BALTECH universities all in all.
- Maybe consortiums and coordinating university should be changed in order to increase the likelihood to get approval of applications from Brussels.
- Look into successful applications, in order to find suitable areas where BALTECH could apply.
- Propose the two projects again, in addition to this, an „Action 4” project should be considered.

Baltech could apply for the Action 1 scholarship scheme and Action 4 support for information and marketing money.

If necessary, change of the present coordinating university should be considered.

3. Research Cooperation/Task

3.1 Task forces

The following task forces are working according to action plans: *Decision*

* *Product development*

(i.e. Eco design; New materials; Education; Cleaner Production)

* *Sustainable Transport*

(i.e. Logistics, Sea transport, Land transport)

* *Integrated Environmental Management*

(i.e. Environmental, Risk, Health and Safety and Quality Management Systems, Environmental Systems Analysis).

In a next stage, once financing is feasible, priority will be given to

* *Clean Energy*

(i.e. Fuels; Bio-fuels; Energy production: waste energy, solar energy, energy consumption; Energy conservation as part of Cleaner production)

The total budget set aside by BALTECH for research task forces and other research initiatives as from 2007 is 27.000 Euro.

3.2 Announcement & Promotion of Conferences

Outi Krause presented the EuropaCat symposium in Turku in 2007. Some Nordic money is available to invite colleagues from Baltic countries through the European Federation of Catalytic Societies, EFCATS, www.efcats.org

Decision

An announcement will be made on the web page.

3.3 Research Activities

Decision

BALTECH does not support research conferences, unless the conference has a BALTECH dimension or if it could promote BALTECH.

4. Student Activities

Alexi Päiväläinen, chairman of the board of the TKK student union presented the outcome of the BALTECH student unions meeting in Tallinn on 19-21 October.

- Statutes were approved of.
- A preliminary cost overview was presented
- The actions proposed are spread over several years
- The various student unions have slightly different goals
- Some of the student's faculty guilds will most probably intensify their contacts
- The students will be given possibilities to use the BALTEC web site.
- The BALTECH student's union will convene annually, in parallel with the BALTECH Rector's meeting.

Decision

BALTECH will try to finance the student activities according to the priorities of the students. Priority will be given events that have a large number of participants.

Enclosure: Power point presentation

5. Summer schools

Summer schools were discussed in a general discussion

Decision

- Summer schools will be advertised on the web
- Support will be given students through the scholarship scheme (Paragraph 7), who would like to participate in summer schools as well as to student bodies that would like to arrange summer schools. 2 x 1000 Euro will be set aside for this.

6. E-learning

Decision

- BALTECH should work out e-learning strategies whereby focus should be given courses in English.
- Property rights of e-learning have to be settled as well as questions related to accreditation.
- Information on e-learning as offered by the BALTECH universities is opened at the web.
- We should investigate if wide-spread e-learning at the Baltech universities could facilitate the integration of master programs in an Erasmus Mundus context
- An e-learning workshop will be arranged with a specialist from Dipoli as prime speaker, taking into account factors such as legal issues and methodology.
- Face to face meetings should be included in the e-learning process.

7. Scholarship

The scholarship statutes were approved of with the following amendments.

Decision:

Eligibility

To be added:

- „A substantial of scholarships should be made available to cover summer courses”
- „Scholarships are mend for practical training at universities and/or companies, to cover travel costs, for maximum two months”

Application

To be modified:

- A letter of recommendation from „the university” is enough and will replace a recommendation letter from „faculty dean of department”

Selection

To be added:

„Student representatives will be included in the selection process”

The Secretariat should hear the evaluation of other universities, and inform all board members if necessary”

„Applications and decisions should be made available to the board members”

In 2007 10.000 Euro will be set aside for student activities and 15.000 Euro for scholarships. The calculation is made on the following basis, 1 week equals 100 Euro.

The 2007 scholarship will be announced in December and will be made public in March.

8. Research infrastructure

Mobility money is available within the FP7 program „Building of the European research area” , if there is a coordination of infrastructure between the universities.

National laboratories in Sweden for example are planned and built with focus on cooperation between various universities.

Decision

All BALTECH universities are asked to look into infrastructure investment and see if and how the resources can be used jointly.

9. Finances

So far BALTECH has spent approximately 25% of its 2006 funds. Provided full support is given to Task Forces and student activities, there will be an overspending. However the rectors are prepared to increase the annual fee back to 5.000 Euro from 3.000, should this be necessary.

Decision

A budget with activity plan for 2007 will be made, taking into account costs of scholarships, task forces, conferences and all other costs.

An audited report will be presented to the rector’s meeting.

Attachment: Balance sheet and budget proposal for 2007

10. Web-page development

Changes of the web page were presented.

It is now possible to sign up for various types of information which is automatically sent to the subscriber. Thus is no longer necessary to seek for information actively.

The following headlines have been added:

- E-learning
- Students

11. TKK jubilee

TKK has been approached by UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education and offered to arrange a joint conference.

Decision:

TKK will answer non-committing that the offer will be considered and propose that, it should be linked to the TKK 100th anniversary in 2008. The practicalities will be handed over from TKK to the BALTEH secretariat.

12. Riga Nano Conference

The Department of Materials Technology at KTH and RTU has taken an initiative to build networks within the nano area and plan to arrange a conference in Riga on November 8-10, 2007. Invitations have been distributed through the network of materials technology.

Decision:

BALTECH will support the event with 1.250 Euro.

BALTECH should however not support conferences financially because of limited resources. Priority should be given student activities.

If support is given to conferences, then full visibility and transparency is required, as well as mentioning of BALTECH.

13. Study Tour

A study tour to all BALTECH universities has been proposed by the Secretariat.

Decision

The proposed study tour was approved of and will be carried out, hopefully before Christmas.

14. Other issues

No other issues were reported.

15. Next board meeting

The next board meeting will take place in Stockholm on March 1, 09.00-12.00 hrs, just prior to the BALTECH annual conference.

The secretariat will settle the time of the rector's meeting in Luleå, on June 11-12, 2007.

The evening before the board meeting, Prof Anti Pursula welcomed the board members at a reception at Radisson SAS Espoo Hotel; this was followed by a joint dinner.

After the formal part of the board meeting, a visit was made to Micronova microelectronics centre, a joint project between VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and TKK. The visit was hosted by Prof Veli-Matti Airaksinen. www.micronova.fi, who gave the most impressive and fascinating insight into the activities of Micronova.