



## **BALTECH**

### **Board meeting minutes**

March 1, 2007, 09.00 – 12.00 hrs.

KTH, Conference room F4136, Lindstedsvägen 26, Sockholm

### **Participants**

Andrius Guzavicius, KTU

Bruno Grasmanis, RTU

Per Hagander, LTU

Ulf Henriksson, guest

Jakob Kübarsepp, TUT

Toomas Käbin, TUT

Lennart Nilsson, KTH

Jurgis Staniskis, KTU

Minna Söderqvist (replacing Outi Krause), TKK

Hedvi Valgemäe, TUT

Algirdas Valiulis (replacing Liudvikas Rimkus)

The board members were greeted by Lennart Nilsson and Jakob Kübarsepp.

### **1. Election of Chairman**

Jakob Kübarsepp was elected chairman.

Toomas Käbin was elected minute keeper.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved of.

### **3. Approval of board meeting protocol of October 26, 2006**

The board meeting protocol of October 26, 2006 was approved of.

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### **4. Collaboration with Erasmus Mundus**

Lennart Nilsson recently visited Brussels and met with representatives responsible for our Erasmus Mundus Applications „Environmental Management and Cleaner Production” and „Industrial Engineering and Management”. None of the applications were approved of, however the shortcomings were minor and Brussels urged BALTECH to hand in the applications once again.

#### *Decision*

The proposals will be submitted again in April, however not in the name of BALTECH but from KTH and TUT. A preparatory meeting, conducted by Lennart Nilsson, will be held in Tallinn on April 13.

### **5. Review of the study tour**

TK made a presentation of the study tour. See enclosure.

Below are some issues that attracted special interest:

### *5.1 Joint master program*

There is a general consent among BALTECH universities that joint master programs in line with the „European master”, as taught at Linköping, could be of interest. Ulf Nilsson suggested to implement programs in line with the Mundus system, without formal Mundus approval. Seed money could be set aside from BALTECH universities to set up such programs. Not the least travel money is needed for students.

Lennart Nilsson suggested that sustainable energy technology/energy and environment should be further developed because it is given priority by Erasmus Mundus.

The discussion focused on problems with joint versus double degrees and different legislation in different countries, a problem which has to be solved.

### *5.2 E-learning*

All universities are interested to develop e-learning, although many legal aspects have to be solved. At present, six e-learning courses are offered on the BALTECH web-site. In the future teaching assistance to local students should be provided by the universities.

### *5.3 Staff exchange*

There is a general interest to develop staff exchange among the BALTECH universities, not only for academic staff but also for administrative staff.

### *Decision*

The Secretariat will make a proposal to all BALTECH universities to form ad-hoc groups within topics of interest singled out during the study tour. Not all universities have to take part of all interest groups.

### *5.4 Contacts with Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine*

BALTECH should maintain its own identity, however, cooperation/partnership with neighbouring regions is most welcome. The Rector's meeting have to formulate the policy. The idea to invite observers from Russian universities et al was discussed.

## **6. Collaboration in research (Lennart Nilsson)**

### *6.1 ECO Systems Management*

The group has almost finished its work. A seminar was held in Kaunas with participation from KTH, KTU and RTU.

### *6.2 Sustainable Transport*

The coordinator of the group is mapping collaboration within the area with a visiting program. Five universities are involved.

### *6.3 Integrated management systems for sustainability*

The group is planning a workshop in Helsingborg. Three universities are involved..

### *6.4 Clean Energy*

The group is interested to continue but have no money at present. They are about to present some new projects.

### *Decision*

Lennart Nilsson will present the Task Force activities at the rector's meeting.

Three task forces will be financed in 2008.

## **7. Infrastructure development (all universities)**

Below is a very brief resumé of priorities at the BALTECH universities.

### **KTH**

Nano technology, Biotechnology, ICT, Fuel Cell Technology, Infrastructure Development.

### **KTU**

The total budget is 50 M Euro, more than half will come from projects. Participation in 18 FP6 projects. Participation in FP7 is developing positively.

### **LIU**

Material sciences, Nano technology, Organic electronics.

In 2007 the new Linné program will be launched. A program funded by the Swedish energy authority in cooperation with Siemens and Volvo will be implemented, making 13 M Euro available per year during four years.

Upgrading of computer capacities.

### **LTH**

A European spallation centre will be set up with neutron research. Once commissioned, it will have the same capacity as CERN in Switzerland

### **RTU**

Engineering development is given priority. 2 M Euro are allocated for infrastructure investments.

Bureaucracy is taking away a lot and there is a lack of qualified staff.

### **TKK**

Investment in a nano science centre, 6 M Euro.

### **TUT**

Two infrastructure programs for CEs, 7 M Euro/annually.

Research and development for infrastructure programs.

Laboratory equipment, renovation of premises, upgrading of libraries.

Chemistry, biology, biomedicine.

IT systems and components.

Material science in engineering.

Observatory for coastal zone environment.

### **VG TU**

Joint information system. Joint publishing system. Technological platforms. Participation in new FP programs.

## **8. Outcome and evaluation of the Riga Nano Conference, 8-10 Nov 2006 (Lennart Nilsson)**

See enclosure. The next Nanotechnology conference will be held in Tartu, Estonia in April 2008.

## **9. Student Activities (Alar Assuküll)**

9.1 The BALTECH student union was set up last year. Two meetings were held in 2006, at the June meeting joint ideas were analyzed and an action plan was worked out in October.

9.2 In 2007 a three day summer school will be arranged in Kaunas in line with previous Baltic university set-ups. The work-shops will focus on humanities. 80 participants are expected

9.3 The students have also looked into faculty based cooperation between the universities.

9.4 Statutes are being worked out.

## **10 BALTECH Scholarship (Toomas Käbin)**

The BALTECH scholarship has been announced and applications are being evaluated. Mobility will be given priority.

One request for support was handed in from a group. How should groups be handled?

In order to make the scholarship more dynamic, it could be announced four times a year, rather than twice, as written in the statutes.

### *Decision*

The scholarship should be given to individuals only.

The scholarship should be announced four times a year.

## **11. Budget Approval (Toomas Käbin)**

The budget proposal was presented.

### *Decision*

- Costs should be reduced to 40.000 Euro annually in the long run
- We should try to attract money from Europe in addition to the membership fees
- We should address banks for co-financing
- A new budget will be worked out.

## **12. Web-page development (Hedvi Valgemäe)**

Latest developments:

- Students have been included on the site
- Many international programs have been included
- Some changes will be made on the site in order to make it more user-friendly since the amount of information is growing
- Input is most welcome from the staff at BALTECH universities.

### *Decision*

Reminders will be sent on access codes to the web-site.

## **13. TKK-jubilee**

TKK offers BALTECH a possibility to take part of the 100th anniversary in 2008 with a seminar in late September (26/9) or early November (6 or 7/11).

Would e-learning be OK as a topic?

*Decision*

The Secretariat will coordinate the issue with TKK.

**14. Preparation of the rector's conference**

The next rector's meeting is scheduled to take place on 16 – 18 June just after the Nordtek meeting or as a one day meeting in Tallinn. The agenda has to be worked out and the next conference topic has to be settled.

**15. Next board meeting**

The next board meeting will take place in Riga, either October 18/19 or 25/26, 2007.