



BOARD MEETING

October 28, 2010, 10.00 – 14.00 hrs

KTH Board room, Valhallavägen 79, Stockholm

Protocol

Participants:

Bruno Grasmanis, RTU

Folke Snickars, KTH

Jakob Kübarsepp, TUT

Lennart Johansson, KTH

Marina Vilop, Baltech Student Union

Mauri Airlia, Aalto University (by written authorization)

Robertas Kupstas, KTU

Ulf Nilsson, LiU

Toomas Käbin, Baltech Secretariat

Guests:

Peter Göranson, Nordtek

Sven-Gunnar Edlund, Vinnova

Absent:

Liudvikas Rimkus, VGTU

Per Warfvinge, LU

01. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by Folke Snickars who welcomed the participants.

02. Election of Chairman

Jakob Kübarsepp was elected chairman of the meeting.

03. Election of Minute keeper

Toomas Käbin was elected minute keeper of the meeting.

04. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved of.

05. Cooperation in Education and Research

05.01 Education

TTU and RTU have worked out a draft on an Erasmus multilateral project: *Virtual Campuses and Cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and Enterprises*, as agreed at the 2010 rectors' meeting.

The idea is to create a joint repository of teaching materials for learning objects (videos, best practices, animations etc) in cooperation with industrial partners in order to enhance virtual mobility. At least four partners are needed to participate.

Suggestions:

Lennart Johansson: KTH has a complete master program on-line, similar to the proposal and supported by The Swedish Development Agency SIDA, which is directed towards developing countries. Materials are made available to industry. The outcome is good. Knowledge providers of SME networks could be one field for the proposed Baltech project.

Folke Snickars: Focus should be on projects that are related to common master programs within specific fields. KTH is in the process of developing an open access policy – making study programs accessible on the web. The work of students will be shifted to social media, using facebook through a new program to

be launched on January 10, 2011. It will mainly be used internally at KTH. IPR issues have to be solved.

Mauri Airila: Ideas should come from professors, the bottom-up approach.

Decision:

Board members are asked to make concrete proposals to the Secretariat. Deadline: December 1, 2010.

5.02 Research- Graduate/Doctoral schools

The BALTECH Secretariat has made an overview of graduate/doctoral schools at the BALTECH universities, with an aim to see if and how resources could be pooled. The structure is different at all universities.

Decision:

A meeting will be arranged in the spring of 2011 for staff in charge of graduate/doctoral schools within priority areas as identified in the European Union Baltic Strategy Document. Vinnova could support the event if there is a focus cooperation with industry.

The Secretariat asks the board members to identify the right contact persons at each university.

05.03 Research - European Spallation Centre

Lund will invite selected post doctoral researchers from the BALTECH universities for a presentation of the European Spallation Centre with an aim to see if and how BALTECH universities could be involved.

Decision:

Lund will be asked to work out a proposal.

06. Cooperation between administrative units

06.01 Multimedia Staff

KTU will invite all BALTECH universities to a multimedia staff meeting in Vilnius on November 25-26. This is not a BALTECH event.

Decision:

A separate meeting for multimedia people, exclusively from the BALTECH universities, will be arranged in Tallinn in January, 2011. The meeting was originally planned to be held in Kaunas. It will partly be connected to the Erasmus project as per 05.01 Education.

06.02 Communication & Marketing Staff

Decision:

A meeting for administrative staff within Communication & Marketing will be arranged in the first half of 2011.

06.03 Course in Bibliometrics and Publishing

Linköping has come up with a proposal to arrange a course in Bibliometrics and Publishing for librarians from the Baltic countries and has asked BALTECH to contribute with 50.000 SEK (5.100 Euro). Also Aalto University is prepared to contribute with its expertise.

Decision:

The meeting will be arranged if there is an interest from the libraries and the research and development offices.

07. Student activities

07.01 How to increase attractiveness?

Marina Vilop presented the outcome of the BALTECH student union activities in 2010. The activities for 2011 will be more or less similar, provided no changes in funding.

Decision:

Since student engagement from Linköping and Stockholm has been weak, one of the priorities will be to try to activate these universities.

08. The EU Baltic Sea Strategy Document and BALTECH

The First European Union Annual Forum of the Baltic Sea Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was held in Tallinn on October 14 – 15, 2010. The importance of the region and priority sectors such as education, innovation and R&D were underlined. The activities and action plan are laid down in the *The Baltic Sea Strategy Document*, which was adopted in 2009 and is the first of its kind devoted to a macro region within the EU.

The Swedish Institute arranged a seminar – Innovative ICT- Networking - in the Baltic Sea Region in Stockholm on October 28, 2010.

Vinnova, The Swedish Government Agency for Innovations System has been assigned to look into the implementation of *The Baltic Sea Strategy Document*.

A presentation of the finding was given by Mr Sven-Gunnar Edlund/Vinnova.

Some remarks by Mr Edlund:

- *According to the EU, the Baltic Sea Region is a global competitive innovation HUB.*
- *The EU Baltic Sea Strategy Document contains four pillars (Environment, Prosperity, Accessibility, Safety & Security). Research and Innovation falls within the Prosperity pillar, and is falling within the so called Flagship Area 7. Within this you can find the BSR Stars project dealing with cluster building between business and higher education.*
- *Technical universities can play an important role with the implementation of the EU Strategy Document, whereby focus should be on cooperation within research and innovation with industry and society through existing programs.*
- *The EU budget for the period until 2014 is 200 mio euro per year for universities, research institutes and industry.*
- *The preparatory work for university participation has to start now in order to get funding from the next EU budget as from 2014.*
- *Mobility within all areas at universities should and could be promoted.*
- *The Baltic Sea Strategy Document is a bottom-up project. BALTECH can come up with ideas and hand in applications on projects, based on existing networks.*

- *Applications should be addressed to the project leader of the BSR Stars, such as Vinnova and other existing programs.*

Enclosure 1: EU Baltic Sea Strategy/Vinnova

09. Scholarships

09.01 BALTECH Mobility Scholarship

The aim of the BALTECH Mobility scholarship is to enhance mobility of students and young researchers within the Baltic Sea region.

09.02 ÅF Grant

The ÅF Grant is administered by BALTECH. Payments are effectuated directly by ÅF to the scholars. AF has confirmed that they are willing to continue with the AF-Grant program.

Decision:

More information is needed on the scholarships, preferably through on the spot presentations.

Enclosure 2: BALTECH Mobility Scholarship Applicants, Nov 10, 2010.

10 Nordtek

The Nordtek 2012 annual conference will be held on June 15 – 18 in Tallinn..

TUT invites RTU, VGTU and KTU to take an active part in the preparatory work and the implementation of the Nordtek conference.

Decision:

BALTECH board members are asked to suggest additional Nordtek conference topics to be discussed at the BALTECH rectors meeting on April 14, 2011. The final decision will be taken by Nordtek .

Nordtek suggestions:

e-Science

- *Baltic Sea issues (5th freedom)*
- *EU-interreg.*
- *?????*

Aalto suggestions:

- *Baltic sea issues (sea traffic risks, environmental issues)*
- *Governance, financing and curricula structures in Baltic/Nordic universities*
- *Quality assurance issues*
- *Advances in the Bologna process in universities*
- *How Baltic and Nordic universities could exploit EU programs and collaboration in applying to the programs*

11. Web-page

Decision:

The launch of the new BALTECH web-page will be finalized soonest.

12. BALTECH Statutes

The Secretariat has made some changes in the BALTECH statutes which will better reflect today's reality.

Some remarks:

- *Change of name: HUT will be replaced by Aalto University.*
- *Students: are represented in the Baltech board since April 2010.*
- *Activities: the number of activities should be reduced and more focused.*

Decision:

The amendments will be proposed at the next rectors meeting who will make the decision.

Enclosure 4: BALTECH Statutes – amendment proposals 2010

13. Next conference

The topic of the 2011 BALTECH annual conference in Linköping on April 14 – 15, will focus on *Career Paths and Staff Development*.

Decision:

Linköping University and The BALTECH Secretariat will work out a draft program and work division, to be presented before the end of 2010. It is important to include speakers from all BALTECH universities and/or countries.

Linköping should invite also other universities, organizations and bodies involved with career and staff related issues.

Focus will be on teaching and research staff.

Linköping will decide on venue (Linköping or Norrköping campus).

A BALTECH student union meeting will take place at the same time.

14. Next Rectors' and board meetings

The next rector's meeting will take place in connection with the 2011 annual conference in Linköping on April 14 - 15. The Secretariat will work out a draft program.

NB! Board members are kindly asked to inform rectors about the meeting already now.

15. Other topics

No other topics were raised.