

### Board meeting

Date	December 10th 2019
Time	1 hour (11:00 – 12:30)
Place	Administration Building (Gróthúsið)
Participants	<p>Ólavur Ellefsen, Chair of the Board  <i>Marita Rasmussen, Vice-chair of the Board, not present</i>            Chik Collins, Rector            Johan Hansen, University Director            Sára Joensen            Svein-Ole Mikalsen            Casper Rosen            Guðrún Nordal (via Skype)            Anders Bjarklev (via Skype)</p> <p>Hugin Skaalum participated under #agenda 2</p>
Keeper of the minutes	Súsanna Jógvansdóttir Golan

### Agenda

1. Approval of agenda and approval of minutes from the previous meeting
2. Rector's update
3. Strategy discussion
4. Miscellaneous
5. Board self evaluation

#### 1. Approval of agenda and approval of minutes from the previous meeting

The agenda and the minutes from the last meeting were approved. Members felt, further to the discussion at the November meeting, that the balance of detail in the minutes was appropriate.

#### 2. Rector's update

Hugin Skaalum, head of finance, updated on the budget for 2020. The initial proposal from the government to the parliament's finance committee was reviewed, as was the initial budget proposed by the committee – which was seen as a positive one by Board members. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, meetings will be held with the Rector, University Director, head of finance and deans from each department separately to go through the proposed budgets for 2020.

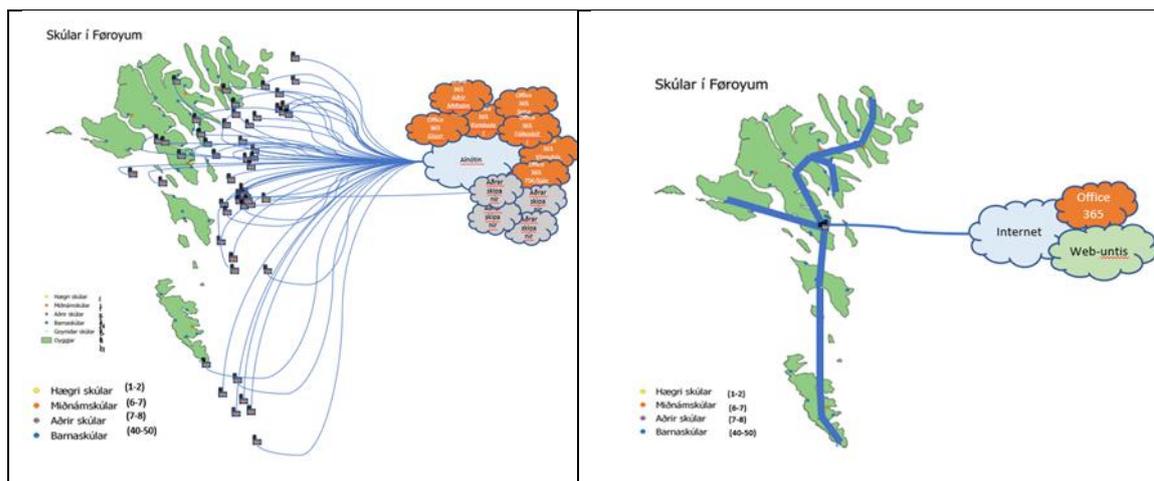
The Rector had circulated a report ahead of the meeting and updated on:

- The University Leadership's day away that took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The meeting held with the student council and others regarding the student survey results.
- Finances for 2020 and response to the letter from the ministry.



- The development of a new masters program in leadership and management.
- The operation of the Health and Safety committee
- The due diligence on the proposed transfer of Horizon 2020 projects into the University. Another meeting is to be held with the company before the final decision is to be made on the proposal.

The University Director updated on the ongoing meetings with the Ministry and others about getting an integrated IT system for the whole educational sector. Figures below show the current status and an outline of a possible solution.



Further update was given by the University Director on access to scientific journals. In 2019 the university had its own agreement but as of January 1<sup>st</sup> the university will rejoin the Faroese consortium (FRIS). This means for instance that the students will be able to access journals from home (staff can do so already).

**Action point: The Rector to share a final draft of the 2020 budget with the board for approval via email no later than mid January.**

### 3. Strategy discussion

The Chair of the Board and the Rector have been working together, as agreed at the last meeting, on an updated strategy for 2020-2024. The Rector has presented it for the University Leadership team at a day away held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. The Rector stressed the importance of going out again to staff to consult and get necessary feedback. The aim is that all staff have been sufficiently consulted, the document reviewed and to then approve the plan by the end of February 2020.

Comments from the board members were generally positive and welcoming of the updated plan – which was described as much more concrete than the current plan. There were also some useful suggestions for further developing the plan. Two board members stressed the importance of fully reflecting the importance of the academic staff as well as the strengthening of the administration. Another comment stressed the importance of interaction with students, and the need to think about how we are seen in Faroese society. The Rector welcomed these comments and sought to highlight ways in which the draft plan was already doing these things in various ways. Another comment suggested mentioning basic as well as applied and impactful research. There was also a discussion about the importance for having high but realistic targets. The feasibility of hitting 80% for students to be on schedule with studies was mentioned as being a substantial stretch. The Rector stressed that this is an aspirational plan that we should aim to meet as much as it will be possible. The Chair of



the board concluded that these things can be reflected and incorporated within the existing draft. The Rector stressed that the document is one of limited length and will be supported by implementation plans.

**Action point: The Rector to review feedback for the strategic plan and to agree some modifications with the Chair of the Board prior to proceeding to a process of consultation with the staff, students and wider stakeholders, working towards a final approval for the plan by the end of February.**

4. Miscellaneous

No items were raised for discussion.

5. Board self evaluation

The Rector, University Director and the minute taker were not present during the evaluation.

From the discussion, the Chair of the Board concluded that:

- Although there is room for improvement, the board members are generally satisfied with how the board work is progressing.
- The board will continue to focus on the overall strategy, governance and funding, and will emphasize following up on the management implementation plans.
- In order to focus the efforts, there will be fewer board meetings held in the future. It was decided to have around five 4-hour meetings a year.
- The minutes from the board meetings are to be made available to board members within 24 hours after the meetings have been held. This to ensure easier follow ups.
- New board members should be better introduced to the board work.

The next meeting is set to be on February 18<sup>th</sup>. One item on the agenda will be a review of the regulation of the board of Fróðskaparsetur Føroya (Reglugerð um virksemið hjá stýrinum fyri Fróðskaparsetur Føroya).

**Action point: The Chair of the Board to make sure that the new student representative is properly introduced to the work of the board before the next meeting.**

Meeting finished at 12:30