

Meeting of the UFI Board of Directors	
<b>Date:</b>	May 30 <sup>th</sup> 2024
<b>Time:</b>	9:00-11:45
<b>Place:</b>	Frælsið NÁÐ, room 66, and Zoom
<b>Participants:</b>	<p>Board members: Ólavur Ellefsen (Chair) Marita Rasmussen (Deputy Chair) Jónrit Halling (Staff Representative) Marin Strøm (Staff Representative)</p> <p>Deputy board members: Anna Kirstin Sigurðardóttir (Deputy External Representative) <i>via Zoom</i> Heidi Poulsen (Deputy External Representative) Paul Kjartan Matras (Deputy Student Representative)</p> <p>University administration attendees: Martin T. Zachariassen (Rector) Johan Hansen (University Director) Odd Arild Bjellvåg (Finance Manager) <i>participated under item 3</i> Súsanna Jógvansdóttir Golan (Executive Secretary)</p> <p>Could not attend: Anders Bjarklev (External Member) Elaine Munthe (External Member) Elena D'Amelio (Deputy External Representative) Magnus Gaard (Deputy External Representative) Anna Sofía Lava (Deputy Staff Representative) Firouz Gaïni (Deputy Staff Representative) Erika Dorteia Høgnadóttir Andersen (Student Representative)</p>
<b>Minutes by:</b>	Súsanna Jógvansdóttir Golan



### Agenda for Board Meeting: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 9:00-11:45

Venue: The meeting will be 'in person' at the Faculty of Education, Frælsið 20, Room 66, and on Zoom for international attendees.

Main purpose of the meeting: For board members to receive the usual updates, particularly a status of the work on the strategic plan 2030.

<b>Coffee/breakfast from 8:30 in Room 73</b>	
<b>Part 1: 9:00-10:15</b>	
Item	Recommendation to the Board
1. Chair's welcome and approval of agenda (paper 1)	<i>To approve agenda subject to any amendments</i>
2. Approval of minutes from meeting of February 22, 2024 (paper 2)	<i>To approve subject to any additions/changes</i>
3. Finance Report (paper 3)	<i>To note, subject to discussion</i>
4. Report on consultations since last meeting (paper 4)	<i>To note, subject to discussion</i>
5. Rector's report on the period since last board meeting, including briefing on the periodic review of the teacher's education (paper 5)	<i>To note, subject to discussion</i>
<b>Break 10:15-10:30</b>	
<b>Part 2: 10:30-11:45</b>	
6. Strategic priorities 2023-2024 – status (paper 6)	<i>To note, subject to discussion</i>
7. Strategic Plan 2030 – final approval (paper 7)	<i>To approve subject to any additions/changes</i>
11:45 Lunch in canteen at Frælsið	



*1. Chair's welcome and approval of agenda (paper 1)*

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

*2. Approval of minutes from meeting of February 22, 2024 (paper 2)*

The minutes from the last board meeting were approved.

*3. Finance Report (paper 3)*

Odd A. Bjellvåg, Head of Finance, presented the accounts for first quarter of the year (January to April 2024), see paper 3. We are on track with expenses and do not anticipate unforeseen costs given the current situation.

There will be an additional 200.000 DKK this year for the iNova agreement (lab), but we had allocated funds for this in advance, so it will not impact the current budget. Another unexpected cost was the purchase and setup of a container/shed for the janitors (500.000 DKK).

If there are delays in the expected hiring processes or if some staff members resign, there will be a surplus in the salary budget. In such cases, we have established priorities for how to allocate the extra funds.

There was a discussion on Kervi+ and expected costs for future years. Kervi+ will replace Próvbókin, which is relatively cheap but also much more limited. The costs of developing Kervi+ is external (budgeted on the finance law) and it is Undirvísingarástýrið that is responsible for the development at the moment. We will pay an annual fee. There is a risk that the system will become more expensive than expected and we need to be mindful that future costs will not affect our budget beyond what is expected.

Nevertheless, it was stated that Kervi+ will give many more opportunities than the current Próvbók, for example by providing statistics and better overview on student activities.

Our 'Centre for Language Technology' (Máltøkniðepilin) is a collaboration between FMD and NVD. It was asked whether we are looking into future collaborations with external partners. We are in good dialogue with Talgildu Føroyar and are looking into further options.

Rector and university director had a meeting yesterday with representatives from all the political parties (except Framsókn who could not make it) where the university strategy 2025-2030 was presented and there was a broad support expressed regarding our current and planned activities.

The parliament has passed the law for project development of the campus main building as well as approved funding for renovations of Frælsið (wing 5 to start with). The opposition voted against the law on project development of the main campus building but not because they are against the project but rather because they wanted to see a better overall long-term investment plan (which is also positive).

*4. Report on consultations since last meeting (Paper 4)*

See paper 4 for overview with the various consultations.

The board was asked to nominate members to the board of the Faroese national bank which also function as the economic council of the Faroes



(Landsbankin/Búskaparráðið). The procedure in previous years has been to appoint 10 nominees for the Ministry of Finance who in turn elect 5 out of the 10. This is typically the practice where other institutions also appoint nominees so that the Ministry has options to ensure a gender balance. However, since the University is the only institution nominating members to the board of the national bank, and we take gender balance into account, we only nominated five members this time. The Ministry of Finance has not yet announced the board members. *(In the afternoon after the board meeting the Ministry of Finance announced the new members that Setrið had nominated.)*

The University was invited for consultation with the parliament's culture committee on the proposal to the law regarding NQF and Kervi+. Right now, grades and other data need to be shared between schools and the university when necessary. In Kervi+ this will all be stored in the same system. This has great administrative benefits for the overall educational system but a risk of potential of data breach has been pointed out in reference to the Data Protection law (GDPR). Nevertheless, the alternative would be more administration, and the law passed the parliament.

Setrið also provided an answer to the hearing of law on Harvest tax (tøkugjald). The format of answers to hearings was discussed and also how to approach hearings where there are conflicting scientific opinions, also within our academic staff. It was advised that when we provide the answers to hearings that we include a summary, and then attach the full report(s) as appendix, to ensure that the main points come across to the relevant decision makers. It was also stated that it is common in academia that there are conflicting scientific conclusions and different expert stances. It was discussed whether we should provide multiple answers in such cases. There are also cases when the area between science and ethics (possibly opinion) becomes intertwined and it is not possible to have one answer reflecting the university's expertise. The board advised that it is the relevant dean that should collect the hearing responses from the department and then present a summary to the university director who then submits the hearing on behalf of the university. In certain circumstances more than one faculty could be involved and we need to take that into account on a case-by-case basis.

##### *5. Rector's report on the period since last board meeting, including briefing on the periodic review of the teacher's education (paper 5)*

The rector went through the report, see paper 5.

The goal for new faculty leadership set up was mentioned (one dean and two vice deans where one is responsible for research and the other for education). The urgency to solve some staff issues that became apparent in the most recent staff survey was mentioned. This is one of the most urgent issues to work on and it was noted by the board that it seems like the university, with proposed leadership changes, is on it.

On this point the need for a workload allocation model was mentioned, and also transparency for ECTS allocations which is also part of the work in relation to the Bologna process.

The process of reorganising the student administration is still ongoing. Some issues have arisen, mainly the faculties missing local staff at the department to be responsible for practical tasks, but there is a proposed solution on the doorstep now. The comments have generally been pointed out by staff, not the students. Nevertheless, there is a



broad agreement regarding the long-term benefits of a centralised student administration.

Overall, we are satisfied with the recent laws regarding campus main building and renovation of Frælsið (as mentioned under point 3) and we are prepared for a busy autumn with the project to take off.

#### *6. Strategic priorities 2023-2024 – status (paper 6)*

Because we were short on time the rector did not go through paper 6 but reminded that the progress is tracked to the left section of the sheet (green on track, yellow slightly delayed, red seriously delayed). There is no serious delay at this time.

There were no further comments.

#### *7. Strategic Plan 2030 – final approval (paper 7)*

The hearing of the proposed strategic plan (dated 17<sup>th</sup> of March) included visiting all departments, presenting the plan and collecting feedback. An email address was also created where staff could send individual answers to (11 answers in total were collected). A workshop for external stakeholders was arranged (including CEOs from various sectors). Then there was also a briefing for representatives from the political parties (as mentioned under point 3).

The strategy plan includes three core documents: the plan itself, a key performance indicator document (KPI) and a rolling 2-year implementation plan. This will partially be the focus of the workshop for the board in September.

The Rector went over the points that have been updated following the hearing process and the changes are not significant compared to the original content. The feedback from the board focused on the 10 strategic goals section and are listed as follows:

- Number 3: It was mentioned that while it is excellent that we focus on building international courses we should also remember our special language and culture that also attracts international students. It was agreed that this is already covered in goal number 3.
- Number 4: ‘Sustainability’ should be added to goal number 4.
- Number 7: International collaboration should be reflected in goal number 7. The visit to Scotland was mentioned regarding the international goal as we are following up on potential collaboration, e.g. for arranging online IT courses. Potential financial effects on ÚSÚN (financial support for students studying abroad) were highlighted to keep in mind when setting up collaborations for student courses as it may affect eligibility for financial support.
- Number 8: Sustainability should be reflected in the section on campus development. With respect to this point a potential PhD in collaboration with external partners was mentioned, focusing on sustainable construction/renovation with Frælsið as the case study.
- Finally, it was emphasized that the strategy should clearly indicate that current activities will continue and not be neglected, even if not explicitly mentioned.

The Rector will update the current strategic draft with the agreed changes listed above, and will send an updated draft to board members for approval next week.

The meeting ended at 12:00