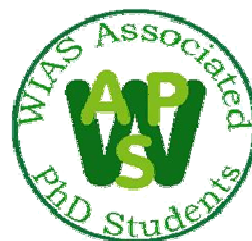


Agenda WAPS meeting, Thursday 5th of July 2007, De Vlaamsche Reus

1. Opening
 2. Minutes last meeting, Thursday 3rd of May 2007
 3. WIAS Education Committee meeting
 4. WIAS Board meeting
 5. Wageningen PhD Council meeting
 6. Accie
 7. WAPS' internet site
 8. PhD-retreat
 9. Social event for all PhD-candidates Wageningen UR
 10. Important dates
 11. Miscellaneous
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1. Opening

2. Minutes last meeting, Thursday 3rd of May 2007

Present: Simone de Bruin, Tosca Ploegaert, Anke Schennink, Ghyslaine Schopen, Guido Bosch
Absent: Andrea Fonseca

Ad 1. Opening

- Ghyslaine Schopen welcomes everybody and opens the meeting.

Ad 2. Minutes last meeting

- No comments were made about the minutes of the last meeting (Thursday 18th of January 2007).

Ad 3. WIAS Science Day

- WIAS Science Day 2007 was a success in terms of the quality of the content and organisation of the day.
- The International Advisory Board (IAB) complimented about the organisation and presentations.
- Point of discussion was the presence of PhD-candidates and staff which was considered to be low.
- The use of the 'house style' of Wageningen UR for the poster and, in particular, oral presentations was evaluated by the WIAS Science Day Committee. Each year, the WIAS Science Day Committee obliges presenters to use the house style. This will make oral and posters presentations more uniform but on the other hand some presenters may feel constricted by this style. Therefore, some presenters do not follow the instructions. This may complicate the competition for the oral and poster presentation prizes. It is decided that only presentations which are in the house style of Wageningen UR will compete for the oral and poster presentation prizes next year. An exception is made for those PhDs working for a different organisation (e.g. University Utrecht, a company) than Wageningen UR.

Ad 4. IAB meeting

- The last International Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held on the 9th of March 2007.
- The IAB was very positive on the quality and quantity of the WIAS Science Day presentations.
- The IAB is in favour of giving certain PhD-candidates waivers for the Training and Supervision Plan (TSP).
- For every PhD-candidate there should be a GO/NO-GO meeting before the end of the PhD candidate's first year. This evaluation is a very good opportunity to evaluate the level of the/functioning of WIAS PhD candidate and exchange expectations, experiences, between candidate and supervisor(s). At this moment, there is, in some cases, not even a meeting for this evaluation. The WAPS suggested possibilities to assess the level of the candidate to detect and react (courses candidate, coaching supervisor, progress) to any possible problems which could interfere with reaching the ultimate quality standards for a graduated WIAS PhD. One of the suggestions was that an external person should join the GO/NO-GO evaluation to assess the work of the candidate and the contribution of the supervisor in this. The IAB acknowledged the suggestion of the WAPS and advices that the GO/NO-GO meeting should also be with an external person.
- The IAB also supports the English test for all PhD-candidates who do not have English as native language.

Ad 5. Waivers for TSP

- A maximum of 10 credits may be waived on the TSP. The WAPS suggests that these credit points should be divided as follows:
 - 1½ credit maximum for Course on Philosophy of Science and/or Ethics.
 - Maximal 2 credits for In-depth Studies at PhD-level and related to the current PhD's field of research.
 - 1½ credit maximum for Professional Skills Support Courses.
 - Maximal 5 credits for Didactic Skills Training
 - i) Maximal 1 credit for lecturing.
 - ii) Maximal 1 credit for supervising students.
 - iii) Maximal 3 credits for preparing course material.

Ad 6. Education Committee

- The last Education Committee (EC) meeting was held on the 19th of April 2007.
- Each PhD-candidate has to do 30 credits for their TSP. The EC suggests a PhD-candidate may waive a maximum of 10 credits. The EC asked the WAPS suggest which parts of the TSP could be waived.
- The EC had no problem with the questionnaire for supervising within WIAS. The questionnaire is used to find out how PhD-candidates think about their supervision, but also how the supervisors think how they should supervise the candidates. It is a two-way questionnaire. The purpose for doing this is to use the outcome for the supervision course.

Ad 7. WIAS Board meeting

- The last WIAS Board meeting was held on the 5th of April 2007.
 - The WIAS Board congratulated the WIAS Science Day Committee with the high quality WIAS Science Day. Presentations were above standard, and the organisation was again very smooth and tight.
 - The WIAS Board noticed that few staff members attended the WIAS Science Day.
 - WIAS Board has 4 topics for their vision for the coming 4 years. These are:
 - Animal and health
 - Product quality and product diversification
 - Human-animal interactions
 - Bio-based economy
- The WIAS Board asked the WAPS about their opinion on these visions. The WAPS thinks these visions are rather vague and will not cover all fields of research of the WIAS PhD-candidates. Furthermore, the WAPS questions what the added value could be for the PhD-candidate.
- The WIAS Board reported the WIAS output in 2006:
 - 24 PhD-candidates graduated
 - 172 refereed journal articles
 - 113 other scientific publications
 - 125 abstracts
 - 38 publications for a professional audience
 - 10 publications for the general public
 - 1 patent
 - The content of the research master is approved by the OWI (Onderwijs Instituut, Wageningen Universiteit).

Ad 8. Wageningen PhD Council

- The last Wageningen PhD Council (WPC) was held on the 27th of April 2007.
- It appeared that the concept of β - γ interaction in PhD-research is unknown or unclear for PhD-candidates, and that the ones who are aware of working in these areas envisage problems such as difficulties with publishing in high ranking journals. The question that came up in the WPC meeting was whether this "unique selling point of Wageningen University" is the right concept. What is the purpose of β - γ interaction? WUR used to approach problems from a technological, science driven perspective. Certain problems/outcomes however have relevance for society. One should therefore also focus on the implementation of (outcomes of) research in society. This is often hampered by other processes in the domain of social sciences. Therefore the integration of β sciences with social sciences may be useful or interesting. The relevance of β - γ interaction for WUR is clear. It should also be clear for PhD-candidates, as a critical reflection of one's work regarding social relevance is going to be a requirement for the thesis. The awareness of PhD-

candidates of β - γ interaction in their own work is a good issue to bring up in the Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) meeting. The outcome of the earlier inventory may serve as input for the discussion in WGS.

- A lot of PhD-candidates are not aware of the existence of PhD-councils and the WPC. The WPC objectives should be clear for everyone. *Resource* can be used to explain the objectives and value of PhD-councils and the WPC. *Resource* however, is only interested in topics with a certain news value. Frans Kok will contact Korné Versluis (editor *Resource*) whether they are willing to give attention to WPC and its activities. In case they are, all WPC members will clearly identify their Graduate School's objectives and 'best practices' (what have we reached within our own Graduate School). Simone de Bruin will report the objectives and 'best practices' of WIAS and WAPS.
- There is no general policy on awarding credits for activities/involvement in the PhD Councils. Depending on the type of work or activity, it could be rewarded with a certain amount of credits, money or contract extension. All WPC members will check within their Graduate School which rewards are available for which activities. (ECTS credits (how many), contract extension (how long), money (how much)). Goal is to standardise the rewards over the Graduate Schools. Simone de Bruin will gather the information concerning WIAS and WAPS and report it during the next WPC meeting.
- The TSP evaluation workgroup made an inventory of differences in format and assigned credits for the TSP over the different Graduate Schools. The WPC proposed the representative of this workgroup to discuss the policy regarding waivers for courses done in the past as well. For example, should there be a maximum set on the amount of waivers or should there more (in-depth) courses made obligatory/examined?
- WIAS is in favour of an evaluation of PhD supervision (view of PhD-candidates on supervision, what do they expect from their supervisors but also what do supervisors expect from their PhD-candidates). In the TSP evaluation workgroup also supervision is evaluated (frequency of meetings with supervisors; what to do when there are problems; mutual expectations etc). Frans Kok proposed to wait for the results of the TSP evaluation before starting another evaluation that might not be necessary. If there is still a need for the evaluation of PhD supervision it can be arranged via the Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS).
- Mansholt Graduate School (MGS) proposed to organize an activity or party for PhD-candidates of all WGS. Simone de Bruin and Guido Bosch and MGS will meet in June to exchange ideas and possibilities.

Ad 9. PhD Network Netherlands

- Nothing to report.

Ad 10. Accie

- Nothing to report.

Ad 11. Miscellaneous

- Anke Schennink contacted Kirsten Huips (PhD-candidate at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University) and asked for their interest in co-organising a PhD-retreat for PhD-candidates of WIAS and the veterinary faculty of Utrecht University. The aim of the PhD-retreat is to exchange knowledge between PhD-candidates, promotion of their oral and written communication skills and, furthermore, improvement of the informal relationships between WIAS and the veterinary faculty of Utrecht. The last PhD-retreats were held in 2004 and 2002 and consisted of a two-day informal programme. The WAPS is interested in co-organising a PhD-retreat in autumn/winter 2007. Anke will keep in contact with Kirsten and discuss accommodation, programme, costs involved, and funding.
- From now on every 1st Friday of the month there will be an informal drink in De Vlaamsche Reus for all PhD-candidates and -supervisors.
- Next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th of July 2007 at 18.00hrs in De Vlaamsche Reus.

3. WIAS Education Committee meeting

- No meeting was held in the period May and June. The first meeting will be on Thursday 19th of July.

4. WIAS Board meeting

- The last WIAS Board meeting was held on the 7th of June 2007.
- The development of the Research Master for Animal Sciences was discussed. Hans Sonneveld (Nederlands Centrum voor de Promotieopleiding) evaluated the set-up of the Research Master and compared it with current Research Masters at other Universities in the Netherlands. Some consequences for WIAS are the differences in background of PhD-candidates. Some PhD-candidates may have completed the Research

Master and some may not. This difference in background may result in certain waivers in the TSP (e.g. introduction course) which should not result in a shortened project term but will give more room for in-depth courses or research activities. In addition, WIAS should be aware of this difference and may need to respond with specific courses to challenge both groups.

- Johan van Arendonk will end his function as director of WIAS at the end of 2007. The WIAS Board will look for a new professor for the function and aims to talk with a candidate or candidates in the beginning of July.
- Carlos Seré is succeeded by Shirley Tarawali in the IAB who will join the IAB in November.
- Next year there will be the 30th anniversary of Zodiac. WIAS is planning to organise a scientific symposium. Huub Savelkoul suggested inviting speakers who were PhD-candidates at WIAS in the past and are currently very successful in their field of research.
- The WIAS Board is informed about the organisation of the PhD-retreat.
- The WIAS Board was asked their opinion about the unfamiliarity with the concept of β - γ interaction among PhD-candidates. It was mentioned that the name (β - γ interaction) is vague and typically a Dutch product. Some attention and clarification about this concept will be given during the WIAS Introduction Course.

5. Wageningen PhD Council meeting

- The last Wageningen PhD Council (WPC) was held on the 27th of June 2007.
- The WPC is writing a document about the aims and objectives of the WPC based on the information of the individual graduate schools. This document can be used for an interview for *Resource* to inform PhD-candidates about the existence of PhD-councils and the WPC.
- It appeared that there is no general policy between the Graduate Schools on awarding credits for activities/involvement in the PhD councils. WPC agreed that compensation for PhD council activities should be more or less standardized between the Graduate Schools. Christian Jagersma (WPC representative in the TSP evaluation committee) made a list of credits awarded for certain activities per Graduate School (which is part of TSP evaluation process). Joeri Kalwij will complete this list for all the Graduate Schools and will also add other forms of compensation for PhD council involvement (like contract extension), and will bring this in on the board meeting of Wageningen Graduate Schools.
- On the WIMEK/SENSE visitation several points of attention came up that must be discussed on the WGS meeting as well. One of these issues was a PhD-alumni network. Alumni might contribute to courses, illustrate the usefulness of Graduate School certificates, etc. MG3S tracks their alumni. Leonie Cramer (MG3S representative) will check how far MG3S makes use of their alumni. Joeri Kalwij proposes that all PhD councils check the status of alumni tracking within their Graduate Schools.
- In the WGS symposium in March 2007 some participants suggested to increase the education budget ("rugzakje") of PhD candidates. WPC members did not signal any problems concerning the size of the education budget. WPC therefore decides not to take up this issue for the time being.
- The TSP evaluation is almost completed. The committee will make a list of recommendations (based on a questionnaire that was completed by the different graduate schools), and will provide 'best practices'. There are remarkable differences between the TSP's of different Graduate Schools. Differences were found in credits awarded for teaching and focus on supervision. Other points of attention were possibilities to improve β - γ interaction and more focus on T-shaped skills. The TSP evaluation results will be discussed by WGS. Follow-up (have graduate schools implemented recommendations) will be done via WGS. One of the outcome of the evaluation is that there are not enough courses aimed to develop management skills. There are not enough opportunities to prepare for a job outside a University setting. In practice, 80 % of PhD graduates find a job outside a University environment. It is however not per se necessary to develop additional courses within Wageningen University. WGS can also play a role in providing information on available courses of good quality outside Wageningen University. Possibly WGS can negotiate a reduction in fees for PhD students.
- A proposal for the social event for all PhD-candidates of Wageningen UR is made by Leonie Cramer (MG3S), Jolanda Jansen (MG3S), Simone de Bruin and Guido Bosch. The requested budget is agreed upon by Frans Kok, and Frans will ask for financial support in the meeting of the WGS. The idea is an evening in October or November 2007 with an international character (dinner + disco) at CERES. We hope to reach about 250 Dutch and international PhD candidates.

6. Accie

7. WAPS' internet site

8. PhD-retreat

9. Social event for all PhD-candidates Wageningen UR

- Leonie Cramer, Jolanda Jansen (both from Mansholt Graduate School), Simone de Bruin, and Guido Bosch had the first meeting about the organisation of a social event for PhD-candidates of all WGS. The main aim of this event is to improve the informal relationships between Wageningen PhD-candidates of the different Graduate Schools. The event will probably be held at Ceres (Wageningen) on a Friday evening in October or November 2007. The activity will have an international character and consists of a buffet, entertainment, and a party.
- When financial support is granted by WGS, the organisation of the event will continue.

10. Important dates

2-6 July 2007	Linear Models in Animal Breeding
6 July	WAPS Drinks @ Vlaamsche Reus
3 August	WAPS Drinks @ Vlaamsche Reus
7 September	WAPS Drinks @ Vlaamsche Reus
11-14 September 2007	WIAS Introduction Course
18 September 2007-07-02	WIAS Workshop 'Career Coaching'
27, 28 September, 1, 2 October 2007	Nutrition and Sports
13 March 2008	WIAS Science Day

11. Miscellaneous