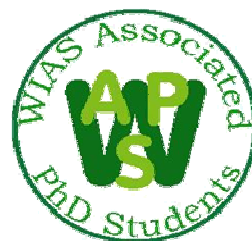


Agenda WAPS meeting, Wednesday 13th of February 2008, 15.30 h, room A

1. Opening
 2. Minutes last meeting, Tuesday 4th of December 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. WIAS Science Day
 10. 'Smoelenboek'
 11. PNN internationalisation per university
 12. New WAPS Council members
 13. WAPS course survey
 14. Important dates
 15. Miscellaneous
-



1. Opening

2. Minutes last meeting, Tuesday 4th of December 2007

Present: Guido Bosch (minutes), Andreia Fonseca, Tosca Ploegaert, Ghyslaine Schopen (chair)
Absent: Simone de Bruin, Anke Schennink

Ad 1. Opening

- Ghyslaine Schopen welcomed everybody and opened the meeting.

Ad 2. Minutes last meeting

- No comments were made.

Ad 3. Education Committee

- The Education Committee (EC) is finalizing the discussion on WIAS PhD competences. The proposal of the WAPS to implement the waivers system in the WIAS TSP was discussed. Klaas Frankena suggested that the waivers should be given to the PhD candidate based on the competences of a WIAS PhD candidate. Klaas will write a proposal before next meeting with a description of these competences and a method to analyse the waivers requests.

Ad 4. WIAS Board meeting

- Nothing more to report.

Ad 5. WIAS International Advisory Board

- Nothing to report.

Ad 6. Wageningen PhD Council

- Nothing more to report.

Ad 7. Accie

- Nothing to report.

Ad 8. WAPS' internet site

- Tosca Ploegaert extended the internet site with photos of the members of the WAPS Council. The internet site still needs more general information about the aims and activities of the WAPS and more information about the current activities of the WAPS and e.g. WIAS. The information is available, but should be put on the site. Ghyslaine Schopen will ask Tosca to do this.

Ad 9. PhD-retreat

- Anke Schennink reported that the organisation of the PhD-retreat is struggling with some problems. The PhD candidates of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Utrecht University) have different ideas about the content of the retreat which is not in line with the ideas of the WAPS. Anke will ask for a final time whether the PhD candidates of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine will adjust their ideas and improve communication. If this does not work, the PhD-retreat will be cancelled. Possibly other graduate schools in Wageningen may be interested in organising a PhD-retreat with the WAPS.

Ad 10. Social event for all PhD candidates of Wageningen UR

- Nothing more to report.

Ad 11. WIAS Science Day

- Nothing more to report.

Ad 12. 'Smoelenboek'

- The content and value of the WIAS PhD yearbook was discussed. It was suggested to add more general information about e.g. WIAS, WIAS Education Committee, WIAS Board, Chair Groups, activities of the WAPS, etc.

Ad 13. New WAPS Council members

- Nothing to report.

Ad 14. Important dates

- Nothing to report.

Ad 15. Miscellaneous

- Nothing to report.

3. WIAS Education Committee meeting

- The last EC meeting was on Thursday 17th of January.
- *Waivers.* The competences were the starting point instead of the courses in the last document on WIAS PhD-competences and waivers. However, this document was not very practical and may lead to discussion between PhD candidates and the EC. Therefore a more practical document was introduced and discussed during the meeting. The competences are related to the learning goals of the different courses. For the Introduction course, for example, there are three learning goals. Last EC meeting it was agreed that if a PhD candidate has already achieved two of the three learning goals, it should be possible to get waiver for the Introduction course and to do another course that contains the remaining third learning goal. In the new document this was missing. But this rule does still exist, only it was not stated in the document anymore. Furthermore, the WAPS had some questions about the formulation and meaning of the different competences. The WAPS also missed some competences, for example, didactic skills and professional skills. These skills were now hidden in other competences. The way credits for waivers were divided over the different competences was also missing. Some competences will be formulated in another way, and some extra information (e.g. the division of the credits of the waivers, the example of the introduction course) will be added to the document. During the next EC meeting the FINAL version will be ready.
- *Course evaluation.* The WIAS Stakeholder workshop: 'Biomass use: Food, Feed or Fuel?' was evaluated. The course was evaluated overall as 'positive' although there are some points of improvement, e.g. the number of participants. The low number of participants could be due to the chosen topic. The WIAS workshop 'Career Coaching' was also evaluated and graded as 'good'. It may be good to organise this workshop again later this year.

4. WIAS Board meeting

- No meeting has been held since the last meeting of the WAPS. Next WIAS Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 11 March.

5. Wageningen PhD Council meeting

- Nothing to report.

6. Accie

- The WIAS PhD candidates were all invited to join dinner and playing pool in the city centre of Wageningen on Thursday 7th of February. The pool tables are sponsored by WIAS. Sixteen people registered for dinner and 19 for playing pool (registration is closed).

7. WAPS' internet site

- The WAPS website is further updated. Pictures of the WIAS Science Day 2007 and the bowling activity are put on the website. Furthermore the announcement that WAPS won the ASG team of the year prize and information about the WIAS Science Day are added to the site. If you suggestions or comments regarding the website, you can contact tosca.ploegaert@wur.nl.

8. PhD-retreat

9. WIAS Science Day

- There will be 10 oral and 12 poster presentations of WIAS PhD candidates and there will be two invited speakers: prof. Jerry Wells (professor of the new chair group Host-Microbe Interactomics) and prof. Johan van Arendonk (previous WIAS director). The day is divided in a morning and afternoon session. After the lunch there is time for the poster presentations. For the detailed programme see the WSD poster or the WAPS' website.
- You have until Thursday the 6th of March 2008 time to register to attend the WIAS Science Day.

10. 'Smoelenboek'

11. PNN internationalisation per university

- On behalf of PNN (Promovendi Netwerk Nederland) the WAPS received a questionnaire regarding the organisational problems (international) PhD candidates are facing. During the WAPS meeting problems will be discussed and questionnaire will be filled in.

12. New WAPS Council members

- Krista Engelsma (ABG, Lelystad), Marije Oostindjer (ADP), and Irene Walstra (ADP) will join the WAPS Council. Krista will be the new secretary. Marije and Irene will represent the WIAS PhD candidates in the Education Committee. The WAPS Council is still looking for a new chair and a representative for the Wageningen PhD Council. If you are interested in joining the WAPS Council and fill in one of these two vacancies, please contact ghyslaine.schopen@wur.nl.

13. WAPS course survey

- The WAPS organised in the past an inventory among the WIAS PhD candidates to identify training needs. During the WAPS meeting, it will be discussed whether the inventory will be organised on a more frequent basis (e.g. every two years).

14. Important dates

13-15 February

21 February

10-14 March

13 March

20, 27 March, 3, 10, 17, 24 April

14-18 April

19-23 May

28 May-4 June

23-26 September

WIAS Advanced Statistics Course: Design of Animal Experiments

WIAS Seminar: Strategies to improve health and fertility in dairy cows

QTL Mapping, MAS, and Genomic Selection (course)

WIAS Science Day

Ethics and Philosophy of Animal Science (course)

Mathematical Modelling in Biology (course)

Genomics and Animal Science (course)

Statistics for the Life Sciences (course)

WIAS Introduction Course

15. Miscellaneous