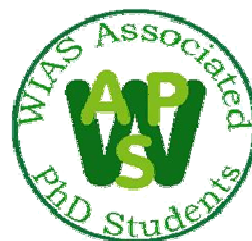


## **Agenda WAPS meeting, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2007, 15.30 h, room A**

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1. Opening
  2. Minutes last meeting, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2007
  3. WIAS Education Committee meeting
  4. WIAS Board meeting
  5. WIAS International Advisory Board
  6. Wageningen PhD Council meeting
  7. Accie
  8. WAPS' internet site
  9. PhD-retreat
  10. Social event for all PhD candidates of Wageningen UR
  11. WIAS Science Day
  12. 'Smoelenboek'
  13. New WAPS Council members
  14. Important dates
  15. Miscellaneous
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### **1. Opening**

### **2. Minutes last meeting, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2007**

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

#### *Ad 1. Opening*

- Ghyslaine Schopen welcomed everybody and opened the meeting.

#### *Ad 2. Minutes last meeting*

- Ghyslaine Schopen thanked Guido Bosch for writing the minutes of the last meeting.

#### *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 Frankena will write a proposal before next meeting with a description of these competences and a method to analyse the waivers requests.
- There are initiatives for collaboration between graduate schools in Animal Sciences in Europe (e.g. France, Italy, Ireland, Norway). This may result more possibilities to take part in high quality courses for PhD candidates.
- Ghyslaine Schopen will make a document about the aims and actions of the WAPS for the WIAS Midterm Review.

#### *Ad 4. WIAS Board meeting*

- Nothing to report.

#### *Ad 5. Wageningen PhD Council*

- Tosca Ploegaert joined the last meeting of the Wageningen PhD Council (WPC).
- Simone de Bruin reported about this last meeting according to the minutes.
- Evaluation of the Wageningen TSP is still ongoing within the TSP Working Group. The final report can be expected in October 2007.
- WPC is making an inventory of the type of rewards a Graduate School gives for certain activities PhD candidates participate in (e.g. PhD-Council, education committee). There should be some (more) uniformity between Graduate Schools. WAPS already made a document with the rewards for activities within WIAS.

- The 'WPC aims & objectives' document must be finished before contacting Resource. WAPS already gave some additions and suggestions for the document. The other graduate schools still have to make additions and suggestions. Publicity for WPC should also be linked to the PhD party 19th October.
- The need for more general/management-skills courses during the PhD period will be discussed within the WGS Education Committee. Most PhD candidates would like to work in science after graduation, but only a minority can actually find a job in science whereas the remaining majority needs to find a job elsewhere. Courses to gain more commercial or management skills might be necessary.

#### Ad 6. Accie

- Anke Schennink organised a pancake boat excursion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October.
- There will be 13 participants.
- Anke is thanked for the organisation of the nice activity.

#### Ad 7. WAPS' internet site

- Tosca Ploegaert extended the internet site with some photo's 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 stimulate Tosca to do this.
- Guido Bosch asked Gab van Winkel about the existence of a WAPS email address. According to Gab, there is an email address ([phd.waps@wur.nl](mailto:phd.waps@wur.nl)) but this could possibly be changed to another name. Guido asked Gab to change it preferably to [waps@wur.nl](mailto:waps@wur.nl) with an separate WAPS inbox instead of a direct link to personal account and inbox of a WAPS Council member (e.g. Ghyslaine Schopen). Gab will contact Guido when he has more information of the ICT Helpdesk.

#### Ad 8. 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 9. Social event for all PhD candidates of Wageningen UR

- Ghyslaine Schopen complimented the organising committee for the nice internet site and promotion material.
- There are already 199 registrations for the party.
- Ghyslaine and Anke Schennink volunteered for the noble job (attending the entrance of Ceres needs for approximately half an hour).

#### Ad 10. WIAS Science Day

- Andreia Fonseca and Ghyslaine Schopen will co-organise the WIAS Science Day with Laura Star and Lia Hoving.

#### Ad 11. '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 12. Important dates

- Nothing to report.

#### Ad 13. Miscellaneous

- Nothing to report.

### **3. WIAS Education Committee meeting**

- The discussion on the WIAS PhD Education competences and waivers has unfortunately not been finished yet. The competences have to be testable and workable. It is therefore better to only to waive in case a

PhD candidate meets predefined end terms. The end terms will be the same as the learning goals which are defined for different courses. If there are no specific learning goals defined for a course, the organizer of the course will have to define the goals. In this way the goals will be used as end terms which can be used in evaluation of requests for waiving a part/parts of the Training and Supervising Plan. To increase the level of the end terms for an individual PhD candidate, the candidate has to make agreements with his/her promoter/supervisor. The decision if a PhD candidate will get a waiver, should not be made by the chair of the group. The Chair of the EC has made an proposal for the final waiver document and sent it around to the other EC members to get comments. During the next EC meeting the final decision about the waivers will be made.

#### **4. WIAS Board meeting**

- The WIAS Board meeting was mainly focussed on the WIAS Midterm Review. The document which was prepared for the midterm review was discussed. The final document for the WIAS midterm review 2007 can be found at [www.wias.nl](http://www.wias.nl).
- WIAS is organizing international collaboration in PhD courses with France. The combination of genome expression in Wageningen and immunogenetics in Paris can be a good opportunity to start a joint doctoral training programme. Further steps have to be taken to discuss the detailed content of the courses.

#### **5. WIAS International Advisory Board**

- The International Advisory Board visited WIAS at Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 of November to discuss the midterm review. In this midterm review all the chairs of WIAS evaluate their performance in relation to the previous peer review (2004). The outcome of this review will be used to improve the WIAS education programme and research for PhD candidates, staff, and clients, and to strengthen the international research position of WIAS.

#### **6. Wageningen PhD Council meeting**

- The Training and Supervision Plan (TSP) evaluation report is not finished yet. However, some preliminary conclusions are available:
  - The TSPs are quite comparable between graduate schools
  - Some differences are functional, and should continue to exist
  - The different flavours of each graduate school are visible in TSP
  - There are some differences that should be solved, eg teaching and supervising students.

The next step is interviewing PhD candidates and supervisors to assess their opinion on the value of the TSP.

- The assurance of the Go/No Go decision for every PhD candidate was discussed. Important requirement is timely notifications to supervisors. This is being done by Human Resource Management (HRM) for AIO's, but must be facilitated for PhD fellows (e.g. sandwich PhD candidate) as well. There seems to be a combined task for graduate schools (registration of starting date of PhD candidates) and HRM. Supervisors must be notified about the need to conduct the Go/No Go evaluation.
- Several ethical issues with regard to PhD-work were discussed:
  - Supervisors writing chapters of PhD theses (resource 15 November 2007). There is a feeling that foreign PhD candidates are helped out more with their thesis than Dutch PhD candidates. The WPC however did not receive clear signals that PhD candidates are helped out in such a way that they cannot claim responsibility for their thesis anymore. The resource article is in that sense definitely not widely recognised within the PhD community. The introduction of Go/No-Go evaluations may prevent these bottlenecks.
  - Publication ethics (referring to the new doctorate conferral regulations). Maximal 1 paper in the thesis is allowed of which the PhD candidate is not the 1<sup>st</sup> author. The question was raised what will happen if two persons equally contributed to a paper. In this case both researchers may be indicated as 1<sup>st</sup> author. But can both researchers use this paper in their thesis? Theoretically this is possible. The coming months the Academic Board will monitor carefully the implications of the new regulations in practice. Currently there is more and more interdisciplinary work. Also, the incorporation of papers of which PhD candidates are not the 1st author may be valid for the argument of 'linkage' between papers within a thesis. For that reason it is not uncommon to introduce papers for a thesis (more than one) of which you are not a 1st author. The Academic Board is familiar with this argument of interdisciplinary research and will monitor how this

develops. It is indeed a valid argument, but must be clearly argued for by the supervisor. When a PhD candidate is doing beta gamma work: both authors can be 1st author.

- PhD candidates are worried about a loss of flexibility. The Academic Board will continue to be flexible. It is however important to have clear rules and responsibilities.
- Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice. After a PhD defence, the Rector states that "it is expected of the Dr. that he/she will comply with the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice. How do PhD candidates perceive these words? Do they apply to a Chinese PhD candidate who returns to his/her home country? Are PhD candidates sufficiently educated during their PhD programme to live up to the code of conduct? Do PhD candidates have any points of concern or bottleneck during their own research? Usually these issues are not major barriers during a research, but subtle pressures (alter conclusions in a paper, pressure from the sponsor / funding party, etc.). Many of the WPC members saw the Code of Conduct for the first time and did not know of its existence. A simple conclusion is that this code should be made more visible. According to the WPC there is a lack of courses on ethics/course that indicate the importance of the Code of Conduct. WPC concludes that the WGS should incorporate this as an obligatory part of a TSP.

- A national initiative on Alumni tracking (important for career perspectives) will start per 1 January 2008. PhD candidates are requested to complete an online form when they hand in their manuscript.
- The WPC considered the PhD event as a great success and agreed that this event should be organised on a yearly basis. For next time the event could be held in another setting, representing the position of the PhD candidates. It was unfortunate that no representatives of Graduate Schools (other than VLAG and the Dean) were present. In the interview in Resource prof. Frans Kok stressed the important position of PhD candidates within Wageningen University. Management should take this group very serious.
- Related to the PhD party it is stated that it is difficult for Student organizations to attract international students. The integration between Dutch and international students, and the attendance of international students to (extra curricular) PhD activities needs more attention according to Prof. Martin Kropff. Any suggestions on how to accomplish this are welcome.

## **7. Accie**

## **8. WAPS' internet site**

- Tosca Ploegaert updated the WAPS website. Examples of several updates performed are the addition of the minutes of the WAPS meetings, photos of the WAPS Board, information about the WIAS Science Day, and an agenda with the announcement of the dates of coming activities.
- Tosca is looking for the right format for showing photos of activities on the internet site.

## **9. PhD-retreat**

## **10. Social event for all PhD candidates of Wageningen UR**

- The event was a great success. The maximum number of 150 PhD candidates attended the international buffet. After the buffet, an additional 150 PhD candidates joined and enjoyed the performance of the two comedians and dancing until Saturday morning.
- The organization received many positive reactions. It was a well balanced programme. Only comment was that the 150 available places at the dinner buffet were not enough.
- The committee wrote a script describing the organisation of the event which can be used for the organisation of the next social event.

## **11. WIAS Science Day**

- The deadline for registration for an oral or a poster presentation for the WIAS Science Day of 2008 have been passed. There will be 13 oral and 11 poster presentations. The PhD candidates who registered for a oral presentation will have time until Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December before 17.00 h to submit his/her abstract to Ghyslaine Schopen. From all submitted abstracts, the WIAS Science Day committee will select 10 -12 oral presentations for the WIAS Science Day. There will also be two invited speakers at the WIAS Science Day.

- At the WIAS website it is possible to register for the WIAS Science Day. Everybody who wants to attend to the WIAS Science Day (including presenters) need to register at the WIAS website. On the website there is also the possibility to register for the dinner. Do not wait too long, because there are limited places for the dinner!
- In the same week as the WIAS Science Day the course “QTL mapping, MAS and Genomic Selection” is being organised in Lelystad. The organiser of this course offers the participants the possibility to attend the WIAS Science Day with missing as less as possible of the course. WIAS will pay the transport cost, the lunch, and dinner for the participants of the course who want to go to the WIAS Science Day.

## 12. ‘Smoelenboek’

## 13. New WAPS Council members

- Every year the change of the chair of the WAPS Council is at the WIAS Science Day. Ghyslaine Schopen will leave the WAPS as chair and therefore, the WAPS needs a new chair. In addition, Simone de Bruin (WAPS representative in the Wageningen PhD Council) and Guido Bosch (secretary) will end their function in the WAPS Council. The WAPS Council would therefore like to welcome you to the WAPS meeting so you can be informed about the possibilities to join the council.

## 14. Important dates

18 December 2007	WIAS Seminar: Modelling ecosystems and farmers' decision-making with fuzzy logic
18 January	Local Ethical Matrix Workshop
5-8 February	WIAS Introduction Course
13 - 15 February	WIAS Advanced Statistics Course: Design of Animal Experiments
10-14 March	QTL Mapping, MAS, and Genomic Selection
13 March	WIAS Science Day
14-18 April	Modelling course
25 May, 21 June, 19 Sept,	
9 October, 13 December	Writing winning grant proposals
28 May-4 June	Statistics for the Life Sciences

## 15. Miscellaneous