Minutes from meeting in the Academic Committee (AC) of FODOS on the 6th of September 2005.

Attendants:

- **Stein Joar Hegland** (INA): Leader of the AC for the last two years (will continue as such until christmas), previously member of Studienemnda (SN, the study committee of UMB) for two years, presently substitute member for the temporary employee position (seat occupied by Mari Sundli Tveit (ILP)) in the University Board.
- **Tina Bringslimark** (IPM): Contactperson for IPM, member of Forskningsnemnda (FON, the Research committee of UMB).
- **Andriy Kupyna** (IKBM): Temporary leader of the FODOS-board, leader of the Information Committee of FODOS.
- **Elizabeth Olsen** (IKBM): Present member of SN.
- **Mariel Aguilar Støen** (SUM (UiO), INA): Member of the AC for two years, substitute member of FON.
- **Jørn Henrik Sønstebø** (INA): Subsitute member of the FODOS-board, member of the SiN board (the Norwegian organization for PhD-students).
- **Lisbet Bach** (INA): Contact person for INA. Previously member of the FODOS-board for one year, presently member of the International Committee (IC) of FODOS.

Minutes: Lisbet Bach (approved by Stein Joar Hegland).

Agenda :

1. The new FODOS-webpage (Andriy Kupyna).
2. Short introduction about the AC (Stein Jar Hegland).
3. PhD-studnets in the University board. What role can we play and what are important issues (Mari Sundli Tveit, through Stein Joar Hegland).
4. Compensation rules for FODOS-work.
5. Author rights for PhD-students, Guidelines? (Mariel Aguilar Støen).
6. Future of the AC (Stein Joar Hegland).

1. Andriy Kupyna described the new updated webpages of FODOS. At this webpage minutes from meetings of relevance to FODOS-work can be found, and it is important to keep these pages updated on activity in Committees and the FODOS-board in order to secure the continuity of FODOS-work. Andriy also showed the new folder that has been prepared by the board and Commitees of FODOS. This information folder will be sent to all PhD-students of UMB, and also to future PhD-students.

2. Stein Joar Hegland briefly described the work in the AC. It is important that at least one member of the FODOS-board is always a member of the AC in order to ensure a good flow of information between the two bodies. Any person involved in issues (e.g. as a PhD-representative in a UMB-body) related to the academic work of PhD-students should be member of or at least in good contact with the AC. Stein Joar asked the question of how the work in the AC should be organised in the future and who should lead it. This was resolved later on, see point number 6. of these minutes.

3. The temporary employees at UMB has gained a seat in the University board (HS). Mari Sundli Tveit (ILP) was elected for the position and Stein Joar Hegland is her substitute. Mari expresses (through Stein Joar since she was not present at the meeting) her thoughts on the job to do in the HS:

   -She believes that the HS works mostly with more general issues and not so many directly involved in the everyday life of a PhD-student.
   -She considers three issues to be of major importance: 1) Whether new and clever persons should be employed at UMB or our "own" people (who may and may not be as clever as those form outside the university)., 2) More post doc positions., and 3) The approval of the start-mid-end-seminars (SME-seminars) (see FODOS-webpages for more information) as proposed by FODOS and the implementation of it is proceeding rather slow, and Mari believes she may be able to speed things up through the HS. The PhD-regulations also has to be revised at some point and the implementation of these seminars could be a way of ensuring quality control for the PhD-students. At the moment different seminar-series for the PhD-students exist at the different departments, but the thought of the SME-seminars is to improve them by ensuring relevant feedback. The use of external "reviewers" in these seminars are by many departments considered too expensive, but should instead be looked at as an excellent way for creating/increasing/contributing too the much appraised networks of scientists.

   Three further points was discussed at the meeting: 1) the rights of the temporary employees in terms of elections, social benefits etc., in particular in relation to the rights of the "normal employees". An important point is also what rights does it infer to pay for an office here at UMB, when your position is financed by another institution either in Norway or abroad. Also the international employees should be informed clearly of their rights when arriving at UMB. 2) Should the research at UMB be more focused and narrow, or should it continue to be as now/more general. The direction we choose for the research at UMB will affect the teaching we are able to provide, and these two issues must be considered together. 3) The possibility for more PhD-courses at UMB was discussed. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to encourage this, possibly through the NOVA-network (the organization of the Nordic agricultural universities).

4. The compensation rules for both FODOS-work and for participating in the different bodies at UMB was discussed. All FODOS-representatives in UMB-bodies (central and departmentwise) will get compensated if delivering hours to the administration. Stipendiats participating in the FODOS-board has until now been compensated by their respective departments when lending in their hours (talk to former members for the specific way of handling it). Quota-students may have more difficulties with compensation, but it's worth trying. The latter issue should be monitored by the International Committee.

5. Mariel Aguilar Støen told about the issue of author-rights for the PhD-students. Who have a right to be a co-author of a paper you write? Should guidelines be created? A brief survey conducted by Mariel had already clarified that it is generally believed that those contributing significantly to a publication has a right to be a co-author of that paper. The key-question is however what a significant contribution actually means.

It is planned to conduct a survey to find out of the practise of the different departments and/or supervisors (?) answering the question “what constitutes a significant contribution”, establish a consensus (if such can be found), publish the consensus and clarify the decisions a PhD-student can make regarding co-authorship.
Jørn Henrik Sønstebø suggested that this topic could be addressed at a SiN-seminar that is scheduled to take place at UMB this fall. Mariel agreed to help organize it.

6. Stein Joar will continue as leader of the AC until Christmas 2005, but will surrender his position if someone wishes to assume it! Meetings will be called by the leader of the FODOS-board and meetings will be held as lunch meetings following meetings in the board. Meetings will be called by the FODOS boardleader once a month or as required.