



NFU General Assembly 2016

Time: 25th of November 2016, 16.30 – 18.00

Venue: Håndverkeren Kurs og Konferansesenter,

Rosenkrantz gate 7, Oslo

Agenda (item 1)

1. Constitute meeting and approve agenda

- Election of General Assembly Chair and two reporters
- Approval of agenda

2. NFU Annual Report 2016

3. Annual plan and budget for 2017

4. Board changes

5. Incoming business

Item 2. NFU Annual report 2016

(Covering the period Nov 1st 2015 to November 1st 2016)

1. General

The current year covers the period December 1st 2015 – November 1st, 2016. The General Assembly is as a general rule conducted in connection with the Annual Conference. For practical reasons we have adopted flexible business years for reporting and accounts.

2. The NFU Board members 2015-2016

The NFU General Assembly 2015 was held in Oslo at FAFO, November 12th. Following the elections at this meeting, the composition of the NFU Board has been as follows:

Board members

Erlend Eidsvik, Bergen University College (Chair)

Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Fafo, Oslo

Arve Hansen, SUM, UiO

Hanne Haaland, Department of Global Development and Planning, University of Agder

Djesa Rachel Issa, University of Tromsø

Thomas Sætre Jacobsen, NTNU, Trondheim

Darley Kjosavik, Noragric, Oslo

Randi Solhjell, Norwegian Police University College

Ingvild Agedal Skage, University of Bergen

Håvard Haarstad communicated after the annual meeting in 2015 to the board that he would resign from the board, due to long-standing membership in the board, and to a shift in research focus.

Thomas Sætre Jacobsen, NTNU, asked the board in August to be replaced. Silje Mathisen, NTNU, was suggested as replacement. The suggestion was communicated via e-mail to the board, who approved to enquire Mathisen to join the board. Mathisen agreed to join the board in early September.

The board would like to acknowledge the devoted work carried out by the former board members and thank them duly for their involvement in NFU.

Nomination Committee

Peter Andersen, UiB

Knut Gunnar Nustad, NUPI/UiO, Oslo

Trond Vedeld, NIBR

EADI representative

Darley Kjosavik (Noragric, NMBU)

Auditor

Hans Jørgen Oppi-Christiansen, University of Tromsø (UiT)

Coordinator

Andrea Fritsvold

3. Progress towards Annual Plan for 2016:

3.1 NFU Board meetings

The NFU Board has conducted five meetings since the last General Assembly (November 20th, December 21st, January 29th, May 23rd, September 5th). 5–6 board members have participated in the meetings. All meetings this year have been hosted on Skype. Formal minutes have been written from all meetings by the coordinator. The minutes will be available on the NFU webpage. Most of the board's discussions and communication have taken place via email.

Division of labour within the board was initiated in 2015 to distribute the workload among its members. The information group, comprised of Ingunn Bjørkhaug, Ingvild Aagedal Skage and Andrea Fritsvold, has paid particular attention to how the NFU communicate with its members through the web-pages, regular newsletters and via Facebook. A list of institutional contacts for NFU has been established as part of the work of this group. The list is available for editing for all board members and should be updated on a regular basis.

3.2 NFU Membership

NFU had in November 2015 a total of 105 paying members and by October 31st 2016, NFU had 85 members. We continue to have an email list with 285 members. For the past 15 years the number of paying members has fluctuated between 110 and 180. For the period 2015-2016, the board has had a focus on recruitment of members through direct interaction with relevant educational institutions and research institutions, as well as through increased visibility on our website, via social media and participation in the public debate.

The main focus to attract memberships to NFU has been to host a relevant and high quality conference that provides the main networking arena for Norwegian development researchers, along with subscription to Forum for Development Studies. Expectations in earlier years were that NFU would see a lower membership payment rate during the years when the conference is organized at the Nordic level. The experience the past three years has indicated the opposite – that paying membership has been higher during the years when the conference has been organized at the Nordic level. In 2015, with the Nordic conference being hosted by the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, we did not see any substantial increase in members. This may indicate that the geographical location of the conference is not the main explanatory factor for succeeding to recruit new members. Topic and timing of the conference may be other important explanatory factors for the variations.

3.3 Increase the benefits to, and number and activity level of members

Following meetings and dialogue between NFU and NORAD after the NFU conference in Tromsø 2014, NFU organized a seminar on the 12th of November 2015 at FAFO, titled

“Critical Development Research in Crisis.” Both the NRC and NORAD participated in the open seminar. The idea was to inform our members about the potential consequences the budget cuts will have for development research. The seminar is important as part of increasing benefits to members and actively participating in the public debate.

As a follow up to the seminar, the Norwegian Research Council organized a conference / workshop: "Development research at a crossroad" on January 27th 2016 in Oslo. NFU was invited to participate as panel discussant in the workshop "Development research – what now?", which included participants from development research institutions in Norway and Europe. NFU was represented in the panel by the Chair, Erlend Eidsvik.

NFU was invited to attend the EADI ExCom meeting in Zagreb, 16-17 April, to present the setup for the upcoming EADI/NFU-conference, as well as to take part in conference preparation meetings and workshops. Ingvild Aagedal Skage and Erlend Eidsvik from NFU attended, in addition to the organizational team from UiB.

NFU was also invited to the EADI Directors Meeting 05-06 June, at Kings College, London. The Chair presented the program for the conference at the meeting, as well as took part in conference preparation meetings with EADI members. The mentioned activities have been funded from other budgetary sources than NFU.

The National Council for Development Studies (Nasjonalt fagråd for utviklingsstudier) invited NFU for a meeting at HiOA, Oslo, 21st September, to discuss: 1) Development Studies in Norway, 2) Cooperation between development / global / international studies between the different institutions, and 3) nomination of journals within development research. Board members Randi Solhjell agreed to participate in person, and Hanne Håland via Skype. However, the meeting was postponed and none of the NFU board members had the opportunity to take part in the meeting.

NFU Permanent Panels

SUM, UiO, was asked in November 2015 to host the 2016 national NFU conference. SUM was positive, and took up the responsibility as organizer. Benedicte Bull at SUM is academic responsible for the conference. Arve Hansen and Andrea Fritsvold from NFU has played a key role in initiating, planning and organising the conference. The NFU board is grateful for the excellent cooperation with SUM for organising this year's conference.

The title of the conference is "Beyond North and South: Constructing Global Governance for the 21st Century", and takes place at *Håndverkeren Kurs og Konferansesenter* in Oslo 24-25th November 2016. The conference counts 130 participants, mainly from Norwegian institutions, but also from abroad.

To follow up the annual plan from 2015, the board initiated a call for permanent panels for the next three NFU-conferences (national and Nordic). The board received four qualified suggestions:

- Asian Transformations: Theories, Challenges, Opportunities (Maren Aase, Arve Hansen, Jostein Jakobsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, Karina Standal, Harold Wilhite, SUM, UiO)
- Food in a changing world (Mariel Aguilar-Støen and Desmond McNeill: NMBU, Ola Westegen, Noragric, NMBU)
- Power, Resistance, and Development in the Global South (Alf Gunvald Nilsen, UiB; Hanne Haaaland, Hege Wallevik, UiA)
- What Works in Development? (Dan Banik, SUM, UiO)

All four panels were accepted by the board, and we are looking forward to see a continuum through the next three conferences on the given topics.

As in previous years, we have offered Forum for Development Studies to paying members, and have strived to keep the members updated through the website and regular email announcements. The Master's thesis award was offered this year, as well. The deadline was set to the 1st of October. 17 eligible theses were submitted. The evaluation committee consisted of Silje Mathisen and Randi Solhjell. The winner, Tomas Salem, University of Bergen, will be announced on the NFU conference dinner on the 24th of November.

In earlier conferences, a specific event has been targeted at master students. This was not done in Gothenburg 2015. However, to yet again engage young and upcoming students, a master student session has been included at this year's NFU-conference. In total, 6 master students have been accepted to present in two sessions at the conference.

3.5 Strengthen and consolidate Nordic and international networking

There is broad agreement that the Nordic conferences should be continued every two or three years. The 2015 conference was hosted by School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg, from November 5th to 6th. The overall title was "A changing Global Development Agenda" and about 170 people from the Nordic Countries, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands and from the Global South participated. 100 papers were presented, 5 roundtables were organised and 19 working groups took place.

The NFU is a member of EADI, the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes. Darley Kjosavik is NFUs EADI representative and has achieved funds for her participation costs from the NRC. EADI representatives were present at the conference, and a dialogue has been established about the possibility of organising a joint NORDIC/EADI-conference in Norway in 2017. A meeting between Erlend Eidsvik, the Nordic Development Research institutions and EADI took place after the conference in Gothenburg, and, on the initiative of NFU board member Darley Kjosavik, it was agreed to organise the next Nordic development conference in cooperation with the EADI triennial General Conference.

Shortly after the meeting, UiB Global at University of Bergen was contacted to enquire if they were interested in being local host for the EADI – NFU Nordic conference in 2017. The response was positive, and UiB Global has played a key role in planning and organizing for the conference. From NFU, Darley Kjosavik, Ingvild Agedal Skage and Erlend Eidsvik have met with EADI in Zagreb (April), and in London (June) and Bergen (August) (Skage and

Eidsvik). Since September, CMI has also agreed to join as a full partner for the conference. It is, as such, a joint EADI, NFU, CMI and UiB conference. Six skype meetings has been organised to negotiate and settle organizational, financial and academic matters. The conference title is Globalization at the Crossroads: Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries (<http://eadi-nordic2017.org>).

3.6 Improve communication and the visibility of the NFU and development

Research

NFU used its website, Facebook and email newsletters for updates. The information work has been carried out by our coordinator, in close cooperation with the aforementioned information group. Most of the updates concern NFU events, such as the annual conference, the call for master's thesis award, relevant conferences and vacancies in relevant institutions in Norway and or in the Nordic countries. 17 newsletters were sent out, and 40 % of the 285 subscribers opened the newsletters.

3.7 Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board

The past four years the Board has hired a coordinator to assist with administrative tasks, such as updating the accounts, sending out payment reminders, writing minutes from board meetings, and composing and disseminating newsletters. We have recruited a Master's student for this, and offer a stipend in return. This arrangement has worked well. Andrea Fritsvold at SUM, UiO, has been our coordinator for the past two years. She is very proactive and has many good ideas of how to interact with the members. The coordinator job involves a substantial amount of work in certain periods of the year. Andrea has worked to establish an improved structure for the coordinator's work, in order to facilitate for a potential change of coordinator.

NFU has had a large board for the past few years. The size of the board means that the association interacts with many different environments – and always has a critical number of people participating in board meetings. For this year, the work has been divided more clearly between different members, to ensure continuity and a well-functioning board. The size of the board has allowed some members to step down without a replacement. As is also stated in our regulations, it is pertinent that we continue with a combination of people representing the different research environments and institutions outside in Norway.

3.8 Accounts 2016

Membership income is lower than last year. We have not met our ambitious goal of a membership base of 150. Instead, we are down to only 85 paying members. The bill from Routledge was lower than budgeted for. However, the deficit in the accounts are critical, and necessary measures are taken in the budget for 2017 (see Item 3, 9).

	Budget 2016	Accounts 2016
Income		
Membership fees	55000	43450
Interest	70	41
Other		
<i>Total income</i>	<u>55070</u>	<u>33291</u>
Expenditure		
Board meetings	6000	6106
Forum for Development Studies	35000	18960
NFU Web-site	1800	3721
EADI/Nordic cooperation	2400	2411
NFU Awards	10000	10000
Award event	0	0
Honorarium auditor*	2100	0
Miscellaneous	6000	6770
Coordinator	24000	24000
Costs Nordic		
Planning/participation	5000	5208
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>92300</u>	<u>77176</u>
Result	<u>-37230</u>	<u>-43885</u>

*see budget 2017

Balances

Incoming balance 30.11.2015: 95 177, 05

Outgoing balance 01.11.2016: 55 913, 02

Annual Plan 2017 (item 3)

1. NFU Board meetings

The Board plan for 5-6 meetings in 2017. It will continue to use Skype when appropriate, which is cost- and time effective. It will attempt to have at least one face-to-face meeting, possibly at the next NFU conference to take place in Bergen 21-13 August 2017. The annual meeting should, if possible, be held at the conference. However, given that it is rather early in the fiscal year, the board can decide what is feasible and practical.

2. NFU Membership

The Board has the ambition of increasing our membership in 2017, from 85 to approximately 120. The economic situation of the association requires an active recruitment for 2017 to avoid more deficits. For compensating the deficit in the budget, it should be considered to raise the membership fees, as well as apply for external funding.

The current cuts in funding to development research and to development organisations have led to an increased focus on the field of development in general. Given the situation the public visibility of the NFU is pertinent and the board needs to continue to voice the interests of development research. In addition, regular email announcements, an updated and relevant website, relevant events, and the offer of Forum for Development Studies will be key.

3. Increase the benefits to, and number and activity level of NFU members

NFU will continue to offer Forum for Development studies to its members.

The NFU will continue to maintain an updated website, offer regular email announcements, and take part in relevant events. We will continue to plan for the upcoming EADI/NFU-conference in 2017, and plan for the next Norwegian conference in 2018. We also aim to organise a separate event if possible, similar to the seminar "Critical Development in Crisis". We will continue with the master thesis award, but lower the price to 5.000 NOK, due to the economic situation. All candidates must have a recommendation from their supervisor in order to submit a thesis to be reviewed for the prize.

A main task for the Board will be to try to secure funds for the upcoming conference. The 2016 NFU conference was funded by 'old funds' from the Research Council. The board has already applied for funding for the 2017 conference, in collaboration with UiB. The conference is yet not fully funded, and the board will continue its efforts to secure funding.

4. Procedures and strategy for strengthening role of NFU in relevant public hearings

The NFU will continue to provide input to hearing documents when we are asked for input, and will aim to be better at drawing on the broader membership in providing this input.

5. Strengthen and consolidate Nordic and international networking

We will continue our communication with the Nordic development associations and now also with EADI concerning the potential joint EADI conference /4th Nordic conference 2017.

6. Consolidate the functioning of the NFU Board

Maintaining a coordinator function is intended to help the Board continue to strive towards a more efficient and handling of membership, our relationship to Routledge/Forum and our external communication. With the help of a coordinator NFU must aim to continue to have an updated website and regular newsletters. A clear division of work within the board, as has been the situation for 2015, will also ensure a well-functioning association.

7. National council on development studies (Nasjonalt fagråd)

In 2016 the national council on development studies invited NFU to take part in a meeting. The council has not been active in the last few years, so this years' revival should be followed up and accordingly strengthened its interaction on matters of common interest.

8. Forum for Development Studies

NFU will dialogue more closely with the editorship of Forum for Development Studies, and consider reinstating the Best Article of the Year Award in collaboration with the Forum editors. We have invited the editors to join our board meeting at least once a year.

9. Budget

The past few years NFU has run with a deficit. This has been done to restructure the Board activities with a coordinator. We have been able to cut costs, such as the EADI meetings and the Best Article award. However, increased activities (arranging seminars, planning for the Nordic conference) has also resulted in increased costs.

NFU has had a healthy bank balance, but it has been gradually reduced the past few years. We are now striving to balance the budget. The large deficit in 2016 is for the most part due to decreasing amount of members, and consequently less member fee income. Some costs for printing, communication via regular post etc. in 2015 were paid in 2016, which explains a rather large post under other/miscellaneous. In 2016, expenses for mail (invoices sent by mail for those who have not responded by e-mail) have been divided among the board members and their respective institutions.

In the long run, if the economic situation does not improve, we need to look closely at our relationship to Forum, and discuss whether this relationship adds sufficient value to continue offering the journal as part of the membership.

	Accounts 2016	Budget 2017
Income		
Membership fees	33250	50000
Interest	41	50
Other (external funding)		26000
<i>Total income</i>	<u>33291</u>	<u>76050</u>
Expenditure		
Board meetings	6106	3000
Forum for Development Studies*	18960	25000
NFU Web-site*	3721	2250
EADI/Nordic cooperation	2411	2500
NFU MA thesis award**	10 000	10000
Honorarium auditor***	0	2800
Coordinator	24000	29000
Other/miscellaneous	6770	1500
Planning Nordic Development conference	1168	
Event Critical Development Research in Crisis (2015)	4040	
<i>Total expenses</i>	<u>77176</u>	<u>76050</u>
Result	<u>-43885</u>	<u>0</u>

* Including old costs for web hosting (through Håkon Fottland)

** The award to Mikael Bergius (awarded in 2015) was paid in December 2015. Likewise, this year's winner, Tomas Salem, will be paid over the 2017 accounts. The adjusted amount for awards (5000 NOK) will only be visible from the 2018 budget.

*** The auditor was not compensated in 2014-2016, hence the budgeted 2800 NOK for 2017 (annual payment 700 NOK)