

## **Minutes VLAG Ph.D. council**

July 7th, 2004 (Unitas, 16h00-17h00)

**Present:** Sandra van der Graaf, Eline Klaassens, Elke Scholten, Vesna Prsic, Willem van Schaik, Heidi den Besten, Nathalie Creusot.

Heidi den Besten will replace Willem to represent the lab of Food Microbiology

### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

The Spotlight project is finished because the costs for attending were too high (2500 euro).

### **2. News and Announcements**

➤ VLAG party: around 60 PhD's attended. Pictures will be on the website. A piece in the next VLAG Flash will be dedicated to the party.

➤ News from VLAG

Result of re-accreditation: VLAG is re-accredited by the KNAW for 6 years (instead of 5 years), but halfway there will be some paperwork to do. There were some comments about the strategy of VLAG. Meetings are planned with Frans Brom (new Professor in "philosophy/ethics") to organize a course about ethics together with other graduate schools.

Meeting with international advice board in September: no meeting.

On September 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a VLAG board meeting.

VLAG visited research groups. All groups were visited (professor, staff and PhD's). VLAG wishes to catalyze cooperation within groups. With PhD's, supervision (quality and quantity) was discussed. PhD's said that they heard late about VLAG. An action point will be done by VLAG: giving a flyer to PhD's to explain what is VLAG and having meetings with PhD's.

### **3. TSP in thesis?**

See e-mail from Elke. It seemed that a decision was taken by Rudy Rabbinge to include the TSP in our dissertation after a few PhD's asked for it. No formal decision was made. It seems that it is possible to change the compulsory to optional. After consultation of PhD's in groups, nobody wants it to be compulsory. Suggestion was given to put TSP in a leaflet (like the propositions) so that it can be removed easily.

### **4. Website**

➤ minutes of these meetings on VLAG website from now on?

Agreement of the members, but no name has to appear when we discuss someone's problem for example.

Idea: put the page of the current research to the website.

### **5. PhD students with problems**

article in VLAG Flash and/or website and/or e-mail?

Prof Rombouts is retired. Vesna will contact him to know if he still is the confident of the university.

### **6. Questions / Remarks**

NWO Talentendag (in Dutch) workshop in September on how to manage a career after the PhD, how to get scholarships.

PNN (promovendi network nl) is looking for a contact person in WU. Meeting once every 8 weeks, in Utrecht, on Friday afternoon (dutch)

It is not always clear for what kind of activities you can get credit points for your VLAG certificate and how many. It is for example unclear whether (and how many) credit points you get for organizing a PhD trip and preparing a presentation/poster for a conference. Vesna will clarify this.

**Next meeting: September 8th, 16h00 , Unitas    Nathalie 12/08/04**