

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

September 8th, 2004 (Unitas, 16h00-17h00)

**Present:** Sandra van der Graaf, Eline Klaassens, Elke Scholten, Yvonne Smolders, Ynte de Vries, Rinke Stienstra, Heidy den Besten, Nathalie Creusot.

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

Minutes of last time were modified for the website. A remark was added at the point 6 of the minutes about how much credit points are attributed for attending congresses, writing a literature overview, ... (1 cp = 40 hours). No points are attributed for organizing a PhD trip. There are still discussions between graduate schools to give the same number of cp for the same activities.

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

- News from VLAG

Chantal Doeswijk started working for VLAG in August as course coordinator.

The VLAG board meeting of September 2<sup>nd</sup> was cancelled.

VLAG is re-accredited by the KNAW for 6 years. There were some comments about the strategy of VLAG, the major issue concerning ethics. A course about ethics, organized together with other graduate schools, will be announced. An idea is also to include the ethics matter in other courses and not to organize a specific course on ethics. VLAG was as well advised to reduce the average PhD time from 5 to 4 years.

- Reasons for contract extension are being discussed in WPC

Is it possible to write down strict criteria for having an extension and who is going to pay? There should be money for it, but most of the groups have no money.

### **3. TSP will be compulsory in thesis?**

Rudy Rabbinge took the decision to include the TSP in our dissertation. This was accepted unanimously in all the graduate schools. But there is a shift in time for the PhD's who started before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 (21 cp not compulsory, "short TSP") or after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 (21 cp compulsory for money compensation to the lab, "long TSP"). Do we put the TSP when we do not have 21 cp or when the graduate school did not sign it? Is this issue strict? Elke will contact Rudy Rabbinge by e-mail to have answers to these questions. Yvonne will look for template or example and put it in the website. As well, this information on the TSP in the thesis dissertation should be present in the VLAG folder received by PhD's when they start.

### **4. New chair. Sandra will chair one more meeting in November and after quit as chair. New person for WPC meetings (same as chair?)**

In order to know what happens in WUR, the chair of the VLAG PhD council should also join the Wageningen PhD council as well (once a month). To discuss next meeting.

Ask PhD's from other labs to join the PhD council (PDQ, ...).

### **5. Questions / Remarks**

Ynte wonders whether Rudy Rabbinge listens to the opinion of PhD's (because we had another opinion about including TSP in our dissertations) .

**Next meeting: November 2nd, 16h00, Unitas**

**Nathalie 01/10/04**