Adopted 17 Feb 2015. Valid from 2015.1

Mandate for the Resource Allocations Committee for e-infrastructure

Background

UNINETT Sigma2 AS holds strategic and operational responsibility for the national e-infrastructure for research and higher education in Norway. The Research Council of Norway and Norwegian universities contribute to the long-term funding of this e-infrastructure. The services provided by the infrastructure include high-performance computing and data storage, as well as advanced support. In the following, these are collectively referred to as resources. The production of advanced support services takes place at the universities, whereas computation and storage services may either be provided by the universities themselves or by a third party.

The Research Council's share of the resources is regulated by a separate agreement between UNINETT Sigma2 and the Research Council. The Research Council's share shall be made available to all research carried out under the auspices of Norwegian research institutions. The funding is provided by research grants[1] or public grants, and is allocated by applications and evaluations based on scientific quality. Access to the resources may require applicants to cover part of the costs associated with operation of the e-infrastructure.

The board of UNINETT Sigma2 will appoint a resource allocations committee to allocate available resources. Universities contributing to the long-term funding of the e-infrastructure allocate part of the resources locally, in accordance with their collaborative agreement with UNINETT Sigma2.

Task

The committee shall prepare and maintain, subject to approval by the board of UNINETT Sigma2 AS, guidelines for application-based allocation, and ensure that resources are allocated in accordance with these guidelines.

The committee's guidelines shall comply with UNINETT Sigma2's strategy and the implementation of said strategy by allocating resources to research projects and research infrastructure. To promote increased utilization of the national e-infrastructure, new user groups shall take priority in the allocation of resources. The committee shall actively promote making research data accessible in accordance with Research Council guidelines. The remaining framework for the committee's work is regulated in agreements between the universities and UNINETT Sigma2.

The resources shall be made available to all disciplines, and, as a norm, allocations are made on the basis of applications. Applications are assessed on the basis of the project's scientific quality. The assessment takes into account the project's resource needs, and its ability to effectively utilize the resources for which it has applied. In assessing major applications, the committee may consult with external experts in the relevant discipline.

The committee shall annually prepare and present a report on its activities to the board of UNINETT Sigma2. The report shall include brief assessments of the quality of applications received, outcomes

---

[1] Grant research is a type of research where the institution receives funding from national or international sources, with no requirements of return services from the institution. Grants from public agencies, including directorates, the Research Council of Norway, regional research funds and the EU, are all classified as research grants, provided the agreement does not include requirements of return services.

of current projects, and future needs. This report will be incorporated as part of UNINETT Sigma2's annual reporting to the Research Council of Norway.

Composition

The composition of the committee shall reflect the need to cover key user groups. The committee chairman is responsible for summoning meetings and reporting. Committee secretariat responsibilities are handled by UNINETT Sigma2. The committee's members are appointed for a period of 3 years. Evaluation of the committee's work will be coordinated with evaluation of the national e-infrastructure.