

Minutes of Departmental Forum Meeting, 10.01.2014

Participants: Allan Würtz, Lars Relund Nielsen, Rainer Lueg, Casper Worm Hansen, Finn Schøler, Sune Lauth Gadegaard, Sofie Theilade Nyland Brodersen, Morten Krægpøth, Karin Vinding, Maren Grønæs Birkeland, Mette Hyldetoft Jensen, Christoffer Strandby, Malene Thygesen, Bibiana Paluszewska

Apologies received from : Stefan Hirth, Valdemar Smith

Moderator: Lars Relund Nielsen. Notetaker: Betina Sørensen

1. Approval of the agenda

Approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Approved.

3. Budget 2014 and the financial situation of the Department

Based on the current level of operation, the department budgets for the coming years must be improved as follows:

2014:	8.0 m DKK
2015:	3.2 m DKK
2016:	1.4 m DKK
2017:	-0.8 m DKK

Total:	11.8 m DKK

Allan went through the budget for 2014 and pointed out areas where we may increase income and reduce costs in order to balance the budget. He aims at continuing to develop our main activities and so, tries to find savings which are permanent and do not “hurt too much”. Retirements, senior arrangements and a potential cancellation of the payout of the 6th vacation week are also possible savings instruments. Dismissals should be avoided.

Further savings can be achieved through a reduction of the operational costs. An e-mail from Allan to the department on 23 December 2013 lists initiatives which have already been and will be set in motion; e.g. removal of the subsidy for the department lunch (saving round 250.000 DKK) and a lowering of the departmental funds for travel activities.

The effect of the new bachelor programme in Public Policy is not built into the budgets yet, but should also contribute to a higher income in the coming years (50 new students will generate appr a gross income of 1.5m DKK)

The suggestions for balancing the budget will be discussed in the Main Liaison Committee (HSU) and the Local Liaison Committee (LSU).

Finally, Allan will have a meeting with the student representatives in week 3 to discuss student initiatives e.g. try to lower dropout rates and higher graduate rates among the students.

Mette: Can't we rent out any space/rooms?

Allan: We don't own the buildings and cannot sublet unfortunately.

Rainer: Some external grants will not help if they have a certain clause about e.g. secretary assistance.

Allan: True, different grants have different effects on the department, but the Head of Department must sign the external grants and he will evaluate the overhead.

Rainer: It could be an idea to improve short term liquidity by publishing more scientific material. E.g. didactic material (a survey in class for example) which does not cost much effort.

Allan: An excellent idea but we must also make sure to have an eye on our long term research quality.

Morten: Will the reduction of the costs for teaching assistants affect the PhDs?

Allan: We expect to get more PhD-students.

Rainer: What is the plan at AU-level? Cut costs or increase money?

Allan: The AU-management has not finished its budgets yet and still has a meeting with HSU. However, the plan is to save 25m DKK/year in the AU-administration over the next 3 years.

4. Information from VIP/TAP/PhD/Students

Students:

Christoffer will resign and leave his seat for the new head of the Oecon Council (Oeconrådet).

The library is moving tables etc. in January and thus, unfortunately creating noise and lack of study room in the exam period. The summer period or during the semester is better for these activities.

TAPs:

The TAPs are somewhat concerned and waiting for 26 March when potential dismissals will be announced. Allan will address this issue again in a mail.

PhDs:

Bo Sandemann has sent out an e-mail letting the PhDs know that we do not expect dismissals among PhDs.

5. Information from Management

None.

6. Miscellaneous

Christoffer: The students should be allowed to study in the buildings during holidays.

Allan: The S-building should be open 24h/day. Allan will talk to Svend Søborg.