

**Date: 24 October 2019**

**Room: 2632-242**

**Meeting on: ECON Departmental Forum Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Participants:** Niels Haldrup (chairman), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Christel B. Mortensen, Jonas Nygaard Eriksen, Astrid Würtz Rasmussen, Benjamin Liengaard, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin

**Student members:** Katrine Studsgaard Albrechtsen, Bjørn Aagaard

**Excused:** Jan Bentzen, Charlotte Sparrevohn, Steen Andersen, Trine Munk-Olesen, Anders Clausen

**Moderator:** Sune Lauth Gadegaard

**Note taker:** Solveig Nygaard Sørensen

**Niels Haldrup**

Professor, Head of  
Department

Date: 4 November 2019

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### 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

### 2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (21 August 2019)

The minutes were approved. There was a request to receive the notes from last meeting's point on "Employee recognition". The notes will be added to this meeting's minutes.

### 3. Information from HoD

The HoD informed that Anja Zimmerdahl has been employed as new Head of Secretariat from 15 November 2019.

The HoD thanked for the comments and input for the university strategy paper and appreciated the importance and strong focus on the employees and the frames for a work/life balance as a requirement for the overall strategy plan to succeed. Comments and feedback from all departments at Aarhus BSS have been put together and a collective reply has been forwarded to the University management.

The HoD referred to the memo on "Employee recognition" and explained that the paper will be discussed in the department management team and provides an important input for a departmental action plan.

The HoD mentioned that the ECON White Paper 2019 (the strategy paper of the department) is being prepared and will be presented and discussed at the next DF-meeting. The HoD commented on the change in the department organisation with 3 sections in the future, which will have a more decentralized management via the establishment of section councils. The Economics section will consist of approx. 60 members, Accounting and Finance approx. 35, and Econometrics and Business Analytics approx. 40 members (excluding PhD students, RAs, and admin personnel). The HoD made a comparison with other

universities to put the size of the different sections in benchmark perspective. The organization changes of the sections are intended to provide extended delegation to the section heads, and to provide frames for responsibility and ownership of section members as well as to make more room for the HoD to focus on strategic planning.

#### **4. Change of standard rules**

The deputy chairman suggested that the standard rules for the DF should be changed because the department now consists of fewer sections.

The rules say that there must be one VIP from each section. The deputy head suggested that there should be 2 VIPs from each section, 8 in total. In this way, the different interests and fields of each section can continue to be represented and also it ensures that all position categories are represented within the department.

The deputy chairman mentioned that there are elections every two years alternating between sections and that the members themselves take care of that. If a member wants to leave the DF, he/she must find a replacement candidate.

The changes were unanimously approved.

#### **5. Budget**

The HoD reviewed this year's budget negotiations, where there will be an improvement mainly due to increased STÅ. For 2020, there are a number of precarious assumptions that depends on the upcoming Finance Act (Finanslov 2020). The HoD explained the different elements that might have an impact on the 2020 budget depending on what the government decides.

In general, the economy looks good. However, the department is much dependent on external funding, which funds several positions. Growth in external funds will continue to be of great importance for the situation of the departmental finances.

Lastly, the HoD explained how the distribution of basic research funds across BSS departments is constituted and has developed the past three years.

#### **6. New norm system**

The HoD explained the background and purpose of introducing a new norm system.

The various elements were discussed.

The Forum raised some issues regarding the incentive structure in the new norm system, e.g. by having the same price for grading exams regardless of the exam form, and how this could lead to only having exams which are easy to grade. The HoD explained that in the end it is the Study councils that decide on exam forms.

There was generally good support for the new system's general aim ("to support a general understanding that in a well-functioning department, there are besides research and

teaching numerous other tasks that need to be lifted and that we all need to contribute to”), but some of the specific concerns will be passed on to the ECON management team.

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#### **7. Information from student members**

There were no comments from the student representatives.

#### **8. AOB**

Next meeting takes place 12 December 2019, 14:00-15:00 in 2632-L242.