



Departmental Forum Meeting: 10 June 2021, 13:15-14:15
L-242 or via Zoom

Present:

Niels Haldrup (Chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Jonas Nygaard Eriksen, Timo Trimborn, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin, Nicola Maaser, Zeynep Yilmaz, Jørge Hansen, Anja Zimmerdahl, Steen Andersen, Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen, Helle Yde, Mads Jakob Vieland Jensen,

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Absent:

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Note taker:

Anne la Cour

Department of Economics
and Business Economics

Date: 10 June 2021

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (29 April 2021)

The minutes were approved.

3. News from HoD

The HoD started the meeting by welcoming the newly elected student representatives and there was a brief individual introduction of each DF-member.

The HoD briefly commented on the present AU media coverage and the fact that the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science has issued sharp critique of Aarhus University concerning the beef report affair back in 2019. The HoD commented that it is important that we have discussions about research practice and integrity in general. In the autumn, small workshops focusing on different research dilemmas will be organised at the departmental level.

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The HoD also commented briefly on the most recent news regarding the Government's proposal to relocate and decentralise several university study programmes in the major cities. This will affect research environments and students and staff. At this stage, initial discussions are taking place at the political level, and no one knows how and to what extent this will affect Aarhus University, the department and the educations in which we are involved. However, a significant cut in the student intake and positions as well is a risk.



4. Returning to Fuglesangs Allé

The HoD commented on the reopening agreement just announced by the Government (9 June) meaning that many of the restrictions that have applied for many months will be eased or lifted completely. This also includes more staff allowed on campus (14 June), and from 1 August all employees will be able to work onsite on campus again.

The HoD also mentioned that the department will host a “welcome back” Friday Bar in late August. Looking ahead it is important that there is a discussion about new ways of working and meeting, while at the same time emphasising that working and teaching physically on campus is the code of practice at ECON.

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5. Physical and mental workplace environment (according to annual cycle)

The deputy chairman suggested that DF members in collaboration with LSU could play an active role in collecting employee feedback about work habits and preferences from the past months. Based on this input, it would be possible to have a qualified discussion and provide feedback to the management group regarding the effects of the lockdown, on the ECON workplace environment and most importantly how to improve the post-pandemic workplace.

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It was agreed to schedule a meeting before the summer break, including the DF deputy chairman, The HoD and LSU employee representative, Karina Skovvang Christensen, will plan how to move forward.

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6. Input from student representatives

The student representatives added that this past lockdown period had been stressful to most students, and most students are looking forward to being able to meet on campus again and attend teaching onsite. It was also mentioned that the AU summer school courses have been very popular this summer, which might be due to a difficult spring semester.

The student representatives are looking forward to having discussions in the study boards about post-corona teaching and student environment.

7. Miscellaneous

Nothing to add