

**Departmental Forum Meeting: 24 February 2021, 14:00-15:00 via Teams**

**Minutes**

**Present:**

Niels Haldrup (Chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Jonas Nygaard Eriksen, Steen Andersen, Timo Trimborn, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin, Nicola Maaser, Trine Munk-Olesen, Zeynep Yilmaz, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Anja Zimmerdahl, Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen

**Absent:**

**Moderator:**

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

**Note taker:**

Anne la Cour

Department of Economics  
and Business Economics

Date: 24 February 2021

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**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (09 December 2020)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Constitution of the forum**

Sune was re-elected unanimously.

**4. News from HoD**

The HoD informed about the current situation and most recent news regarding the partial reopening of society announced by the Government on 24 February. At this point, there were no specific plans or news regarding the reopening of the universities.

The HoD informed the members of the changes to the management team, which have also been announced in a recent newsletter. Professor Claus Holm has stepped down as section head of the accounting and finance section. From 1 February the section is headed by Professor Thomas Quistgaard Pedersen. Associate Professor Malene Kallestrup-Lamb has become new coordinator for ECON's cand.merc. specializations, and in the capacity as cand.merc. coordinator, Malene has also become a member of the department management. Furthermore, associate Professor Kristina Risom Jespersen has joined the management team in her role as ECON Business Ambassador.

The HoD also briefly informed about news concerning curriculum-based scheduling, which will be in effect from spring 2022. It is expected that the new system will make the scheduling process more effective and especially it will ease the possibility to plan ahead. However, the system also has its drawbacks as it limits flexibility in scheduling.

Regarding recruitment and hirings, the deadline for all calls and levels have passed. 7-8 junior positions are expected, depending on the level of external funds. As mentioned at the last meeting, shortlisting is being used in the assessment process at associate professor level, which has also made it easier to recruit committee members. There were a few questions from the board members concerning the shortlisting process.

The HoD briefly commented on the local ECON stress report that was made by DF and LSU members before Christmas. The work environment at ECON and matters related to this subject are important, and management team expects that it will be possible to provide feedback on the report at the next DF meeting in late April.

As a closing comment, the HoD briefly mentioned the topic of research practice and freedom of research. Responsible conduct of research is a vital value and principle at AU, and this was emphasised at a recent AU management meeting. All departments were encouraged to have local discussions on this issue. This is likely to take place at section level based on different case material and presentations.

#### **5. Schedule for the strategy at AU level**

In the coming months and through 2021, Aarhus BSS will get a new strategy to chart the course for the next five years. The new strategy is prepared in close continuation of the overall strategy of Aarhus University and aims at establishing a framework for actions and initiatives across Aarhus BSS' six departments and faculty administration. The strategy draft will be going out for consultation at the faculty within a few weeks.

#### **6. Discussion point according to annual cycle process: Teaching and supervision quality.**

As an introductory remark, the HoD informed that the management team is currently processing the feedback on the employee experience with COVID-19 in 2020 discussed at the staff development dialogues (MUS) before Christmas.

With regard to teaching in particular, most DF members mentioned that on a general level, online teaching is working ok, and a few members added that online supervision especially has been working well and adds an element of flexibility for both students and teachers. However, all members expressed growing concern that most students find this period very difficult and challenging. Regarding the online exams, experience is mixed. Q/A sessions have worked well for some teachers, but in general there has been an increase in "no shows" for oral exams and suspicion of more students cheating at the written exams.

In the end, members shared experiences with online teaching and different ideas and ways to improve student interaction and relation despite being online.

### **7. Input from student representatives**

Student representative Katrine Albrektsen reported that more and more students, especially first-year students, are struggling as this uncertain and isolated period continues. [Please see appendix](#) (in Danish only).

### **8. Miscellaneous**

Nothing to add.

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