

Departmental Forum Meeting: 9 June 2022, 15:00-16:00

L-242

Minutes

Present:

Niels Haldrup (Chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Timo Trimborn, Jorge Hansen, Anja Zimmerdahl, Steen Andersen, Tobias Dreisler, Stefan Hirth, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Jonas Pilgaard Kaiser.

Absent:

Zeynep Yilmaz, Annia Hoffmeyer, Mads Jakob Vieland Jensen, Helle Yde, Thor Donsby Noe, Christel Brajkovic Mortensen, Nicola Maaser

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Department of Economics
and Business Economics

Note taker:

Anne la Cour

Date: 09-06-2022

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (5 April 2022)

The minutes were approved.

3. News from HoD

Referring to the [HoD newsletter from 10 June 2022](#), Niels Haldrup (NH) informed that the full split including the administrative reorganisation of the National Centre for Register-Based Research (NCRR) from the department is expected to be finalised by 1 August 2022. NH also referred to the ECON newsletter for a full list of new recruitments and promotions while underlining that external funding is vital for the department's ability to secure new positions.

NH also gave a short outline of the department's economy as well as the ongoing discussion about the changes to the BSS economy model. The current ECON 2022 budget includes a deficit of app. DKK 3m, which is slightly higher than what was expected at ØR1. NH explained that a number of outside factors have affected the budget. NH encouraged everyone to be reticent about operating expenses and where possible use external funding to cover travel expenses, conferences fees etc.

NH explained that there are ongoing discussions at the faculty management level about the future BSS economy model. Due to a political agreement made in 2021 about the termination of the Bibliometric Research Indicator (BFI), which has been used as a basis of distribution when allocating resources between BSS departments, a new economy model

must be decided. A discussion will take place in the faculty management team in the autumn 2022.

The Board at Aarhus University has recently adopted a [declaration on freedom of expression for staff and students at Aarhus University](#) which is intended to establish a set of core values that AU researchers and students can refer to when doing research and participating in academic debates. NH encouraged the members of the forum to read the declaration.

Lastly, NH mentioned that the dean of Aarhus BSS, Thomas Pallesen, will visit the department in the autumn. The place and date for the visit will be announced after the summer break.

4. Annual cycle – WPA (workplace assessment)

NH started by giving a short presentation and status on focus areas and initiatives following the 2019 WPA. In short, 3 key areas/action plans were identified in 2019: 1) Career development, 2) Appreciation, 3) Stress and well-being. Several initiatives have been started to address these areas. Please see written appendix for details ([link to PDF slides](#)).

Next, there was a discussion about the result of the 2022 WPA which was published in April. Generally, the report for the psychological WPA shows progress within several themes. However, the theme of stress and wellbeing is still an issue to be dealt with at the department. Kristoffer Holst Ibsen (KHI) mentioned that the PhD students in particular feel stressed and isolated. Jorge Hansen (JH) added that many young faculty members have expressed concerns about the relatively low level of physical attendance among senior colleagues which has a negative impact on daily departmental life and interaction.

NH replied that it is important that PhD students and young colleagues experience and feel a sense of belonging with the academic sections. NH also stressed that Aarhus University is an on-site campus, and the benefits of in-person and on-site interaction are of crucial value to ECON as a workplace. NH encouraged the members of the forum to continue the discussion of the WPA result and put forward themes and suggestions to include in the WPA action plan which is to be made in the autumn in collaboration with the local liaison committee.

5. News from the student representatives

Nothing to add.

6. Miscellaneous

Stefan Hirth asked about the handling of the “stripper case” at ‘the Kapsejlads’ in May. NH replied that he considered the case a matter of very bad judgement and that he had made his opinion clear in his statement in [Aarhus Stiftstidende](#). NH added that ‘the Kapsajlads’ is an event organised by the student organisations only.