

Departmental Forum Meeting 15 December 2022, 14:00-15:00

L-242

Minutes

Present:

Niels Haldrup (Chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Jorge Hansen, Anja Zimmerdahl, Stefan Hirth, Jonas Pilgaard Kaiser, Steen Andersen, Thor Donsby Noe, Christel Brajkovic Mortensen, Nicola Maaser, Timo Trimborn, Emil Martin Damgaard Christensen (stud. Oecon)

Absent:

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Department of Economics
and Business Economics

Date: 15-12-2022

Note taker:

Anne la Cour

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (1 November 2022)

The minutes were approved.

3. News from HoD

Niels Haldrup commented on the news about the new government and its government platform. It is expected that the policy proposal regarding halving the number of master's educations (expectedly primarily within the humanities and social sciences) to 1-year master's programmes is likely to come into effect in one way or another. The details are yet to be clarified, and NH referred to the document "Regeringsgrundlag: Ansvar for Danmark". There is also continued uncertainty regarding the extension of the increased education subsidy (det forhøjede taksametertilskud), and this affects not only ECON, but the entire university.

In connection with the follow-up process on the workplace assessment (WPA) that took place in the spring, PhD representatives from departmental forum had suggested different initiatives specifically concerning the PhD students and work environment (in October 2022). NH informed that this input has been forwarded to the section heads, and points have been noted. However, NH also mentioned that not every suggestion was durable, e.g., the proposal concerning a department lunch programme, as this has been tried before without success. In the new year, the arrangement of tables and chairs in the

department lunchroom will be changed for a period to see if this can enhance the potential for more dialogue and interaction between colleagues.

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4. Annual cycle; White Paper 2022

Stefan Hirth (SH) asked about the process for preparation of the white paper. NH replied that the white paper contributes to the strategic priorities made for Aarhus BSS in following years. Based on provided datasets, all department management groups are asked to provide an overview of the current situation at the department as well as future plans and activities. A few comments to the ECON White Paper 2022 were mentioned, e.g., specifically the paragraph about how to incorporate online elements in teaching and the possibility of changing the teaching format to an online format in case of short-term illness (incl. child's first sick day). NH replied that, as stated in the white paper, the department supports a bottom-up approach in incorporating online elements in teaching and where pedagogical benefits are expected. Online teaching can also be considered in ad-hoc cases and to release auditorium resources when necessary. Steen Andersen commented that flexibility still lacks in the administrative scheduling of classes.

One of the strategic priorities - to target and reduce the 1-year dropout – and different initiatives to reduce 1-year dropout were also discussed.

5. Plans and suggestion

Sune Lauth Gadegaard (SLG) announced that new members from the EBA section have been elected; Ata Jalili Marand and Eric Hillebrand. They replace SLG (presently Deputy Chairman) and Steen Andersen. In the ECO section, present members Nicola Maaser and Timo Trimborn have been re-elected for another term.

SLG suggested that the forum might revise the annual cycle and discuss the number and length of meetings when the forum meets and constitutes at the first meeting in 2023. It was also agreed that meetings should follow a different time cycle than the meetings in the Local Liaison Committee (LSU). At the constituent meeting, a new Deputy Chairman must also be elected by the members.

Following the suggestion of introducing department awards, a working group consisting of SLG, SH, Karina Skovvang Christensen, Karin Vinding and Timo Trimborn has made a detailed proposal and format of how to introduce awards at the department. Members can access the proposal on the forum's Teams/Sharepoint channel 'Departmental forum, Department of Economics and Business Economics' (see MISC folder). It was agreed to include "Department awards; next step" as an item on next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

7. News from the student representatives

No news from the student representative. Only Emil Martin Damgaard Christensen (oecon) was present. It has still not been possible to identify new members from the HA and cand. merc. programmes. It was decided to introduce a diploma signed by the head of department to document the work as a student representative. This might prove useful for the student

and his/her CV. Anja Zimmerdahl agreed to follow up on the preparation of such a document.

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8. Miscellaneous

On behalf of a few faculty members, Nicola Maaser asked about the possibility of getting digital subscriptions for newspapers instead of physical newspapers in the department lunchroom. NH replied that even though he understands the suggestion considering the digital time we live in, this is not an option due to considerable costs. It was mentioned that via WAYF (Where Are You From), all AU employees can access many different platforms including Infomedia.