

Departmental Forum Meeting: 22 February 2022, 14:30-15:30

L-242

Minutes

Present:

Niels Haldrup (Chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Karin Vinding, Timo Trimborn, Yorge Hansen, Anja Zimmerdahl, Steen Andersen, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Tobias Dreisler, Helle Yde, Thor Donsby Noe (substitute for Jonas Pilgaard Kaiser, Christel Brajkovic Mortensen

Absent:

Zeynep Yilmaz, Annia Hoffmeyer, Stefan Hirth, Nicola Maaser, Mads Jakob Vieland Jensen, Jonas Pilgaard Kaiser

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Department of Economics
and Business Economics

Date: 22-02-2022

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 (7 December 2021)

The minutes were approved. Kristoffer Holst Ibsen (KHI) suggested that a theme concerning the post-corona workplace is added as discussion/follow-up item on the agenda for the successive meetings in 2022. KHI stressed that from the perspective of the PhD students and junior faculty the importance of faculty working on campus is significant. In particular at seminars or presentations where PhD-students or other junior employees need feedback and support from senior faculty.

3. Constitution of the forum

Sune Lauth Gadegaard was re-elected as deputy chairman. The results of the vote were unanimous.

4. News from HoD

Niels Haldrup (NH) welcomed new members of the forum and presented a short summing up of the "Covid-19" situation since the beginning of the semester. A lot of people have had to isolate the last couple of weeks due to Covid infection, and where possible teaching staff have had the option to choose to convert to online teaching. It now seems that the pandemic is close to an end in Denmark as the population nears herd immunity. This also means that campus life is slowly returning, and all teaching activities, and most meetings and seminars, are now on-site. In continuation hereof, NH also referred to a [HoD newsletter](#)

sent out before the winter break concerning the results from the follow-up post corona work survey conducted in the autumn. NH emphasised 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. No departmental attendance policy is planned at present, but it is vital that all employees, both junior and senior faculty, contribute to the daily departmental life and interaction with colleagues.

NH also informed about the upcoming workplace assessment at AU, WPA 2022, and encouraged all staff to participate. All AU staff will receive an email with a link to a questionnaire on 28 February 2022. The survey ends on 11 March. In April, the WPA report is made available to all employees. After this, dialogue meetings and local follow-up activities will be initiated.

NH also briefly referred to the update sent out a few weeks ago concerning the financial situation of the department and the planned changes and considerations regarding the HA-BScB programme.

5. Annual cycle – Teaching and supervision quality, including

Aarhus BBS has recently published [a report on experiences and practices concerning digital teaching](#) at Aarhus BSS during the COVID-19 lockdowns. All BSS departments have been asked to provide two examples of particularly well-functioning online/digital teaching and NH encouraged the members of the forum to put forward any suggestions. Short learning videos of max. 10-15 min. were mentioned as successful, especially from a student perspective. It was mentioned that it takes quite a lot of time to produce a good and professional video. It was mentioned that it would be beneficial to have the technical facilities to prepare good professional videos. NH mentioned that this has also been mentioned at meetings with Centre for Educational Development and the Department of Management. NH promised to follow up on this. In relation to this, it was mentioned that the university should focus more on providing teaching staff guidance and training in online teaching focusing on methodology and pedagogical competences, not digital apps or other digital software. A few specific names of teachers who have had successful online/digital courses were mentioned.

6. News from the student representatives

Student representative, Helle Yde, mentioned that quite a lot of students still ask for online/hybrid teaching, and sometimes students choose electives based only on whether the course is offered as an online course or not. A member of the forum also mentioned that teaching staff still receive several enquiries from students who ask for hybrid/online teaching because the student is absent. It was suggested that the university/department policy on online teaching is communicated more clearly, e.g., on the staff portal, so teaching staff can refer to the same guidelines. This will be an item on the agenda for the next meeting with the ECON heads of studies.

7. Miscellaneous

Nothing to add.