

**Departmental Forum Meeting: 27 August 2020, 14:00-15:00
2632, L-242 and 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, Christel Brajkovic Mortensen, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin, Charlotte Sparrevoehn, Nicola Maaser, Trine Munk-Olesen, Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen

Absent:

Bjørn Aagaard, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Anja Zimmerdahl

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Department of Economics
and Business Economics

Note taker:

Anne la Cour

Date: 27 August 2020

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (11 June 2020)

Karin Vinding suggested that the joint consultation letter formulated by members from departmental forum and the local liaison committee was added as appendix to the minutes in order to reflect the discussion about the diversity action plan. Members agreed to add this and the minutes were then approved.

3. News from HoD

The head of department (HoD) introduced the meeting by welcoming staff and students and then briefly summarised the rules of restrictions that apply so far this semester due to COVID-19. The HoD emphasised that a range of measures have been initiated to make campus Fuglesangs Allé a safe workplace, and the management group has focus on the employees' safety. The HoD informed that further information, e.g. i) guide to streaming equipment, ii) sanitising instructions and iii) how to react if guidelines are not respected and other guidelines will be sent to all employees shortly. Department forum members asked specifically how students consent to streaming, and the HoD replied that by being physically present in the lecture room, the students automatically consent. The HoD also added that students have been informed about the campus behaviour guidelines and sanitising instructions via Blackboard and A3 posters have been placed in hallways and lecture rooms.

4. Workload balance

Via Sune Lauth Gadegaard (SLG), some members of junior faculty staff have raised the question of workload during the COVID-19 pandemic and have asked what impact does this have on the expectations concerning research given the large amount of preparation for teaching several different versions of the fall courses. The HoD replied that there is a general awareness that this is an extraordinary situation for everyone. The COVID-19 situation does not change the general policy of offering optimal conditions and flexible solutions for junior staff at the department.

5. Discussion point according to annual cycle: Recruitment

The HoD informed that the department is following the regular schedule for hirings and in the coming newsletter, the HoD will announce three full professorships with effect from 1 September. During the autumn, more postings will be published including a full professorship in Business Economics, associate professorships and within different areas in junior positions. The HoD added that the management team is currently looking at the teaching needs for the coming semesters and recruitment must be prioritised accordingly. SLG asked whether there has been focus on new employees who have arrived within the last 3-5 months. The HoD replied that section heads have been in regular contact and also encouraged section colleagues to welcome new staff, e.g. by virtual meetings. A department member also asked about the rules for visitors on campus, and it was concluded, that for now, seminars etc. with external visitors must be in virtual format.

6. Visit rector Brian Bech Nielsen on October 1, 2020

The HoD informed that rector will visit the department as part of his annual round of visits at the departments. At the meeting, there will be a dialogue with the department members and department forum members were encouraged to suggest subjects and questions to discuss at the meeting. It was decided that SLG will gather the input passed on from section members and then forward this to the HoD.

7. Input from student representatives

From the students' perspective, Katrine Studsgaard Albrechtsen stated that there has been a general feeling of uncertainty and frustration in terms of the level of communication about teaching and especially the format of teaching. The HoD agreed that this is difficult time for students as well as staff and it is necessary to consider carefully how to plan for teaching in 2021 and onwards.

8. Miscellaneous

Timo Trimbom asked whether it will be possible to choose from other PC/laptops brands due to numerous experiences with poor quality batteries. The HoD replied that the department (and AU) must comply with the rules governing public procurement and that the purchasing agreements made for this period are fixed.