

Date: 17 February 2020

Room: 2632-242

Meeting on: ECON Departmental Forum

Minutes

Present:

Niels Haldrup (chairman, Head of Department), Sune Lauth Gadegaard (Deputy Chairman), Charlotte Sparrevohn, Karin Vinding, Jonas Nygaard Eriksen, Steen Andersen, Nicola Maaser, Timo Trimborn, Trine Munk-Olesen, Benjamin Liengard

Absent:

Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen, Bjørn Aagaard, Christel B. Mortensen, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin

Moderator:

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Note taker:

Solveig Nygaard Sørensen

Observer:

Anja Zimmerdahl

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (12 December 2019)

The minutes were approved.

3. News from HoD/Chairman

The Head of Department informed about changes in the management team: Bo Sandemann Rasmussen will be Head of Section for the new Economics Section. Bo Sandemann Rasmussen's position as Head of Studies – Oecon will be handed over to Michael Svarer on 1 March 2020. Bo Sandemann Rasmussen still holds the position as Deputy Head of Department.

The HoD briefed on the plans for the new curriculum based course scheduling system. Until the new system is implemented, there will be a temporary pilot experiment on Fuglesangs Allé in order to attempt to better meet the various (soft) schedule constraints of individual teachers. The pilot experiment will be based on a sequential procedure where a first schedule is made based on known hard constraints

which will then be followed by a second round where it is seen whether soft constraints can be accommodated. The management of the department decides on what can be considered soft constraints.

The HoD informed about the upcoming wage negotiations which will take place in the period from 3 to 24 February 2020. He reported that there are limited funds in this year's pool for wage improvements. He explained that the management team had considered moving the pool to next year, as it is a major administrative task to start, but in the end it was decided to schedule the wage negotiations as originally planned.

4. Discussion point according to annual cycle

a. Teaching and supervision quality including student satisfaction

The HoD referred to the 2019 report "Uddannelsesrapport – Aarhus BSS". He explained the procedures for quality assessment of the different education programmes at Aarhus BSS based on the yearly status evaluations and the more thorough education evaluations that take place every 5th year. Material was distributed which contains the detailed contents of the various assessment criteria.

Unfortunately, none of the student members were present at the meeting to provide the students' view on the evaluation procedures.

5. First year drop-out rates

The HoD underscored that one of the bullet points in the department and Aarhus BSS strategy for 2020 is to continue efforts to reduce the first year drop-out rates. He found that the DF meetings are a good forum to discuss this important issue and he encouraged all members to bring the focus area forward to their respective sections for future discussions in the DF.

The HoD would also appreciate that students participate actively in this discussion. The HoD will contact the various study councils and ask these to put focus on first year drop-out rates and to provide a document of proposals to bring down first year drop-out rates. In particular, the importance of having the student representatives participate in delivering input for the debate was emphasized.

The point was followed by a general discussion about the topic and some of the issues that were raised are listed below:

- Admittance degree grade
- Desired drop out vs. undesired drop out
- Important that we communicate properly about requirements when enrolling in degree programs, particularly with respect to the math requirements that are expected.

- The change from high school to university is difficult – can we support students better with help from a senior student in order to make the transition period more smooth?
- Course for new students to learn and understand the techniques of being a university student?
- Can we engage new students to hook them and make them understand what research based teaching means?
- Math skills is in focus – how can we accommodate lack of skills? Can we learn from the CBS experience?
- How can we make students more aware of what the requirements are in relation to being a student in a university?

The HoD rounded up the agenda point and repeated that when input is received from the study councils, the discussion should be continued in the DF.

6. Climate Strategy of Aarhus University

AZ briefly presented the climate strategy for AU. Feedback related to the text of the document can be sent to Sune Lauth Gadegaard, who will forward it to AZ and will prepare a departmental feedback regarding the hearing.

Some input that can be included in the hearing reply was recorded and will be included in the final hearing document.

7. Input from student representatives

There were no comments to this point.

8. Miscellaneous

It was mentioned that there are considerable difficulties in obtaining timely legal advice for cooperation agreements and contracts from TTO. The time to handle requests are simply too long.

The HoD is fully aware of the problem and is presently in a dialogue with TTO. He promised to continue the pressure and dialogue with the appropriate bodies and to stress the resource needs that seem to be present.

Next meeting takes place 22 April 2020, 13:00-14:00 in 2632-L242.