

**Departmental Forum Meeting: 28 October 2020, 14:00-15:30**  
**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 Trimbom, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Christel Brajkovic Mortensen, Alexander Overdal Kjærsgaard Marin, Nicola Maaser, Trine Munk-Olesen, Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen, Kristoffer Holst Ibsen, Anja Zimmerdahl

**Absent:**

Bjørn Aagaard, Charlotte Sparrevohn

**Moderator:**

Sune Lauth Gadegaard

Department of Economics  
and Business Economics

Date: 28 October 2020

**Note taker:**

Anne la Cour

Page 1/2

**Guest:** Tobias Alsted Nielsen, CEL

**1. Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes from last meeting (28 August 2020)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Introduction to the role as LMS user-group**

Tobias Alsted Nielsen (TAN) introduced the university's new learning platform Brightspace. According to TAN, AU expects that the new system will be ready for an initial implementation period in selected courses in the spring of 2021, and in the autumn semester 2021, the system will be fully implemented. Also, a number of working groups which are broadly composed of representatives from the administrative and academic environments as well as the teaching development centres will participate in the implementation of the platform.

**4. News from HoD**

The head of department (HoD) gave a short update on the current COVID-19 infection numbers at BSS. The HoD also explained that the latest official requirement stating that wearing a face mask in public areas is mandatory does not apply to the office corridors at Fuglesangs Allé, and you will need an access card to enter buildings where staff offices are

located. The HoD encouraged teaching staff to reschedule supervision meetings to online meetings.

The HoD briefly commented on the principles set for the scheduling of teaching in the spring semester 2021, which are very similar to the principles for the autumn semester. To the extent possible, the planning office will not schedule onsite and online teaching on the same day in order to avoid low attendance for onsite teaching activities. Experience shows that less students show up for onsite teaching activities when attending online lectures the same day. Student representative, Katrine Studsgaard, agreed that this was a correct observation. Lastly, the HoD informed about the coming job openings at the department and added that the Excelsior system is now accessible to all VIP and only minor corrections are still to be made.

#### **5. Discussion point according to annual cycle: Budget 2021**

The HoD informed about the budget for 2021.

#### **6. Employee recognition – update on the process**

The HoD gave an update on the process of improving and focusing on the employee recognition and appreciation at the department. The management group has consulted with AU HR on how to encourage a more appreciative work environment. A voluntary workshop for employees by AU HR is in the planning. Participants will mainly be employees in supervisory functions, but the process in general will involve all employees at all career levels in all sections. The HoD also commented on the specific suggestions that have been put forward in the joint document from LSU/DF.

#### **7. Input to the needs and required services from AU Library**

Different procedures for suggesting subscriptions to new journals were discussed.

#### **8. Input for ECON strategy for 2021 based on KPIs**

Online teaching was mentioned as an important element to consider in the future and to evaluate on the effect on students both as regards wellbeing and dropout rates. The HoD encouraged DF members to suggest other topics by email.

#### **9. Input from student representatives**

From the students' perspective, Katrine Studsgaard Albrektsen mentioned that the students are concerned about the exams. In general, there is a feeling of uncertainty and frustration. Many students are worried about the fact that the format of exams can be changed at a short notice – especially oral exams. The HoD agreed and promised to bring this point forward.

#### **10. Miscellaneous**

Sune Lauth Gadegaard (SLG) reminded that NCRR is only represented by one staff member and ideally two employees from NCRR should be represented.