

**Meeting date:** 10 June 2021, 16:15- 18:45

**Meeting place:** ZOOM

**Meeting subject:** Academic Council

**Attendees:**

**Attendees:** Anne Jensen (AJ/ENVS), René Gislum (RG/AGRO), Jens Malmkvist (JM/ANIS), Björn Andresen (BJA/ECE), Annette Baattrup-Pedersen (ABP/BIOS), Hanne Lakkenborg Kristensen (HLM/FOOD), Søren Wandahl (SWA/CAE), Thomas Lykke-Møller Sørensen (TLMS/BCE), Martin Heide Jørgensen (MHJ/MPE), Emre Karaman (EKA/QGG), Ozgenur Coskun (OC/FOOD), Ahmad Madary (AMA/TAP), Stine Wendelbo BJORHOLM (SWB/TAP), Louise Fischer Koue (LFK/TAP)  
Stine Munkholm Jespersen (SMJ/stud.), , Frederik Both Rokkjær (FBR/stud.)  
Mie Lundgaard (MLU/Tech DKN), Brian Vinter (BVI), Hanne Vester Rasmussen (HVR/ADM), Ida Marie Gerdes (IMG/minutes)

**Apologies for absence:**

Maria Holst Kjeldsen (MHK/ANIS) (maternity leave); Dean Eskild Holm Nielsen (EHN), Anne Kirstine Heilskov Rasmussen (AKHR/stud)

**Agenda:**

**1. Approval of agenda and minutes from meeting 5 March and 13 April.**

Agenda and minutes were approved.

**2. Economy Report 1 (ØR1)**

Peder Damgaard presented the economy report 1 (ØR1) which was circulated in the Council before the meeting.

The equity of the university will cover the deficit in the engineering department in order to finance the bootstrapping following the necessary growth of staff in the engineering departments.

The two percent annual reduction in public finances in is still effective within public consultancy. For teaching, it has been cancelled. The expectation, however uncertain, is that it will be targeted during the negotiations in the process leading to this year's National Budget. The departments conducting public consultancy with state agencies should be careful to limit activities and deliveries as specified in the contract.



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**3. New model for PhD enrollment and financing** (Brian Vinter, head of PhD school, Vice-Dean for talent development)

Brian Vinter presented the new model:

- The enrollment of the student and employment have been separated.
- The employment is under the premise that the PhD student is accepted into the school (GSTS).
- The model is used by most other Danish universities and graduate schools.
- Full funding of the PhD scholarship must be in place before the advertisement for the PhD position can be posted.
- The model is close to the model for hiring postdocs.
- The PhD budget has been reduced from 35M to 20M. Previously the budget more or less covered all qualified candidates. This is not possible anymore due to the reduced budget. Instead, the co-financing will come as a PhD bonus of DKK 200.000 (in total) directly to the department the year following successful completion of the PhD study. The model will give the departments a possibility to plan their PhD budget.
- The departments must decide for themselves if they will pass the money on to the project or keep them and use them for strategic purposes.
- GSTS will no longer have four annual calls.
- PhD positions can be advertised continuous.
- Brian Vinter asked the Academic Council to spread the word that the administration needs time to adopt to the new model and thus things might take some time in the next app. six months.
- The bonus is only paid for PhD students who pays tuition

AJ had a comment that the 1/3 was a large incentive to hire PhDs when applying for external funding. Brian commented that research funding agencies look more into the commitment than into the budget. The 1/3 is not a requirement and there is no rule stating that the university should cover more than 10%. Brian is also working on making a set of basic prices jointly with KU, which will be send to the funding agencies in order for them to pay the full 44% overhead. If not, the tuition fee will be increased.

JM asked for the timing, and Brian replied that very often the departments ask for the co-financing in the last year of the PhD student, so on average the financing from the faculty is only pushed one year.

**4. Co-operation across departments and faculties** (Task group)

The council discussed the item in groups and it was agreed that the chairs of the groups will make a follow up with recommendations that will be circulated in the council before sending them to the Dean.

## 5. Criteria for assessment committee members (AJ and BV)

The item links to discussions in the former Academic Council and the ST/Tech sub-Council.

The material sent from HR is sometimes insufficient and it is of varying quality. AR needs the correct material in order to be able to assess whether suggested members are qualified to make the assessment of the candidates. Four things are needed: CV (link), justification, additional information on conflict of interest and affiliation to the department (internal members: not member of the leadership) (external members: independent of the department).

SW mentioned that the “reasoning/justification part” of the material is of very varying quality, some are good but some are too poor. The Academic Council should do something such that the departments and HR pay more attention to “the reasoning part”.

AJ mentioned that the reason why this is important is to avoid nepotism and to make sure that we have open applications in order to attract the best candidate.

AJ suggested that the Dean and Brian Vinter request that the departments and HR make sure to provide the material needed for the Academic council to approve the assessment committees.

HL mentioned that the H-index should still be provided. Web of Science and Google scholar are two different indicators. It would be informative to get both.

AJ mentioned that transdisciplinary high-ranked journals are not necessarily listed in Web of Science which is problematic at our faculty with interdisciplinary research. AJ encouraged Brian Vinter to ask the HR department for providing both H-index from Google Scholar and Web of Science.

HL mentioned that it shouldn't stand alone and AJ added that H-index varies across disciplines.

HV mentioned that the administration must make sure that this can be conducted consistently.

BV mentioned that until a set of ABC criteria for hiring teachers for the diploma engineer programmes are ready, we will continue the practice with having both one from the industry and one from academia represented in the assessment committee. Recently there have been problems that qualified candidates have been assessed not qualified, which is problematic and must not happen.

## 6. AU policy for research integrity (AJ)

AU Policy for research integrity, freedom of research and responsible conduct of research at Aarhus University was adopted in August 2019 and presents AUs approach and actions to comply with the national codex. There have been some concerns at some of the other AU faculties on part of the policy (chapter 3).

Professor Dorthe Berntsen has identified conflicts with the University's ownership to data, and that the data belongs to the university and must be kept in a safe place and that it must not be shared without a written permission from head of department. There is no doubt that the data belongs to the university but it is the researchers right to use the data that is at stake. Furthermore, this may impede ongoing publications, especially in cases of shifts in jobs, which can be critical for junior researchers in the process of building CVs and publication portfolios. The interest of the university is better protected than the interest of the researchers.

Dorthe Berntsen has consulted the Udvalget til Beskyttelse af Videnskabeligt Arbejde /The Committee for the Protection of Scientific and Scholarly Work (UBVA), which has conducted a legal assessment of the AU Policy relative to national rules on freedom of research and intellectual property rights for data. (Note after meeting: The assessment of UBVA is attached as appendix with these minute).

Aarhus BSS has sent a request to the AU University Board to change the policy. AJ suggested the Council support this request. It is especially a problem for young researchers PhDs, postdocs.

JM mentioned that there is a dilemma: If a researcher in a project stops and takes the data with him/her what will happen to the project. The question is whether the data – and use of data – is linked to the person or the project.

BV mentioned that there are some legal regulations (GDPR, patent laws) that AU must follow, where it is the university and not the researcher or project who owns the data. There is no singular owner of data in most cases. Brian suggested that before a project is started an agreement is made stating that if you leave the project or the university you can get a copy of the data.

The Council agreed to express support for the change of the Policy formulations suggested revision suggested by the BSS and sent to the AU Board.

## 7. Covid19

*What are the instructive experiences and good lessons learned? What should be passed on?*

The instructive experiences mentioned were:

- Recorded online lessons is great help for students, if you miss something during the lesson
- For some fora, the online format is very good (shorter meetings with e.g. people in Bruxelles, people at many different locations, short information meetings. In the future it should be considered if it is worth travelling for a meeting or if it could be conducted online
- Departments divided in different locations can have meetings online where all staff members get the same information at the same time without having to travel between different locations
- When working on proposals the meetings with screen sharing has been very good
- The administration is easier to reach online

## **8. Preparation of the Academic Council chairs' meetings with university management and board**

*(Appendix: Report – draft version)*

The Council was asked for comments on the report before the deadline. The report will be circulated before deadline.

The Council was encouraged to come up with suggestions for topics for the meetings with the university management and the board. It was mentioned that topics for the meeting with the university management could be suggested at the next meeting, but after the meeting it has been clear that the deadline for topics must be send to Anne Jensen beforehand, and no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> (note that the topics discussed with the university management are usually the same topics that will be presented to the Board).

## **9. Seminar at Sandbjerg Gods in September**

The seminar takes place on 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September. AJ outlined the frame for the seminar where there is one overall topic, group work and Brian introduces with a state of the university speech. The seminar is very fruitful and AJ encouraged everybody to attend. The chairs from the five academic councils have suggested that the theme should be research integrity, freedom of research and research practice with a focus on three specific aspects (“culture”, “funding” and “the managements role in ensuring freedom of research integrity”).

## **10. Announcements**

- *10a: PhD degrees since last meeting (appendix)*

There were no comments for the item.

- *10b: Call for candidates for Honorary doctorates (appendix)*

The council members were asked to support the departments in finding candidates. On the next meeting in Academic Council the council must select candidates.

- *10c: Årlig afrapportering Ansvarlig forskningspraksis/ Annual reporting responsible conduct of research (appendix)*

There were no comments for the item.

- *10d: Normer for rekruttering/Standards for recruitment (in Danish only) (appendix)*

TLMS noticed that with regard to young scientists/early career we seem to recruit more internally than externally. Should we do something about this? Does it reflect weak connections to the outside world? TLMS noticed that the Academic council should keep an eye on this.

- *10e: Action plan 2022, AU strategy 2025 (appendix)*

There were no comments for the item.

- *10f: Government's relocation plan*

BV mentioned firstly that it is still subject to national negotiations prior to final decided policy. Furthermore, that the 10% reduction of students happens at the same speed as the population goes down. Secondly it must be noticed that for the time being, it is not a reduction of the tech area that is wanted. BV mentioned that for now we should wait and see the economy and what else happens in the discussions.

## 11. AOB

AJ mentioned that Jens Malmkvist has been suggested as member for the research practice committee. Niels Bohse Hendriken and Poul Henning Kirkegaard were suggested as substitutes.

AJ thanked the council for a good meeting.