

Aarhus Universitet

Meeting	Forum	Time	Place	Meeting #
6 September 2022	Academic Council	16:15-18:45	1525-626	2022-4

Participants	<p>Dean Eskild Holm Nielsen (EHN), Anne Jensen (ANJ/ENVS), René Gislum (REG/AGRO), Björn Andresen (BJA/ECE), Annette Baattrup-Pedersen (ABP/BIOS), Hanne Lakkenborg Kristensen (HLM/FOOD), Thomas Lykke-Møller Sørensen (TLS/BCE), Martin Heide Jørgensen (MHJ/MPE), Emre Karaman (EMA/QGG), Maria Holst Kjeldsen (ANIS)</p> <p>Ahmad Madary (AHM/TAP), Louise Fischer Koue (LFK/TAP)</p> <p>Stine Munkholm Jespersen (SMJ/stud.), Aske Høj Merrild (AHM/stud.), Emil Lunau Bentsen (EWLB/stud.)</p> <p>Brian Vinter (BVI/Tech dekn), Hanne Vester Rasmussen (HVR/ADM)</p>
Apologies for absence	Mie Lundgaard (MLU/Tech DKN), Jens Malmkvist (JEM/ANIS), Søren Wandahl (SWA/CAE), Hadi Sehat (HAS/ECE), Stine Wendelboe Bjorholm (SWB/TAP)
Guests	Peder Damgaard (Item 3)
Minutes	Ida Marie Gerdes (IMG)

Item #	Time	Item and appendices	Owner
1	16:15-16:20	Approval of agenda	AJ
<p>The agenda was approved. PhD student Maria Holst Kjeldsen was (re)-introduced in the council. She has been appointed instead of Özgenur Coskun, who has handed in her PhD. Maria has previously been member of the council.</p>			
2	16:20-16:25	Approval of minutes	AJ
Minutes were approved.			

Item #	Time	Item and appendices	Owner
3	16:25-17:15	Economy	EHN Peder Damgaard
<p>The Council should have discussed principles for the economic model but due to changes in the way we contribute to the central economy at AU, the discussion of Tech principles has been postponed. The current principles and model will be used throughout 2023.</p> <p>AU is facing a downward adjustment of the economy particularly related to financial (mandatory investment of the equity) losses and the rise in energy prices.</p> <p>Peder Damgaard presented the current economic situation at AU: The development in equity; the financial records; further downgrades due to the energy prices; the declining STÅ revenue; and the national budget proposal. Peder Damgaard then presented the corrective actions: Actions for energy savings, postponement of construction and renovation of buildings; and the partial hiring freeze.</p> <p>Peder Damgaard then presented and described the energy savings and went through the rising energy prices (graph), including how we can reduce the energy consumptions, and which reduction initiatives that have been decided: Night and weekend closure of buildings (06 pm-06 am); Clean-up in freezing and cooling facilities; reduction of number of active units; behavioral regulation in the use of lights; printers, coffee machines AV, appliances, machines, shutdown of equipment that is rarely used, such as a mobile</p>			

phone, equipment with vacuum pumps, adjustment of hallway and office lighting for short active periods; If possible, shutdown of greenhouses, climate cabinets and finally higher temperatures in air conditioned rooms and cold rooms and lower temperatures in the winter period.

The long-term energy initiatives were: Continue to establish automation for behavioral regulation of buildings, infrastructure and equipment, Continue optimization of equipment and experimental setups, Increase self-production of energy; Solar cells where possible, Increase heat recycling in buildings, Applying external sources of heat recycling, Cooperation with energy suppliers on utilization of surplus heat and production.

There are saving projects within energy, buildings, administrative areas, operational costs and travel expenses.

It is very important to maintain the momentum/consumption on external funds to ensure overhead income and coverage of fixed cost to the departments

Questions/Comments:

- Will there be open buildings where the students can meet in the closing hours? – The Dean answered that we will look into this, but many buildings will be closed.
- Will we not be able to use our access cards/are we not allowed to enter the closed buildings or how will it be implemented? – The Dean answered that it will be different from building to building. The Heads of department and technicians will look into the options/implementation. Some facilities cannot be locked down at all. We have to make sure that we do these savings the right way.
- What is the “maneuver room” – some investments cost a lot? Peder Damgaard replied that it is possible since the investment can be spread over 5-10 years.
- The Dean mentioned that there is a preservation plan for the yellow buildings in Aarhus. This means that there will be definite restrictions of what we can change, but we can optimize the use of energy the buildings in Katrinebjerg, Foulum, Flakkebjerg and Risø.
- It was mentioned that some of the initiatives could be in Klimahandleplan - The Dean agrees and anticipates that some of the initiatives come into to Klimahandleplanen 2023 and thinks that we should focus on lowering the CO₂ emission.
- It was urged that we must find green, not black solutions.
- Brian Vinter mentioned that it is not a solution to reuse heat from electricity for energy as the electricity is too expensive.
- The Dean described the consumptions we have at the faculty and mentioned that at the FOOD hub in Skejby, the solar panels can produce 3% of the needed energy (1 M KWH). The Dean hopes that the AU Viborg will be carbon neutral and that a pipeline project in Flakkebjerg will also have a great impact on the energy consumption there.
- BVI mentioned that we look into moving all high-performance computing in to a cloud service that has a better electricity deal and other benefits
- In the situation we are in now it is very important to use grant cleverly
- All departments should have a strategy for spending the money in a clever way

- There is a concern about hiring, but you can hire people on external funding and if a hiring makes the economy better this year there is good chances for being able to hire. The hiring situation is depending on the department's economic situation

After this Peder Damgaard presented the budget 2022-2026, and mentioned:

- Building costs will increase in 2022 and 2023, particularly due to increased energy costs
- Energy costs are assumed to fall in the long term, but these are uncertain figures.
- Energy costs will be affected by our adaptability to implement energy saving initiatives and by market developments in prices.
- Faculty shared costs and pools is reduced from 2023. This is due to the phasing-in of the new PhD bonus model. In the new model fewer finance act funds are allocated to PhD co-financing than present.
- Contribution to AU increases for two reasons: Tech's volume is increasing more than that of the other faculties and this implies that TECH's contribution amount to a higher share
- From 2024, AU introduces new principles for how the contribution to AU is distributed between faculties.
- The new principles apply an immediate increase for Tech of DKK 16-18 million.
- At two other faculties (Arts and BSS), the new principles imply that their share will be reduced from 2024.
- From 2024, Tech will receive additional basic research funding from Arts and BSS to compensate for the contribution increase due to the change in principals
- From 2024, the faculties will pay 12.4% of its turnover in contributions to AU. This also applies to departments turnover from external projects that holds no overhead.
- Tech is growing in volume in both research and education, and this generates increasing basic research revenues and education revenues.
- Income from veterinary education is not included in the figures.
- The USM pool supplements with basic research funding for the engineering area
- For the public sector consultancy funds, the 2% reduction is expected to end but this is not certain

It was suggested that the members of the Council should write to Anne with suggestions for the financial principles for Tech, apart from the ones that have been mentioned before (simple transparent model, a structure that benefits the people that are doing well (??), a positive incentive structure). Must also consider how to accommodate to the general costs of having a faculty and an administration. We must also have a plan for our investments.

It was decided to have the discussions on a future meeting, and this could include a discussion of what does it mean that a department is performing well? What do we want to award and stimulate?

The Dean stressed that the situation is in control, but we all need to contribute. We need to do the savings that we have discussed and planned. It is also important that we use our external funding and have discipline in our budgets. We expect a deficit this year but expect a surplus in the years to come. We need to rebuild our equity.

4	17:15-17:25	Honorary Doctorates - CONFIDENTIAL discussion Appendices: Nominations	AJ
<p>The nomination itself is confidential. It was decided that at the meeting in February the council must discuss procedures for discussion and final selection of the nominated candidates. The awarding of honorary doctorates is a very good way to solidify and expand network with high-ranking candidates. All in the Council are encouraged to nominate candidates.</p>			
	17:25-17:35	BREAK	
5	17:35-17:45	Sandbjerg seminar	AJ

		Appendix: Programme	
<p>Anne introduced the item and mentioned that the theme for the Seminar is Evaluation of Research, and how this can be used to as an opportunity to improve the research and the research environment.</p> <p>It was suggested to have a meeting in the Council at Sandbjerg after the seminar, but the students can't participate due to teaching, so it is not an option.</p>			
6	17:45-18:10	<p>Research practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A) Research practice and freedom of research • B) Please don't steal my work – task group • C) Annual reporting from The Research Practice committee and the advisors – appendices A + B (in Danish only) 	AJ/EHN/BV
<p>Anne introduced the item which is divided into item A, B, C. as mentioned in the agenda.</p> <p>A) Anne Jensen mentioned that the AU Management has decided that the individual departments from now on has a duty to keep a focus on the responsible conduct of research. Anne Jensen also mentioned that it has been decided that the Academic Councils must do an annual follow up on local initiatives, and make a report from the Faculty to the University Management. Brian Vinter mentioned that the Faculty Management has decided that all VIP staff members must take the research practice course every fifth year, and that all new staff members must take the course, when they start at AU. The Dean mentioned that it is important to have a good research practice culture within the research groups and that we secure an ongoing discussion and alignment of expectations when we get new colleagues. Anne Jensen mentioned that it is important that the research groups work with this, what it means, perhaps pick up on experiences about what makes a difference. Brian Vinter mentioned that a course could be followed up by a seminar, and also mentioned that the Ministry has been asked to look if the Danish Code of Conduct ("Det Danske kodeks for integritet i Forskning") needs an update.</p> <p>B) Brian Vinter stated that the Faculty must have a procedure for handling #pleasedon'tstealmywork. Even though we have no don't-steal-my-work cases as far as Brian Vinter knows, it is important to have a procedure to avoid future cases. There are different cultures at the Faculty and it is important that the rules fit into the traditions within the field. The Dean mentioned that it is important that the different departments discuss the Vancouver Declaration at the departments.</p> <p>A working group is under appointment and the council must appoint one member. Björn Andresen was appointed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the document should be sent to the students and PhD students in the council for commenting.</p> <p>C) The council has received the Annual reporting from The Research Practice committee and the advisors as appendices. Annette Baattrup-Pedersen gave a presentation about the work of the Advisor Group on the responsible conduct of research and freedom of research, and Anne Jensen shared some comments from the research practice committee, since Jens Malmkvist was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p><u>Comments/questions:</u> You can be an acknowledged author if you have provided a lot of data. The Dean mentioned that it is very important to discuss the culture within the research group and that if you have been developing methods and facilities you should be part of reviewing the article. Annette Baattrup-Pedersen stressed that the cases she has seen are far from #pleasedon'tstealmywork, the cases are not at that level at all. The Dean also mentioned that it is important to be a good colleague if there are accusations against someone at the department as it creates a lot of uncertainty. Anne Jensen paid attention to the fact that the rules are also here to protect us and our work.</p>			

7	18:10-18:15	Appointments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two AU Advisers for responsible conduct of research and freedom of research (Tech) • One member for the AU Research Practice Committee 	AJ
<p>Bo Melander and Annette Baattrup-Pedersen were reappointed as advisors for the responsible conduct of research and freedom of research.</p> <p>Preben Kidmose were reappointed as member to the Research practice committee.</p>			
8	18:15-18:20	AU election November 2022	AJ
<p>Anne Jensen mentioned that the AU election in November is only for students, as students are up for election every year. She also thanked Stine, Aske and Emil for their participation so far. She also encouraged the students to give feed-back on how we can engage students. All ideas on this can be send to Anne or Ida.</p> <p>Aske mentioned that it is important that the teachers let the students know about the election. Stine would like to send some comments to us.</p> <p>Anne Jensen encouraged that the VIP members of the Council also remembers to tell students about the election and the possibility of being involved.</p> <p>The Dean mentioned that it is a good idea to have a prioritized list so we have substitutes if someone leaves the Council.</p>			
9	18:20-18:25	Advisory Board meeting (update) Appendix: Agenda	EHN
<p>The agenda for the meeting is part of the appendices. The Dean mentioned that we have a very active advisory board, but it could do with 3-4 more members so suggestions can be send to Ida. The Dean expect that communication with stakeholders nationally and internationally will be a topic next year.</p> <p>The Advisory Board had mentioned that due to the fact that we are very discipline oriented in our education programmes it is very important that the mission-driven projects actually have an impact on out-reach activities and teaching activities.</p>			
10	18:25-18:30	Appointing permanent members of academic staff under the job structure for the Bachelor of Engineering programme and the Export Engineering programme Appendices: Guidelines in Danish and English for Heads of Department and assessment committee	AJ/BV
<p>Anne Jensen mentioned that the guidelines are now finished. The Academic Council has a very important task in approving the assessment committee. The criteria for teachers for the diploma engineering area are now clear and must be used when the Council are asked to approve the assessment committees for that area. Anne Jensen also reminded the committee that they all have a job when people are appointed for the assessment committees, and in particular when the position is at our own department.</p> <p>Björn Andresen asked if the hiring process can be shortened. It takes too long to hire and people find other jobs while we are in process. Perhaps we can run some of the processes in parallel tracks. The criteria are good.</p> <p>The Dean mentioned that the part that takes the longest time is in the assessment committee. The planning of the assessment is important to avoid losing time. The Heads of Department can communicate with the chair of the assessment committee about the short-listing and it is possible to invite more candidates into the interview. The department should handle the process in a smart way and have a dedicated chairman.</p> <p>Anne Jensen stressed that precise instruction of the assessment committees is important, and suggested that the Council should discuss how we can speed up the process at a future meeting.</p>			

11	18:30-18:35	PhD degrees since last meeting Appendix: Overview	AJ
<p>There were no comments.</p> <p>Anne mentioned that it is important that the Council takes part in ensuring the quality of the PhD candidates.</p> <p>Brian Vinter mentioned – in relation to PhDs – that there has been an increased in drop-out rates since Covid19. Brian Vinter would like to be oriented if anybody has a feeling of what is wrong since this is not expected. Are we critical enough when we recruit? All comments can be sent to Brian.</p> <p>Annette Baattrup-Pedersen noted that many people are very busy and it takes time to be a good supervisor.</p>			
12	18:35-18:45	AOB	AJ
<p>Thomas Lykke Møller Sørensen mentioned that it seems like there are no Tech social media accounts, only Nat accounts. We should make sure that we have Tech social media accounts.</p>			

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13		Tech Admission numbers, summer 2022	AJ/EHN