

Date	Forum	Time	Place	Meeting #
16 September 2024	Academic Council	15:30-18:00	1525-626	04-2024

Participants	Dean Eskild Holm Nielsen (EHN), Sabine Ravnskov (AGRO), Frants Havmand Jensen (ECOS), Hanne Lakkenborg Kristensen (FOOD), Karen Thodberg (ANIVET), Anne Jensen (ENVS), Thomas Lykke-Møller Sørensen (BCE), Charles Møller (MPE) Søren Wandahl (CAE), Björn Andresen (ECE) Emre Karaman (QGG), Ahmad Madary (TAP, MPE) Louise Fischer Koue (TAP, QGG), Litte Dalsgaard (TAP, ECE), Anna Elisabeth Kristoffersen (PhD) Muhammad Mohsin Nawaz (PhD), Frederik Lindberg Callesen (student), Lærke Dueholm Jensen (student), Thomas Kabel (postdoc), Zahra Esfahani (postdoc)
Apologies for absence	Brian Vinter (vice dean), Mie Lundgaard (chief advisor) Gertrud Lindberg Tefre (deputy head of administration)
Guests	Thomas Kabel (postdoc), Hanne Lakkenborg Kristensen (FOOD), Litte Dalsgaard (TAP, ECE), Finn Borchsenius
Minutes	Ida Marie Gerdes

Item #	Time	Item and appendices	Owner
1	15:30-15:35	Approval of agenda (5 min.) (Appendix)	AJ
The agenda was approved			
2	15:35-15:40	Approval of minutes (5 min.) (Appendix)	AJ
The minutes were approved			
3	15:40-16:10	Honorary Doctorate (30 min.) (Appendices)	AJ
<p>Confidential item</p> <p>All candidates were motivated and evaluated after the agreed criteria. One man and one woman were selected for the further process. It was decided that PhD age should be taken into consideration next year.</p>			
4	16:10-16:25	Sandbjerg seminar follow up (15 min.) (Appendix)	AJ

Anne mentioned that in 2025 the Sandbjerg seminar will take place last week of August Thursday-Friday.

Feedback:

- The Council agreed that the theme for this year's seminar was good, but that it doesn't work with online guests due to technical difficulties.
- Some found the group discussions good, others found them insufficient. There should be a better match in the groups, and there was a request that next year's groups will be less diverse.
- The dinner was fine, and mixed tables worked fine
- Good with the interpreter, even though such a meeting should be in English

Louise mentioned that it could be a good idea if there was some kind of activity also on the Friday. Anne mentioned that we should not have an ordinary meeting as there are some members that are not able to be there due to teaching. But we will think about other options for activities Friday morning, like catching up on the theme.

The presentations and input from the group discussions will be shared.

The Council agreed to catch up on the themes AI in *teaching/education* (incl. exams) and AI in *research* at later meetings. There should also be a discussion about AI and *ethics*.

CED has a course, but the AI area changes so fast, and some find that the courses become outdated very fast.

Brightspace offers a course on AI for students.

5	16:25-16:35	Comments climate action plan (10 min.) (Appendices)	AJ
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We have received a consultation about the AU climate action plan **and** has been invited to comment on principles for reducing air travel at TECH. Since activities can include personnel and work environment aspects, FSU and FAMU are involved. Comments should be send in before 20 September to Anne.

Climate Action Plan 2025 is the final action plan before the strategy's expiration. The 2025 action plan will focus on cross-cutting initiatives across the entire university.

The process:

- **September 9-23:** Consultation on the draft action plan in FAMU, FSU, and the Academic Council
- **October 25:** Faculty management decides on the Tech Climate Action Plan 2025
- **Mid-November:** As a new initiative this year, faculties are given the opportunity to qualify the draft of AU's Climate Action Plan 2025 before the decision by the University Management in December.

We have also been invited to give comments on the Principles for reducing air travel at Tech.

The Dean mentioned that Tech has a focus on implementing measures that contribute to the greatest reduction and are feasible. We should follow the principles but should do more. We have established photovoltaics on roofs on Risø and Flakkebjerg. There are also many plans for AU Viborg and regenerative buildings in Aarhus. We also try to implement all best practices within scope 1,2, and 3 at our agricultural sites. At AU Viborg we establish a regulatory sandbox where we can work with biomass and electricity and power to X activities. Local initiatives are important. We should work with activities that has the highest impact.

Sabine mentioned that at some locations it is difficult to charge electronic cars. The Dean mentioned that there is a plan for this.

Muhammad asked for thoughts on a connecting bus between Aarhus and AU Viborg. Lærke mentioned that students book a small AU bus and go together.

Louise mentioned that CWT is expensive. The Dean mentioned that we must use CWT but we must work on the service. It is also important to take direct flights even though it is more expensive. You can also combine flights and trains.

Frants mentioned that it is very surprising that all travels can be refunded but we can only extract data on travels from CWT. From Rejs-ud we can only get the amount of travels, not destination or how we travel.

6	16:35-16:40	PhD degrees since last meeting (15 min.) (Appendix)	AJ
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9 degrees have been given since last meeting. Congratulations to everybody. There were no comments.

	16:40-16:50	Break (sandwich) (10 min.)	
7	16:50-17:10	State of TECH (20 min)	EHN

The Dean gave a presentation (attached). He stressed resilience as one of four important themes.

Resilience is important for many aspects of for we do.

Charles mentioned resilience as a theme for the board. It could be useful to spend more time on clarifying and discuss.

Anne mentioned that when talking about involvement, many staff members mention that they feel they give input, comments etc., but that these are not taken into consideration. It should be clear how to deliver input and how input will be used in the process.

EHN also mentioned that we have focused a lot on growth, but that we must focus on stabilizing the growth and activities. We should be looking into years of consolidation. The turnover has been larger than expected.

8	17:10-17:35	Sector resizing (25 min.) (Appendix)	FBO
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Welcome to Finn Borchsenius, vice dean for education.

Finn gave a presentation on the latest national reform of the university educations, which has a lot of profound changes. Most significantly, the classic two-year master programmes are to be supplemented by one year masters and by industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater.

It is not the plan to do one year Masters at TECH, but we will offer the industrial candidates/erhvervskandidat, where you do a Master programme over four years while working 25 hrs. per week in a company. The third version is not fully described yet.

Vet.med. gives authorization and nothing will be changed. For Tech only 15% of the master candidates should follow the new structure and 85% can follow the current structure with a two years master. Sums up to approx. 70 students per year. If we don't live up to it the intake will be lowered.

All industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater that TECH will offer will not be within one programme. We should probably find the industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater within strategic growth areas, and we should expect that it will be affected by general conjectures.

The Dean mentioned that DI do not find that industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater are a good idea. Still, at Tech we must work in the required direction (industrial masters) otherwise we will lose student places.

The reform may be a way to attract foreign students to Denmark, but we must make sure that the companies will employ them. AU must inform our partners – the companies – that the students we produce with industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater and one year masters are not the same as before – some will only have the learning that fits within a one-year master. We must start a dialogue on a functional level as well.

Charles mentioned an education in Herning where they have something like this, and it has proven almost impossible to create a real – or any – study environment.

Finn answered that the overall content of the education is the same, the curriculum should be the same, while we must find out how we deliver it. It must function for the student, the company and it must not compromise the quality of the programmes.

The Dean mentioned that at other universities like DTU and Aalborg, a lot of time is spent on projects, so it is also a question about how we approach and practice learning. The Dean referred to a paper that Finn has made with a suggestion for a model. Committing to the four years entailed in the industrial candidates/ erhvervskandidater constitutes a very long time for young people, and may discourage them from enrolling.

Lærke mentioned that that it can be attractive with the salary.

The Council discussed the problem in linking a student to one company for four years. Charles mentioned an Erasmus model where a student circulates between three different companies.

Finn said that all suggestions are welcome. Departments will not have a completely free choice concerning the offered student programmes.

Finn is happy to come and talk about this at the individual departments if needed.

The Dean mentioned that if we deliver with regards to the industrial candidates, then the Dean expects that the politicians will find some kind of solution for the candidates with high employability.

Anne mentioned that this could also be a way to attract some students, that we otherwise would miss. But that this is a different way of thinking.

Regarding the sector resizing, where the government has decided that the universities should reduce their intake due to political priorities and to anticipated declining cohorts of young people in the future. All universities must reduce, and for AU the intake must be reduced with 9,5% based on the average admission in 2018-2022. Tech has grown in these years and therefore has a larger problem. We have a bachelor intake on approx. 350 students and have the new educations in AU Viborg so we will probably have to reduce the number of students within the engineering areas. There are some unknown factors – how fast will AU Viborg grow? Can we reopen the deal? Have we been promised a certain number of student seats in AU Viborg? What will the result be at AU? DI has together with Dansk Erhverv written a comment to make sure that we still educate enough highly employable students. Nothing is ready to be communicated yet, we will have to wait and see. This has no consequences in 2025.

The Dean mentioned that we hope this is the only regulation that we will meet in the sector resizing process, but this is still not clear.			
9	17:35-17:50	AU Viborg (15 min.)	FBO
<p>Finn showed pictures from AU Viborg, where students are now enrolled and active. Both rector Brian Bech Nielsen and the mayor Ulrik Wilbæk (V) from Viborg were there. The new students transform AU Viborg and provides a totally different ambience. The Dean mentioned that it was the best day of his AU career.</p> <p>Finn informed about a meeting where policy advice and the contracts with the ministries were discussed as well as increasing the use of living labs at TECH. At the meeting, Eskild stressed that a decrease of the intake of students will affect the green transition in a negative way, but that the politicians want more activity between the university and the industry, and we have to deliver on this.</p> <p>Finn mentioned that we are the only university that has delivered on providing educational programmes outside of the large cities and that this has been noticed in the Ministry.</p> <p>Karen mentioned that she is worried about the mobility between educations and locations – there is to large a distance to interact across different programmes and e.g. take modules at other departments. Finn mentioned that it is something that will be worked on.</p>			
10	17:50-18:00	Any other business (10 min.)	AJ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muhammad raised a question regarding his PhD stay abroad and how it is covered financially. Anne asked Muhammad to send an e-mail to Ida Marie Gerdes as this item can not be covered under “any other business” and the discussion doesn’t belong in the Academic Council. The Dean stressed that the change of research environment could also be to another research environment in Denmark. <p>The Dean mentioned some items that had been raised at the Advisory Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Advisory Board was not keen on the new Danish education model and would send a letter to the Danish government with insights on the one-year master programme The Board also discussed resilience and this as a theme in the next strategy Communication, especially to the wider public, was also an item discussed. The Board had mentioned that it is also important that the researchers working with policy advice should also communicate to the public The working group that has been formed regarding “Inspirational catalogue regarding responsible conduct of research” should be ready with the catalogue for the next meeting as we have the annual follow up on research practice there (November 26th.) We should also follow up on the working group that should come with suggestions for initiatives etc. that can support a productive and inclusive PhD and post doc milieu, where also – and especially – the young staff feel comfortable in speaking op. This could be discussed at the November meeting as well. One more member was added to this group. 			
11		Written announcements (will not be discussed)	AJ
No announcements received			