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Final*

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## Minutes of Department Council Meeting on September 29, 2021

**Participants:** Peter Axel Nielsen, Dalin Zhang, Jiri Srba, Tim Meritt, Giovanni Bacci, Gabriela Montoya, Helle Schroll, Frederik Møller, Lone Vriberg, Arthur Osnes Gottlieb (student). Minute taker: Diana Plejdrup Frank. Unable to attend: John Stouby Persson.

### Item 1. Approval of the agenda

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The agenda was approved.

### Item 2. Department economy

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Appendix: See slides from Helle Schroll.

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HeS gave status on the department's economy.

Result for second trimester 2021

- Result: Estimate was a surplus 2 million so far we have realized 9 million in surplus. We therefore have surplus of 7 million until now but we expect this to be regulated at the end of year where the huge expense for rebuilding will be realized.

Rebuilding Selma – how is it financed?

- We expect a total of 5.6 million in expenses to be used partly on CS-lab, study administration area, seminar rooms and unforeseen expenses such as counselling etc. Hopefully CAS will start soon as we need to spend the money before the end of the year.

Expected result of 2021

- The Dean determined performance target was originally 729 but as it looks now we would have a surplus of 2.7 million in surplus due to several facts (conversion pool not initiated, lack of assistant professors appointments and profit on Infinit project). However we maintain the dean determined performance target on 729 by adding 1.5 million in consumption costs. PAN will talk to the group coordinators about equipment, and we have made application for screens at entrance etc. Primary uncertainty is the rebuilding of Selma on 5.7 million. CAS knows that the expense must be in 2021.

Study Board Economy: The Study Board has spent 221 less than budgeted primarily due to less spent on travelling and no costs on exam supervision due to online exams.

CS Copenhagen Economy: 795 behind the budget. We expect this will be regulated at the end of the year. We have partly hired one employee less than budgeted as one was a transfer from Aalborg.

Comments:

- What about the lab technician (for building demos). One technician started some months ago. The third position was never occupied. As for using lab technicians to do registration of equipment this is too expensive, we should instead hire 2nd year students to do this is. Suggestion to have a more robust process so we know where things are.
- The student representative Arthur Osnes Gottlieb: requested monitors in group rooms. This is already in the plan.
- What is the prioritization of renovation investments contra hiring full professors? We have tried hard to hire the positions but could not hire all we were looking for. And there was no agreement on the issue in the professor group – so we could not go in that direction.
- The rebuilding cost of 6 million is partly to moving of the study administration and rebuilding of the area between the auditorium. Apart from that we build the CS lab which is a complete rebuilding of the area. It is a research lab for staff not for students. We still have the usability lab for students.
- As for space we have more people in less square meters and therefore the message is that we cannot continue as previous as some might think.

**Item 3. Study environment spring 2021**

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Appendix: See slides from Diana Plejdrup Frank

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Each semester we collect feedback from students about the study environment via our evaluations and steering group meetings. We follow up on the feedback and report back to CAS, Study Board, First Study Year, ITS. As part of the process, we inform the study council about the overall issues and report back to students on [cs.aau.dk/Moodle](https://cs.aau.dk/Moodle). Diana Plejdrup Frank presented main issues/wishes.

Comments:

Psychological study environment/wellbeing:

- TM mentioned an idea about Network gaming. He was encouraged to contact Lars Vinther Schmidt.
- As for student clubs Peter Axel Nielsen informed that the communications staff is working with the students clubs to work more together and to help organize things. In particular also seen in relation to match making events. Friday bars should not always include match making - it should be a social thing as far as possible. Sponsorships for Friday bars will therefore be mediated from now on and the department has appointed the communications staff to mediate.

Digital study environment:

- Peter Axel Nielsen commented that as for the item about students asking for a continuation of video material this does in principle not relate to the study environment as it concerns the course material, and the lecturer decides how the course is taught in terms of pedagogical aspects including what kind of material is relevant. Sometimes it can be relevant with video-material. However the quality of the video material made during corona is not sustainable over the years to come.
- Jiri Srba commented that maybe we could encourage teachers to work on video material in the future. Peter Axel Nielsen agreed that it will be good to have a discussion and reflection on this among teachers.

#### **Item 4. Rules for employee's freedom of expression**

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Appendix: See link to the [AAU's rules for freedom of speech](#)

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The university's rules for employees' freedom of expression have undergone a minor revision. The rules have been adopted after a discussion in the Personnel Policy Committee and in the Main Cooperation Committee (HSU). In the light of the recent debate on freedom of research and freedom of expression, Rector calls for the subject to be discussed in the department councils and in the departments' local cooperation committees.

The rules were presented and there were no further comments to them.

#### **Item 5. Post corona**

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The item is still on the agenda but is now called post corona. We are however back to normal. And there are new rules on how to deal with corona. You are not required to inform your employee that you are sick with corona but you still need to comply with the general health rules of isolation, detection of infection etc. More info can be seen at the [AAU coronavirus site](#). So it is now an individual responsibility.

##### Comments:

- The stickers on the floor has not been removed yet and these might still be good to keep according to the meeting attendees.

#### **Item 6. Department's establishment in Copenhagen**

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Status is that there are 5 employees now in campus Copenhagen 4 of them VIP. One is relocated from Aalborg. We have hired a secretary which is lent out 80% to the First Study Year. In fall 2022 she will take over coming semesters. We have approx. 26 students on the 3rd semester and this fall 55 students started. The supervision of 8 groups were challenging but we have now contracted with ES. P1 is starting in 10 days due to illness of the examiner.

Building: All student areas are open space with soft walls between. Works well and is light. As for the rooms for the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester students this was a bit more challenging negotiating. We have found a room that TECH already pays for. Other educations are struggling with students in Copenhagen tend to meet elsewhere than at campus to do group work. We try to discourage this culture. Staff is located in 4<sup>th</sup> floor in the main building. New space is being refurbished and ready by January and is in the Deans budget.

##### Comments

- The max capacity of students is 50 but we are allowed to take in 60. Estimate is that we need 15 permanent staff in 5 years when we have full programme students.

#### **Item 7. Status on Cassiopeia rebuilding**

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Status was mentioned earlier under economy. Contract on rebuilding has been signed and work will start next week. Ulla Øland and PAN will meet to get the schedule next week.

As for noise and homework this must be agreed with the immediate group coordinator/manager. As for teaching during noise hopefully it will not affect seminar rooms to much as they are in the other part of the building. The auditorium however cannot be used in the period.



### **Item 8. Status on hirings**

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Appendix: See slides with recent new employees.

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Peter Axel Nielsen showed all the new employees in 2021 and recent hirings. This will be announced in newsletters in the future. Good with info about this. Peter Axel Nielsen also mentioned that pictures of all employees will be mandatory. It was suggested to hire professional photographer to take pictures of all employees (Lars Horn was suggested). This has already been discussed in other fora. Diana Plejdrup Frank will ask the communications office what the plans are.

### **Item 9. AOB**

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What is status on the “stress project” that all research groups and the administration gave input to in 2020? JSr informed that it will be handled today in the work environment committee and they will make an action plan that will be presented on the coming department lunch meeting and it will also be included in future newsletter.