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Final*

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Minutes of Department Council Meeting on November 23, 2021

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

Item 1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved.

Item 2. University strategy, Knowledge for the World II, action plans 2022

Appendix: See presentation attached concerning the AAU strategy.

Peter Axel Nielsen presented the AAU strategy. It has been announced by Rector earlier.

Keywords to be noticed: We are a mission-oriented university. The attached Mazzucata report explains what mission-driven means and it is the basis of the approach at AAU.

The AAU strategy is in 2022 driven by 11 prioritized goals for the next year. E.g., develop further education and establish alumni organisations. As for the latter we have started working on this for some of our educations so there is a link to our internal strategy.

Item 2.1 Research: DIREC is part of our collaboration with other computer science departments in Denmark. They have focus on recruiting students and to build up capacity in companies.

Item 1.1 Integration of SSH competences: We are already doing that in some of our educations. E.g., BAIT education. Giovanni Bacci suggested to cooperate with the Law department. According to Jiri the IT-law course is already part of the curriculum.

Next steps: The HoD will prepare an action plan for our part of the strategy to be approved by the Dean. The Department Council, SAMU and the Professor group will be invited to a strategy seminar on December 15.

Item 3. Department economy

Appendix: See slides from Helle Schroll.

HeS presented budget 2022 which has just been approved by the Dean.

Budget comparison from 2021 and 2022

- Income has decreased which means we have several millions less than expected. Mainly due to the new budget model and fewer STÅ than expected. The STÅ prognosis will be adjusted at some point next year. The new budget model has comprised several minor changes. One change is that the bonus for completing educations has been changed. But the principle is still the same – money is put where money is produced.
- External funding: Increased with 9 million. Including a buffer of 1.5 million for incoming projects.
- Operating expenses: has been reduced with 353.000 - mainly travel. Group leader money has been reduced a bit.
- Scientific staff: 6 assistant and 3 associate professors.
- TAP: An increase of 1.8 million as new positions take full effect.
- Result: The dean has decided it must be zero.

Budget 2022 Salary

- VIP: 3 assistant professors in Aalborg and Copenhagen and 3 associate professors in Aalborg.
- TAP: Transfer date of a secretary from the First Study Year takes place 1.9.2022. Expenses for this applies for the department in 2023.
- Head of department is new expense in 2022 (before paid by the Dean).
- Tenure track possibility is still kept. All permanent staff positions as of now will have to be negotiated with the Dean. Currently we are 6 people less due to people leaving. Next year we have to prove we can sustain our activities. But basically, we are fine.
- The extra covid money for student activities: We have carried through several events and bought equipment for both common and student rooms. This means that we will spend less on equipment next year.

Comments

Do we have sufficient teaching capacity for delivering our activities? According to Peter Axel Nielsen we are coming from a situation where we have hired about 10 new VIP staff. What is the minimum research norm? If we are teaching too much it is taken out of the research norm. if there is a gap, we can fill it with teaching assistant and external lecturers. The overall feeling in terms of capacity is fine.

Budget 2022 – operation expenses

- Equipment below DKK 100: We have budgeted with 2.7 million where the 2.5 million is used for employees and students. Equipment over DKK 100: 1 million which can be spent for equipment or rebuilding.
- Travel: 2.9 million: divided in group leader money, students, assessment committees, phd. and rights of disposal etc.
- PR, courses and travel: PR budget has been adjusted from 750.000 to 500.000.

Comments:

Jiri Srba asked if group money will be adjusted as we have restructured last year? There was a discussion of this and the instruments for further strategic activation of department funds.

The instruments for further strategic activation of department funds (instrument 2, 3,4) are removed as the STÅ prognosis showed 7 million less in income. There was a discussion about this and if “other” money can be used for this. It is a zero-sum game all the time (groups contra department level). Principles of the budget will not be changed.

The budget will be announced on the lunch meeting December 8. Note about that we still keep initiative 1 about tenure track.

Budget 2022 rent

- Rent will be increased over a period of 2021-2024. We will not be doing the big rebuilding in 2022. We might squeeze square meters in one way or the other. ITS will move out of parts of cluster 4 from January 2022. All wasted space has been scrutinized so we can use the square meters efficiently.

Budget tendency estimated years 2023-2024

- Faculty tax is going down as costs paid earlier by the dean is now to be paid by the department. So, external income need to increase. Prognosis for income in 2023 and 2024 is slightly higher but estimate is normally too high. There are many uncertainties e.g., if the high SSH taxameter from the Ministry is cut it will hit us and there is also the “10% cut-and-move” on educations. The latter will be fully implemented in 2023 and we do not know how this will end. A master plan will be made next year by Rector based on input from each department at AAU.

Comments

So, what is the general feeling for CS economy in 2022? We have had a few years with more money between our hands and this does not apply anymore. But we still have new positions in the budget.

What about student workplaces? The aim of rebuilding was to save square meters. Current student workplaces were discussed. No conclusions will be made in this forum.

Item 4. Department's establishment in Copenhagen

No big news since last time. Office space is almost done. The Dean is financing this. Difficult to find group rooms. 4 buildings are moving into three. Third semester students are moving to AC. Meyers Vænge.

Item 5. Cassiopeia rebuilding

The current rebuilding is progressing according to plan. There is slightly less pressure on finishing on time.

The major rebuilding in 2022 is cancelled as mentioned earlier in the budget discussion.



Item 6. Status on hirings

No hirings since last time. Search committees has been established and already done work. They are to be approved by the Dean. He has so far approved the positions in Cph.

Item 7. Post corona

Status is that we cannot require corona passport at AAU. F-club has wished this for Friday Bars and has been in dialogue with Rector as he has already communicated rules out to staff. Currently there is a discussion on how to handle this.

Item 8. Meeting plan 2022

The meeting plan for the coming year was decided. The four meetings will be held in: February, may, August and November as SAMU meetings. There was a comment that the February meeting must be placed at the end of month. This was noted.

Item 9. AOB

What about the process of moving the First Study Year to Aalborg East? The process is started. We will have the item on the February meeting.