Minutes of Department Council Meeting on March 2, 2022

Participants: Peter Axel Nielsen, Dalin Zhang, John Stouby Persson, Tim Meritt, Gabriela Montoya, Frederik Møller, Lone Vriborg, Helle Schroll. Students: Nikolaj Rossander Kristensen, Marco Hvidbjerg.

Minute taker: Diana Plejdrup Frank.

Unable to attend: Jiri Srba, Giovanni Bacci, Peter Dolog, Arthur Osnes Gottlieb (student)

Item 1. Welcome to the new student members

PAN welcomed the new student members: Nikolaj (DAT4) and Marco (IxD10). The purpose of the council is advisory to the Head of Department. We discuss items concerning teaching, research and collaboration etc.

Item 2. Approval of the agenda

PAN would like to follow up on the last meeting, so item 2.5 is added to the agenda. Otherwise, the agenda was approved.

A new generic model for competences for teaching at AAU level has been made, so each category for academic staff has a defined level of teaching. The model will be worked with at department level among professors and in the group. It will at some point be introduced for the SAMU committee and Department Council to create consensus among all. Purpose is to increase focus on teaching and not only research competences. The new model will contain criteria for teaching, research and funding, collaboration (internal, external). The new model will be sent to the department council via FirstAgenda when the minutes are released.

10% reduction of educations/move of educations: Since last meeting Rector held info meetings. Basically, we are not moving anything. But there are huge cuts in Copenhagen. The strategy is to have exclusive focus on IT and sustainability. Some of the IT educations are however closed (the descriptive kind). The cuts are based on 2019 numbers, and for CS we were not present with educations in Cph. at that time. Naturally, the huge cuts on other educations effect the work and study environment in Copenhagen. The Ministry will return to us on AAU's proposals for a reduction very soon. We hope the reduction will be less than 10%. So, conclusion is it will not be hitting us directly, but it will impact our staff in Copenhagen indirectly.

Follow-up:

DPF will send new merit model (in Danish, in English) to department council via FirstAgenda together with the minutes.

Item 3. Department economy, financial report 2021

Appendix: See slides form HeS in FirstAgenda.

HeS presented the financial report for 2021 for the department economy.

Overall, we come out with a deficit of 874.000 DK. We were supposed to have surplus but did not receive the invoice for the rebuilding for 3.3. million before the end of the year. The principle of AAU accounting is that we cannot transfer the annual result from one budget year to another or keep any surplus, as this stays at Faculty level. Initially, we were asked to come out with a surplus. However, at the end of the year we were asked to do otherwise. We were the only department at TECH who came out with a deficit this year.

CS study board has spent more than expected on censor cost.

CS Copenhagen: There was a need for a separate budget when we started up the educations in Copenhagen but in future there will not be made a seperate budget for this meeting. The Faculty does not ask for separate budgets as we do not get separate income for Copenhagen, and therefore it is complicated to split up. However, we can always look up expenses for Copenhagen. As for staff we will hire 3 more scientific employees in Cph. to cover teaching for next semesters and finally we will end up with 15 scientific employees. As for the moving of the First Study Year the income and expenses will be on the department.

What about the cap of 50 students? There is no plan for extensions as we prefer to do it well first and it is hard to recruit staff.

Rebuilding costs:1.4 million for seminar rooms, 456.000 for office changes, meeting rooms, copy rooms, copenhagen: Bio-lab exchanged to CS 1.8 million, study administration and CS-lab 2.2 million. A total cost of 9.3 million. We expect the rebuilding to be completed in March.

Item 4. AAU strategy and the department´s contribution

Appendix: See the departments contribution to the AAU strategy in FirstAgenda.

Peter Axel Nielsen presented the highlights from the strategy and our contribution to "Knowledge for the world 2". New tactics is that it is up to the department how to implement the strategy.

Each Head of Department has delivered a proposal for an implementation of the 11 goals and finally approved by the Rector.

1. Integration of SSH and STEM competences in educations: We await further info but are already doing this on some of our educations e.g., BAIT, DAD, IxD og DVML, 9th semester entrepreneurship, software (IT-ret). Our Pro-rector is in charge of this item.

2. Alumni networks: We are already working on establishing this for DAD and IxD as part of addressing the employability issues. First step is to set it up for DAD and to learn from this.

3. Mission-driven research: Apply for at least 2 mission-driven applications. Sent out 1-2 postdocs in international network. We already have an agreement with one. We will also be looking at hiring 10% professors.

4. Study visit to Brussels with faculty management with focus on strengthening of our brand with EU authorities/organizations etc.

5. Bridgehead towards Health Faculty in the form of a taskforce for "Computational Health". Katja Hose is in charge of this. The efforts go across our research groups.

6. Research based on digital data: CLAUDIA infrastructure should be further used.

7. Central administration (ministry/civil service) in Copenhagen should know and collaborate with AAU.

8. Hot spots for talents: Package for tenure track assistant professors (250.000). We currently have 11 tenure track assistant professors and therefore we are way ahead of this.

Comments:

- What about administrative staff at CS are they not part of the strategy goal "hot spots for talents". It is indicated in the strategy document that the goal applies for both VIP and Tap? Focus was primarily on how to attract and retain scientific staff. But point is noted.

- What about all other staff categories besides tenure track assistant professors? They are not included as part of the implementation of the goal – if we do so, it is not a strategy.

- What about additional technical administrative staff associated with the new laboratories (Lab-TAP): This is a shift, but not what is meant here. This is a strategic initiative to bring in people that would not otherwise be brought in.

Item 5. Buildings and rebuildings

Since last meeting the study administration area has been completed and the team has moved out of cluster 2 and is now on the center floor. The lab is almost completed and will according to CAS soon be finished.

The second half of the rebuilding in Copenhagen will continue this autumn to be completed next summer. It must be ready for additional 3 more employees in Copenhagen because we will have a fully occupied office space. We hope the Dean will pay for this as agreed with former Head of Department.

Rebuilding of Cassiopeia: Seminar rooms, cluster 1, meeting rooms and printer rooms. In future square meters will have to be condensed as office space is expensive. The rebuilding of the rest of Cassiopeia we do not know when will happen. CAS has reserved 40 million. The current group rooms are slightly too large. We need to begin talking about this. Currently, we have NOVI9 and the MATH building. From September we will also have to find space for the students from the first study year. Ulla Øland will meet with Betina Væversted to clarify square meters and next week the committee for transition of first study year will meet.

ITS moving out will mean the moving out of cluster 4 and cluster 3 downstairs.

Item 6. CS Lab, staffing and steering

We are starting to find out how to be running the CS-lab. It is a research lab and not a student lab. But can be used for student projects that are research based. Some technical staff will move there. One technical employee will be the software coordinator. The governing of the lab is done in the steering committee comprising Kristian Torp, Brian Nielsen and Peter Axel Nielsen. Purpose of the committee is to prioritize activities etc. The committee will be extended eventually.

Master students and phd. students use of the area: The activity needs to be described and prioritized. But suggestions are welcomed also input/experience from other department's/universities labs.

A vision for the lab before summer holiday is expected.

Item 7. Status on hirings

We have two sets of positions: Assistant and associate professors with deadline two weeks ago. Two committees are in place and applications are shortlisted. The evaluation committee process is long. Finally, the hiring committee will then have the interviews. The three positions in Copenhagen have been approved by the Dean.

Item 8. AOB

No further items.