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Final*

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Minutes of joint SAMU and Department Council meeting on November 9, 2022

Participants: Ulla Øland, Jiri Srba, Rene Rydhof Hansen, Lene Even, Lene Horn, Florian Lorber, Niels Van Berkel, Helle Westmark, Helle Schroll, John Stouby Persson, Jiri Srba, Tim Merritt, Gabriela Montoya, Frederik Møller, Lone Vriberg, Giovanni Bacci, Dalin Zhang. Unable to attend: Arthur Osnes Gottlieb (student), Nikolaj Rossander (student) Minute taker: Diana Plejdrup Frank.

Item 1. Economy Budget 2023 (preliminary)

Appendix: Slides about budget 2023.

Peter Axel Nielsen presented the preliminary budget of 2023. See slides for overview.

As discussed at recent SAMU and Department Council meeting there was a wish for info about the budget 2023 before it is handed in. We decided to have a joint meeting where both fora could have the opportunity to discuss the budget. The budget will be approved within days.

Background: There are major changes in budget 2023. Rent is up significantly. Tax to Faculty is down. STÅ (= students passing exams) is down as we have fewer students.

What have we done? We have been through all positions in RES including NN positions. Project expenses are included as it provides overhead income to the department. Agreements on savings from the past is moved to project accounts in agreement with the persons involved. The rebuilding of Cassiopeia will not be paid in 2023 as we will not get the invoice. Consumption costs have been reduced to a minimum.

Income

STÅ: We have 5 million less. External project income: We have 823.000 less. Overhead is down by 2.7 million. PhD taxa-meter is up 930.000.

New project positions in 2023: 9 new PhD students starting. 15 post docs.

Costs (taxes and rents)

Innovation contribution is new: 3.1 million. Rent is significant: Approx. 10 million up. Reasons: The department has claimed more "land" than needed (FB7A), we are paying for group rooms for first year students, the square meter price is high, Copenhagen rent is up significantly, and they have different model for this. Result: All in all, there is 10 million more in contribution to faculty and university.

Group internal expense funds: Reduced with 10%. The calculation for each research group might change.

Salaries and external coverage (frikøb): Scientific staff is up 2.7 million. TAP is down by 1.5 million. Income: External coverage (projects paying salary): Scientific staff is up 1.2 million and TAP is down by 621.000.

4 new assistant professor positions in Copenhagen 2023.

Consumption costs: Travel, group leader, study, assessment committees: Down by 813.000. Equipment: down by a million. Catering, coffee, internat: Down by a million. PR and courses: Down by 395.000. Now on 400.000. Office stuff: Chairs and tables: Down by 445.000. IT equipment: No budget set for this in 2023. Result: All in all, consumption costs are cut to the bone in 2023 and reduced with 3.8 million.

Highlights

Result of the budget is a 4 million deficit, which the Dean has approved on 7th November, 2022 provided named changes in our spending structure. We are required to work on: Changing teaching norms (as we have higher norms than other departments), co-financing of externally funded PhD projects, increasing externally funded projects, etc.

All in all: Next year we cannot have the same financial result.

Discussion in summary

- Concerns were discussed as to the implications of reduction of teaching norms. We will have to discuss how we interact with students/and how we teach.
- STÅ now follow module owners (e.g., the MATH department get the whole income for the modules they deliver).
- There will be no new department positions in 2023 in Aalborg. The Dean only approved positions in Copenhagen.
- Concerns were raised on overhead of externally funded projects.
- Rent is a general challenge at AAU and not just at CS. The Dean is working with CAS on reducing rent costs. At CS we will work with how to reduce square meters used on group rooms and offices. We can condense, but it will not change the budget for next year.
- Seminar rooms at CS are often empty because many courses are too large to be in the seminar rooms and are thus moved to auditoriums.
- The prospect for 2024 is hopefully we do not have excessive rent. It requires a smarter utilization of the space. Everybody agrees that the rent is too high.

Result in general for both Aalborg and Copenhagen

We need to assure we remain an attractive research and teaching department.