AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Department of Computer Science
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Date: 01-10-2024
Case No.: [Case No.]

Minutes of SAMU meeting on October 1, 2024

Participants: Working environment committee representatives: Jiri Srba, Ulla Øland. Employee representatives: Lene Even, Lisbeth Juhl, Andres Masegosa, Hans Hüttel. Management representatives: Peter Axel Nielsen, Helle Westmark, Rene Rydhof Hansen. Not present: Henning Pohl. Observer: Stine Larsen. Minute taker: Diana Plejdrup Frank.

Item 1. Department economy

Appendix: See presentation with status on economy 2024

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Result second trimester 2024

- Income from the faculty: We have a surplus of 4.1 million. The primary reasons are STÅ (student production) being recalculated with 2,1 million. Apart from that we have received 1.4 million related to foreign self-payers (international students outside EU).
- External funding and Over Head: We have 2.1 million less than expected due to postponements of positions.
- Operating expenses: Minor deviation. We have spent 229,000 DKK more on travel, equipment, seminars and food.
- Scientific staff: We have spent 2.3 million less than expected due to postponements of positions, leaves of permanent employees, and resignations.
- Technical administrative staff: Minor deviation on 62,000 DKK.
- Work load reduction VIP: We have spent 2.3 million less than expected.
- Rent: We have spent 1.9 million less among other things due to the leaving of NOVI 9.
- Contributions: We have used 278,000 DKK more than expected (e.g. contribution for AAU Communication).
- Result second trimester: We have a surplus of 4. 5 million due to STÅ, foreign self-payers and rent.

Estimate of 2024

The estimate of 2024 is that we end up with a surplus of 1.6 million primarily due to the uncertainty of international students that are self-payers. However, we hope we will end up with an expected surplus of 1.2 million. We will know after October 1 when the student numbers are calculated.

We have initiated some initiatives for investments: furniture for the moving in 2027 and suggestions from DEIS for updating of hardware, e.g. cluster of 8 computers. DESS has suggested computing stuff (processing power

and data storage). DKW has suggested some high-performance computing for simulation. In general, it is considered as department infrastructure, and it would be nice with a mapping of the infrastructure. Ulrik Nyman has reserved an amount for some relevant activities for students. The rule for the investments is that it has to be paid by the end of this year. The groups will be informed later today about which investments are approved.

The financial picture looks the same at the other TECH departments mainly due to the unexpected income from self-payers. As for the prognosis for student numbers we did not know we should be aware of students outside EU, that are foreign self-payers. But we will be more aware next year of this factor, as far as possible.

Contribution rates were presented. In 2024 it is 32,5% and 31,7% in 2025.

Item 2. News from SAMU members

Fixed item. Any news from SAMU members?

Working environment committee members at CS
- Jiri has completed the working environment education. All members in the working environment committee must update their education every 10 years.

News from the Administration
- CS project economy: As a follow-up on the mail sent to staff about the budgeting period in the economy team. The most hectic period is now passed as they are almost done with the budgeting.
- VIVE report discussed earlier in SAMU and the Department Council. In the Administration we have recently initiated talks about sexism and inclusion to raise awareness.
- AI in Administration: We are also working with use of AI in the administration. We have planned a workshop in November together with ES (AI talk by Andreas Møgelmose). The subject AI is part of the AAU strategy "Viden for Verden".

Item 3. CS Lab

Appendix: Questions from employment side

The employee representatives have asked some questions about the decision of closing the CS lab and the level of involvement by staff in organizational changes.

Background
The CS Lab (on the ground floor in cluster 1) was planned during the former Head of Department as part of the rebuilding of Cassiopeia. The intention was to create our own lab for research activities. Intention was to hire 3 lab technicians. One lab technician was hired at the time. Eventually, it appeared that our CS Lab was not in use as no experiments took place or demos. We shut down the lab and it was used for thesis students, and the lab technician continued with ad hoc assignments. Currently we use it for students. And it has been agreed that the lab technician will be employed in a specific project in DEIS. The management group has been involved in the process. The future strategy of the lab is open for debate. If the need reoccurs it could be discussed in connection with the FB7 moving.

As for organisational changes to be implemented at the department and the involvement of staff in the process it will depend on the implication of the change. An example could be, as announced at the department seminar that we discuss sub-groups at the department in connection with the research evaluation. There is a difference between the things that can be decided and the proper fora (SAMU versus Management).

The questions from the B-side were prompted by the CS lab plans as there were worries about staff redundancy. According to the cooperation agreement (paragraph 3, section 2: Management's duty to provide information) it is relevant to be informed in SAMU if redundancies are coming up. The management always has the managerial rights but is important to discuss the principles at SAMU and the cooperation agreement rules will be applied.

Item 4. News at the department

The Head of department informed about recent news.

Hirings

There has been a huge bunch of hirings and some resignations. The hiring process starts in October and ends the following year. We have hired 9 assistant and associate professors and 5 full professors. There some changes expected in the central HR hiring process in terms of evaluation and hiring committees.

Resignations are unexpected high. Some because temporary positions are ending. So, a huge number of people coming in and out.

Comments: Suggestion to find out what is causing the in and out passing of long-term positions. Some are going on retirement and the other major part is foreign staff going back to home country. We can be more systematic about it. There are outboarding talks with the Head of Department.

SW in Esbjerg

The bachelor's programme in software in Esbjerg has been postponed to 2026. Education Esbjerg was required to cover a possible deficit of the costs which they could not ensure before deadline. The agreement with the Dean is to postpone start of the programme. The application has been sent to the Ministry in September and we expect an answer in the start of December. Apart from this, 50 international student seats must be clarified on AAU level.

Moving in 2027 to FB7 in Aalborg

The status of the process with Campus Service is that so far there are approved drawings on the room division e.g. size of rooms and doors. The bridge between 7D and FB5 has been informally approved by Municipality and Danish Building and Property Agency. CAS is in the process of finding the architects.

Copenhagen plan

There is a plan of changing the look of buildings and to close some of the buildings (C building) to save rent for common spaces. Plan is that TECH will occupy 80% of the building in future.

Comments:

Will there be adequate place in A & B for the students? Currently there is teaching in studios at campus Copenhagen, and it seems there are different opinions on that. The student numbers are expanding. Eventually there will be more space available when the educations are closing. An architecture company is hired they will be organizing two workshops for students and staff.

Item 5. CS Language policy

Appendix: Case presentation with suggestion for a language policy and extract from APV summary with recommendations for a language policy.

There are some differences in the suggested language policy and the recommendations for a language policy from the APV summary sent to staff. A compromise between the two suggestions for a language policy should be made and discussed at the SAMU meeting on November 13.

Item 6. New AAU staff policy

Appendix: New AAU staff policy

Item postponed for next meeting.

Item 7. Psychological and physical work enviroment

Fixed item on the agenda as the department's Working Environment Committee is an integrated part of the SAMU Committee. Here issues concerning the psychological and physical work environment, whaich are significant for employees are addressed.

Item postponed for next meeting.

Item 8 Environmental considerations

Fixed item on the agenda as the department's Working Environment Committee is an integrated part of the SAMU Committee. It deals with items about the environment.

Item postponed for next meeting.

Item 9 AOB

Any Other Business? Item postponed for next meeting.