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Final*

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## Minutes of Department Council Meeting on September 19, 2024

**Participants:** Peter Axel Nielsen, Jiri Srba, Giovanni Bacci, Tianyi Li, Johannes Bjerva, Tim Merritt, Helle Schroll, Lars Vinther Schmidt, Lone Vriborg. Students: Kresten Laust Faaborg Sckerl, Leon Groth. Not present: Oliver Viller Nielsen, Daniele Dell Aglio. Minute taker: Diana Plejdrup Frank.

### Item 1. Approval of the agenda

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The agenda was approved.

### Item 2. Economy

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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 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.
- Free purchase 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 etc.
- 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 a surplus of 1.2 million. We will know after October 1 when the student numbers are calculated.

We have asked to move some of the surplus to 2027 for payment of moving expenses in 2027. We have decided to use some of the surplus on useful future investments (e.g. study environment). We have increased the travel funds in the research groups, and we consider buying furniture for future purposes (moving to FB).

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

The status on economy will be presented to the CS management group on September 23, 2024 including the investment possibilities before end of December.

### **Comments**

- As suggestion to have department funding for research activities e.g. computer cluster (Claudia). According to Head of Department it can be considered on the condition that someone needs to be responsible for the equipment and it must be delivered before December. It needs to be a one-time investment.
- Can unexpected resignations be estimated in the future budget procedure? The hiring process has already changed, and the budget planning is a balance of not being too conservative in the estimating.

### **Item 3. News at the department**

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The Head of Department informed about news at the department.

#### **Hirings and resignations**

A list of hirings and staff is attached in FirstAgenda.

In terms of economy, it reflects economy when people are coming and when they leave. In terms of staff, we are in growth as more are coming in than leaving. We have increasing student numbers in the years to come in Copenhagen, and we expect more externally funded research.

### **Comments**

- The list of hirings is not evenly distributed in terms of hirings and resignations when looking at Aalborg and Copenhagen. It seems Aalborg is stagnating at the moment. According to the Head of Department the age distribution should be looked at. People will be retiring in the coming years. The economy is open for new positions and in the early career latter.

#### **SW in Esbjerg**

The bachelor's programme in software in Esbjerg has been postponed to 2026. The economy must be settled, and the contract is not signed yet. AAU has used all seats for international students so far which is another aspect that needs to be clarified.

**Comments:** If we will start in Esbjerg in 2026, we should consider looking at the onboarding of international students in Esbjerg. Looking at international students here in Aalborg they need help in the onboarding. Partly understanding our way of doing things and with the many questions they have in early start up.

### **Moving plans for 2027 and plan for Copenhagen**

We are moving into FB7A and FB5A in Autumn of 2027. Costs of the move will be split between the Danish Building and Property Agency and AAU. We expect that there will be a bridge between the buildings. The formal approval from the Municipality is expected soon.

Status is that we have seen the architect drawings, and we have meetings with Campus Service in the CS working group. There is a log with the decisions taken for documentation purpose. We will start looking at details in 2025.

### **Comments**

- What was the results of the voting for low and high doors? It will be the door on 2.10. Most interior walls will be white and there will be floating ceilings. There are still discussions about glass doors etc. Challenge is we need light in from the corridors but privacy in meeting rooms.
- What about generic hallways? It is difficult to find out where we are in buildings as everything looks the same? A color scheme will be developed, and a navigation structure will be made. Will there be some kind of brand for the building like "Cassiopeia"? "New Cassiopeia" was suggested.
- The C building will be for students only. There will be mega-spaces, student places, groups room. Students will be in swing space for a year until C building is ready. There is a Friday Bar issue where a joint decision is needed. Social study spaces in the C building are expected and room for fridges etc. There will be a major renovation of the building.
- At the last Department Council meeting we discussed that a new dialogue meeting with students will be held again when we know more about the details. We expect to schedule a new dialogue meeting in spring 2025 when more details are in place.

### **Copenhagen plan**

The plan for the Copenhagen campus is being developed. 80% will be occupied by the TECH faculty. Therefore, TECH will try to influence the decisions (e.g. letting go of some of the buildings) to have less spaces seen from a financial point.

Student spaces have been redesigned. SW1, SW3 and SW5 are quite good looking now. We are looking at student intake that will increase in future. This is challenging in terms of room allocation. The vice dean of education has hired an architect. There will be a process involving staff and students. The idea is to change the current corporate company look of the building, so it is more targeted students and staff.

## **Item 4. Study environment follow-up 2024**

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### Appendix: Presentation of study environment problems/wishes in Aalborg and Copenhagen

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DPF presented a summary of the problems/wishes reported by the students in the national survey "Danmarks Studieundersøgelse". The department has followed up on the feedback and reported back to Campus Service, Study Board, ITS. As part of the process, we inform the department council about the overall issues.

There were some comments to the issues and wishes in the two mindmaps, which will be updated and communicated to the students via Moodle.



In general, minor issues to the study environment must be reported via the Building Support App. Major issues will be reported to the dialogue meeting between CAS and the Prodean as part of AAU's procedure for following up on the study environment.

#### **Item 5. AOB**

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No further items.