

Minutes of Department Council Meeting 2020-03

Time:	Wednesday September 23, 2020
Place:	Online meeting via Zoom
Members of IR	
Students:	Laurits Brøcker (LB), Anna Maria Suarez-Barcena Ørum (AMSBØ), Clara Sofie Rose (CSR)
TAP:	Helle Schroll (HeS), Frederik Møller (FM), Lone Vriborg (LEA),
VIP:	John Stouby Persson (JSP), Jiri Srba (JSr), Tim Meritt (TM), Giovanni Bacci (GB), Gabriela Montoya(GM)
Chairman:	Head of Department Jesper Kjeldskov (JK)
Absent:	Anna Maria Suarez-Barcena Ørum
Minutes taker	Diana P. Frank

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda and info about new member
2. Corona restrictions fall 2020
3. CS establishment in Copenhagen
4. Rebuilding of Cassiopeia
5. Department economy
6. Strategy work at the department
7. Hirings and department structure
8. AOB

Minutes:

1) Approval of the agenda and info about to new member

The meeting is held via Zoom as several members are not able to attend physically due to Corona situation.

Peter Dolog is stepping down from the department council due to his recent appointment as research group coordinator for DW. He will be replaced by a new candidate, who is found and awaits hearing process from election secretariat.

The agenda was approved. Meeting is this time held in Danish in agreement with all participants with possibility of switching to English. Summary is in English.

2) Corona restrictions fall 2020

Department has this week communicated the policy regarding work at home. You can work at home but you are not obliged to do it. We are learning by doing in terms of teaching – doing both hybrid and digitally. We are sending people home in clusters when covid cases appear.

Comments

LB: What do we expect in terms of exams and group work next semester? Latest corona development was purely related to employees and their presence here at campus. We hope to avoid that campus in closed down. As a student the best thing to do is keep social distancing rules.

LEA: Currently we are working as if written exams are planned as usual but things can also be changed to online. We do not know at current point.

3) CS establishment in Copenhagen

We have started the new software education in Copenhagen with 38 students. Two assistant professors Johannes Bjerva and Anders Schlictkrull have started teaching on the 1st semester. PAN is coordinator and is closely cooperating with the teachers. Expenditure has so far been minimal as we do not pay e.g. rent and we keep close control of expenditure. We have received much appraisal on making this establishment happen and it seems other universities are scaling up on the intake of students as well. As for the coming new positions in spring 2021 they will be posted shared with Aalborg and Copenhagen. Two appointment committees are expected and we expect to hire two associate professors this time.

4) Rebuilding of Cassiopeia

Rector announced before summer vacation that we need to save 40 million on rent. This has resulted in that things came up for discussion again and we await confirmation that we can start the big rebuilding of Cassiopeia.

Comments:

JSP: Is there an explanation why it is so difficult to determine this? According to CAS it is a big puzzle and therefore things get complicated. JK has reported our view on this back to Rector. We need to wait for the outcome before we take further steps.

GB: Meeting rooms with glass: Only one plug for electricity placed outside door which makes connection difficult. According to JK: This is expected to be fixed.

JK has asked CAS for prices for further developments this semester due to the extra means we have this year. We have already done a lot: New meeting rooms, big offices divided, IDA8 semester room, we now have Claudio offices for our master thesis students.

JSP: Has corona effected the rebuilding process? According to JK: Partly, in terms of the first study year. Here we will reconsider the need for number of seminar rooms and lecture halls in connection with the moving of the first study year to Aalborg East in 2022. At Cassiopeia corona has no big influence on the rebuilding yet and we still prioritize room for student work places.

LB: Please consider that not all teaching at the first study year has been experienced as good as e.g. Kurt Nørmark's, so please have this in mind when you look at the need for rooms. According to JK: Kurt Nørmark is helping with planning on which sessions this might be relevant for.

CSR: Please consider also that first year students need more social contact and physical teaching. JK: this is of course being considered also but he expects that the fact that students are moving closer to Aalborg East campus will also be a big help in making them feel closer to their study programme and environment.

5) Department economy

HeS presented status on the department's economy. Slides are available in FirstAgenda.

Forecast for 2020

Income:

- Government grants: Deviation of 1.8 million deriving from: Stem funds, development funds it-vest, PBL digital and the project "more women in it".
- External income: 3.6 million more: New projects added.
- Overhead: 661.000 more in external income.
- Total revenue: 2.5 million more than budgeted (so far).

Consumption and salary

- 1.1 million more spent than budgeted: More equipment during corona, screens for group rooms, videoconference etc.
- VIP løn: 3.8 more spent than budgeted.
- TAP salary: 868.000 less than expected as we still need to hire 2 lab technicians.
- Total staff of coast: Only 278.000 more than budgeted.
- Rent: ITS basement now off our hands – saved 850.000.
- Internal purchase CAS: Spent 960.000 more than expected according to agreement with CAS.
- Phasing: It-vest means of 1.3 million postponed to next year.

Result 2020: Our target surplus was 2.000 million but is now expected to be 3.306 million. According to JK this is partly due to that some VIP positions has not been executed as budgeted so result is bigger than expected. As a result "PR investments" will be advanced to 2020 and there might be other investment proposals.

Comments:

JK: Conclusion is that our budget has jumped from 60 to 80 million. So during a year we cannot reach to hire people that are to be executed the year after this. However it is import to show the full effects of the hirings. Moreover we are not the only department who has this challenge. Another fact that might influence our final surplus is that our STÅ income might be adjusted at the end of the year as the estimate from the faculty was too high.

Budget 2021

Preliminary grant from TECH not yet received. We are currently working on the budget until we receive news.

Comments:

Investment proposals:

JP: More bike sheds and/or maybe just add a roof to current bike shed without roof. According to DPF issue has been reported to CAS several times and several departments are asking for more bike sheds. She will follow-up on the issue in connection with the coming study environment follow-up.

LB: Digitalization: Important to have good microphones. Students should report this back to teachers, if they experience that microphones are not good.

JP asked about what is meant by “PR investment” mentioned earlier and how does this coincide with the government’s announcement on universities using less money on PR? According to JK it is not marketing: but derives from the recent input from strategy department meeting: André Rogaczweski’s idea on how to promote our projects (to make a short documentary on our projects) with the aim of improving our main business – e.g. describing what we do.

GB: Claudio: Use of GPU’s is limited due to policy on this. Can we instead buy some local ones? According to JK: DW/DEIS already have grant for equipment, so the groups can decide what they need – however recent overview has shown that the means are not yet spent. So please contact research group coordinator as it needs to be bought this year.

6) Strategy work at the department

JK gave status on the strategy work at the department: The Department seminar on strategy held in August was a good day which gave us a lot of input. Reports is still to come from Mobilize. Plan was to have yet another day in October but due to Corona this might be changed. This is also related to the research evaluation in January which we also do not expect to be run physically. AAU strategy process is also running and fits well with our input. SDG wise we are ahead of this at CS.

7) Hirings and department structure

We have made several organizational changes.

Department structure

- AI/ML team that goes across the research groups. Here we will anchor our Data Science programme and we hope to raise the intake of students and the title is changed to Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- CS Copenhagen also goes across research groups. Two employees in DW and DEIS. HCC employee also expected to be added.
- DPW group changed to DW group. P-people moved to DEIS. We have discussed this in professor group and other fora.
- Web group in DW is being considered as incubator considering critical mass.
- Security within DEIS might also be a candidate as an incubator in the future.

Hirings: We have hired approx. 15 -16 assistant professors across research groups. We are hiring to be able to have more hands to teach and thereby also research. 80% of our income comes from teaching it is important just as well as research. We will continue this next year.

Positions might be targeted within a specific area e.g. AI. Any comments on this from the council?

Comments

JP: Good with focus on specific areas – strengthening through diversity.

CSR: Good with more specific approach in terms of what subjects to choose for master thesis.

JK will discuss this also with professors.

8) AOB

CSR: Announce of moving of printers might have been done earlier, as students could not find them.
According to JK: This happened quickly yes but on the other hand gave us a hint of needed printers.
The current printer situation is that cleaning rooms are being converted to printer rooms

Evaluation of having the meeting in Danish: Went okay as long as presentations are in English and it is still an option to switch to English. The summary is in English so that all staff can read it.

Next meeting is November 18 2020.