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Final

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Research Committee Meeting

Minutes from meeting in the Research Committee on October 31, 2022, 8.30-10.00, FRB7H 2.405 and Teams

Participants: Torsten Nygård Kristensen (chair), Kim Lambertsen Larsen, Morten Lykkegaard Christensen, Marco Maschietti, Anders Olsen, Mads Albertsen, Morten Mattrup Smedskjær, Jens Laurids Sørensen, Majken Pagter, Jeppe Lund Nielsen, Mette Lübeck, Michael Toft Overgaard, Jens Muff, and Kåre Lehmann Nielsen.

Unable to attend: Per Halkjær Nielsen.

Other participants: Louise Bak Søndergaard (minute-taker).

Item 1. 8.30-8.35: Welcome and approval of the agenda

Can the committee approve the agenda?

Minutes

The agenda is approved by the committee.

Item 2. 8.35-9-05: Discussions and decisions re. institute funding

Appendix 2.1: Email sent to scientific personal at the department.

Please note that the deadline for applications is Monday 17 October, hence the applications will be sent to the committee members on Tuesday 18 October 2022.

Minutes

It is discussed whether it should be taken into consideration if an applicant received funding in our last internal funding round in June 2022. As the criteria was not stated in the application material, it is decided that it will not be taken into consideration at this meeting. At future internal funding application forms, it should be clear whether prior received internal funding is taken into consideration.

Following a discussion, the committee decides that they can choose to fund less than the full amount applied for. It is furthermore decided that the chair of the committee is to make a draft for the procedure of choosing among applications.

The committee gave out funding for approximately 500.000 DKK. The applicants have been notified of the committee's decision by the chair of the committee.



Item 3. 9.05-9.15: News on CSC PhD students

Information regarding Chinese Scholarship Councils (CSC).

Minutes

Overall, it is important to contact Head of Department (head@bio.aau.dk), Vice Head of Research (tnk@bio.aau.dk), or Head of doctoral programme of biotechnology, chemistry and environmental engineering (kll@bio.aau.dk) as soon as possible if a CSC student is being considered. This is important as the department has to apply for a tuition waiver and the process is being updated. Further, the ENG faculty has announced that only few CSC students, where strategic arguments for them coming are very strong, will join AAU in the future.

There is currently attention on dual-risk and risk-assessment of guests, and the committee members are encouraged to share this with colleagues. The importance of remembering the difference between country and people is highlighted.

Item 4. 9.15-9.30: Update on tenure track positions

Minutes

KLN and JM give an update on tenure track positions, where three applicants have been offered a position in the Section of Biology and Engineering (2 of them are paid from external funding for at least the next 30 months) and earlier this year one applicant was offered a position in the Section of Chemistry and Engineering. The department would like to have more permanently employed researchers – and for this purpose external funding is needed.

Is it discussed whether the possibility of employing more tenure track researchers (partly based on external funding) was approached in the same way in the two sections. Researchers in the Section of Chemistry and Engineering would have liked to have discussed this possibility more during the hiring process. The section and the management team will consider how the possibility can be implemented in the section's next tenure track hiring process.

It is encouraged to consider the dominance of the biology and engineering section members among the management during processes such as with the hiring of people in tenure track positions.

There is an ongoing work of putting more responsibilities on sections – this is also relevant if a partly external funded position doesn't work out as planned. The department is aware of the risk regarding extra positions.

The process of tenure track positions has been developed during the past year, and it is still a dynamic process.

In 2023 there will be one tenure track position in both sections – the job postings will be published primo 2023. Again, there should be awareness of gender bias, and how to communicate this awareness.

Item 5. 9.30-9.40: Update re. AAU missions/faculty initiatives (prioritization of applications from the institute to e.g. Bubble projects)

Minutes



The suggested missions (4 from ENG and 15 in total) will be discussed among rector, deans, and pro deans, who will choose which ones (likely 2-4) will become the 'AAU Missions'.

Regarding the faculty's strategic funding such as bubble projects: the department has been asked to prioritize between local applications before submitting them to the faculty. This means that there will be an internal deadline for applications a bit prior to the faculty's deadline. The research committee will be involved if prioritizing will be needed.

Item 6. 9.40-9.50: Evaluation of Research areas – plan

Minutes

The management will start having meetings with each research area in the beginning of 2023. Points/topics for discussion suggested by the research area and the management team will be announced to the research areas prior to the meeting.

Item 7. 9.50-10.00: Discussion re. pitch and internal peer-review of applications

Minutes

Approximate 11 DFF applications has been through internal peer review.

At the next meeting the committee will discuss whether this practice should be expanded to other types of applications. Feedback on receiving feedback will also be discussed.

Item 8. 10.00: AOB

Minutes

Last year the department hosted a PhD Summer School. The faculty would like to improve the process for 2023 and we will be asked to host at least one PhD course also in 2023.