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Final

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Research Committee

Minutes from the meeting in Research Committee, FRB 7H 2.405 and Teams, May 9, 2023, 8.30-11.30 AM

Participants: Torsten Nygård Kristensen (chair), Anders Olsen, Jens Muff, Jeppe Lund Nielsen, Kim Lambertsen Larsen, Majken Pagter, Marco Maschiatti, Mette Lübeck, Morten Lykkegaard Christensen, Morten Matrup Smedskjær, Per Halkjær Nielsen, and Jens Laurids Sørensen

Unable to attend: Kåre Lehmann Nielsen

Minutes

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved by the committee.

2. Status on the projects that are investigated at the institute (John K. Pedersen).

John gave an overview of the status. So far 8 projects have been looked into by the Finance and Accounts Department. They have found a few cases where expenses are not used according to budgets provided in the applications that have granted the money. We will have more information in June when the planned 15 projects have been investigated.

3. Strategic Institute Money / Economic situation at the university in general (Torsten N. Kristensen and John K. Pedersen)

It was informed that several institutes at the faculty have economic problems and needs to reduce in staff. This is not the case for our department, but it still has consequences because there is this principle at the faculty that we collectively help each other in such situations.

Specifically, this means that the approx. 1 million DKK set aside for strategic investments (money that the research committee had decided should be spend on small equipment and subsidizing PhD scholarships) will not be available. The situation might change but this is the current status.

4. Tenure track positions – update (Jens Muff)

A tenure track position has been announced in the Chemical Science and Engineering section. John K. Pedersen is looking into whether more than one tenure track assistant professor can be employed.

A tenure track position has been announced in the Bioscience and Engineering section and a second one is planned to be announced shortly.

5. New head of institute - process (Torsten N. Kristensen)

A process has been outlined with a deadline for applying June 5. First round of interviews will be 13/6 and second round of interviews is 27/6. Expected start date for the new head of department is



September 1. The employment committee consists of: Mogens Rysholt (chairman), John K. Pedersen, Niels T. Eriksen, Susanne Remmer Bielidt, Morten Korsgaard, Jens Laurids Sørensen and Morten Smedskjær

6. Summer Seminar status and suggestions to the organizing committee (Torsten N. Kristensen)

There was a general agreement in the research committee that there should be time for presentation of science performed in the research areas at the summer seminar 2023. The Department Committee (which is responsible for organizing the seminar) has been informed about this wish. It was also suggested that the new AAU Research Indicator which is substituting the BFI system could be presented by someone from the VBN team.

7. Basic science versus applied science / mission driven university discussion (Torsten N. Kristensen)

The committee had a good discussion about this topic and there was an agreement that we do both at the department and at AAU in general. Also, it was discussed that we should encourage that not only the applied science but also basic science, which typically provides the foundation for applied science, is facilitated by initiatives locally and globally at AAU.

8. Promotion of research areas / individuals – what sort of Institute / University do we aim for? Partly based on article by Eske Willerslev: »Københavns Universitet kan blive verdens bedste med få, enkle midler« (uniavisen.dk) (Per Halkjær Nielsen). <https://uniavisen.dk/eske-willerslev-koebenhavns-universitet-kan-blive-verdens-bedste-med-faa-enkle-midler/>

Per Halkjær Nielsen gave an overview of the content of the article by Eske Villerslev and it was discussed how we can take initiatives that facilitate more knowledge sharing among colleagues and students, and generally provide an environment where we signal to ourselves and our surroundings that we are proud of our job and working at the department and at AAU. Specifically, we discussed that all oral master thesis defenses should be announced at least in the research area that a given student belong to. Next year we propose that they are all also celebrated (the students organize, and the supervisor partly take part). Furthermore, Friday bread should be reintroduced in Aalborg.

9. News from committees (all)

Torsten N. Kristensen informed that the postdoc/PhD committee is organizing a workshop for postdocs and PhD students on June 2. 62 have signed up and the arrangement will take place at Aalborg Zoo.

10. Any other business

Nothing came up.