



DEPARTMENT OF
CHEMISTRY AND BIOSCIENCE

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Research Committee

Minutes from the meeting in the Research Committee,
FRB 7H 2.405 and Teams, September 14, 2023, 8.30-11.30 am.

Participants: Torsten Nygård Kristensen (chair), Anders Olsen, Cejna A. Quist-Jensen, Jens Muff, Jens Laurids Sørensen, Kim Lambertsen Larsen, Kåre Lehmann Nielsen, Majken Pagter, Marco Maschietti, Mette Lübeck, Morten Lykkegaard Christensen, Morten Matstrup Smedskjær, and Niels Madsen

Other participant: Louise Bak Søndergaard (minutes)

Unable to attend: Casper Steinmann, Jeppe Lund Nielsen, and Per Halkjær Nielsen

AGENDA

- 8.30 a.m.: Approval of the agenda /Torsten N. Kristensen
 - 8.35 a.m.: Welcome to Kim Lambertsen Larsen as Head of Department and to Casper Steinmann as new Research Area Leader for Applied Supramolecular Chemistry /Torsten N. Kristensen
 - 8.40 a.m.: Status research and external funding – key figures and time for discussion /Torsten N. Kristensen
 - 8.55 a.m.: Status regarding new Head of Administration /Kim Lambertsen Larsen
 - 9.00 a.m.: Status regarding Tenure-track positions /Torsten N. Kristensen
 - 9.15 a.m.: Knowledge for the World 2023/2024 /Kim Lambertsen Larsen
 - 9.30 a.m.: Update from the work regarding visualization of academic staff's work portfolio /Jens Laurids Sørensen
 - 9.45 a.m.: Looking ahead: The Research Committee and the Role of Research Area Leaders /Kim Lambertsen Larsen
 - 9.55 a.m.: Any other business
- Break*
- 10.15 a.m.: Presentation by CLAUDIA in the Auditorium and on Teams (invitations will be send out separately)

MINUTES

Ad. 1: 8.30 a.m.: Approval of the agenda /Torsten N. Kristensen

The agenda was approved by the committee.



Ad. 2: 8.35 a.m.: Welcome to Kim Lambertsen Larsen as Head of Department and to Casper Steinmann as new Research Area Leader for Applied Supramolecular Chemistry /Torsten N. Kristensen

The new members of the committee were welcomed.

Ad.3: 8.40 a.m.: Status research and external funding – key figures and time for discussion /Torsten N. Kristensen

There is a positive development regarding attracting external funding. This week the department was granted three Villum Experience Grants, given to Morten M. Smedskjær, Kim Lambertsen Larsen, and Torsten Nygård Kristensen. Furthermore, Morten M. Smedskjær was also granted a Villum Synergi Grant. Congratulations to all.

The prioritizing regarding hiring staff for projects was discussed. It's important to build strong individual researchers. Regarding funding 'overhead', there are ongoing negotiations between universities and private foundations.

Developments in numbers of publications in top journals and number of citations look good. Furthermore, the department is improving the percentage of publications published with open access, which is positive.

Please see the attachment for further information regarding funding, applications, and publications.

Ad. 4: 8.55 a.m.: Status regarding new Head of Administration /Kim Lambertsen Larsen

The process is going well.

Since the meeting is has been announced that interim Head of Administration, Morten Korsgaard, has accepted the position.

Ad. 5: 9.00 a.m.: Status regarding Tenure-track positions /Torsten N. Kristensen

The hiring process for Tenure-track assistant professor in Medical Biotechnology is ongoing.

As head of department, Kim Lambertsen Larsen will look into the TTA-positions. Four positions are founded by a strategic investment, and four are founded by external funding. There is a need to finalize some agreements and looking at the economy for the longer run, as we have to prepare for what will happen after the first four years, where all eight positions will be founded by the department. There is a need for new activities. However, the TT-assistant professors are not personally responsible for funding – the research areas are.

Furthermore, future retirements will not replaced 1:1. At the same time we need to consider research areas and teaching responsibilities.

Ad 6. 9.15 a.m.: Knowledge for the World 2023/2024 /Kim Lambertsen Larsen

We need to work with the AAU's strategy 'Knowledge for the World' every year. As part of this, the department has to fill in a 'målaftale'. Currently we have to work with 6 given goals for 2024, which we received a draft for yesterday – 4 goals are the same as this year; 2 goals are new.



Since the meeting information regarding the goals and the internal process has been uploaded to the department intranet: <https://www.intranet.bio.aau.dk/politikker-aftaler/info/knowledge-for-the-world-2022-26.cid544483>

Feltkode ændret

Ad. 7: 9.30 a.m.: Update from the work regarding visualization of academic staff's work portfolio /Jens Laurids Sørensen

The committee, which consisted of: Marco Maschietti, Casper Steinmann, Mette Lübeck, Trine Aalborg, and Jens Laurids Sørensen, had to come up on at least two suggestions for visualization.

A suggestion is to use VBN, which researchers are already using. However, the system should be a bit easier, and the output should be useful. The tool is already in use, which is an advantage.

Another suggestion could be to use an Excel-template, as the system is known and requires no additional costs. The template should ease comparisons.

The suggestions were discussed, and some prefer the current system. The management will discuss the suggestions, and also look into what data we currently have and how it can be used for distributing tasks in a fair way.

Ad. 8: 9.45 a.m.: Looking ahead: The Research Committee and the Role of Research Area Leaders /Kim Lambertsen Larsen

During the next couple of months, Kim will have 1:1 meeting with all research area leaders, with the aim of improving the organization to work even better.

There are different set-ups, challenges, and opportunities in the research areas, so there might be ten solutions on how to run an area.

Kim has a focus on creating involving processes, where there is a possibility to contribute. In 2024 we will have to finalize a new strategy for the department, which requires input from many people. The members of the committee are invited to bring in their inputs. Furthermore, Kim will strive for the culture, where employees tell the management what they need in order to be successful within our given boundaries.

The aim is to have an international evaluation process of our department in 2025, where the faculty also will be involved.

Ad. 9: 9.55 a.m.: Any other business

Looking into the budget: the department is to reach the new 'resultat mål'. It seems like we all will have to 'hit the breaks'. The administration's economists are looking into suggestions.

Ad. 10: 10.15 a.m.: Presentation by CLAUDIA in the Auditorium and on Teams

Slides can be found here: https://www.intranet.bio.aau.dk/digitalAssets/1308/1308132_claudia_fair_data_management_140923.pdf