

Minutes of 16th meeting in the Academy Council at The Faculty of Engineering
Friday 9th December 2011 between 12.00-14.00 I meeting room 1
Niels Bohrs Allé 1, Odense

Present:

Dean Per Michael Johansen, Bo Nørregaard Jørgensen BNJ (Mærsk), Linh Cao Hounng LCH (ITI), Søren Lind Christiansen SLC, Lone Borgersen LB (Mærsk), Peder Christensen PC (Mærsk), Dorthe Anicka Wagenaar DAW (Mærsk), Rune Duban Grandal RDG, Ulrik Haaning Mikkelsen UHM, Ciprian Cimpan, CC, Søren Elmer Kristensen SEK, Henning Andersen HA, Sanne Lefevre SL.

Apologies:

Sven G. Sommer (KBM), Morten Willatzen (MCI)

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. The National Audit Office of Denmark's account regarding PhD. Attached is appendix 1: "The National Audit Office of Denmark's account of the venture of the PhD study programme.
3. Suggestions for principles behind a potential model for assistant professor- lecturer procedure at The Faculty of Engineering. Attached is appendix 2: "Suggestions for principles behind potential model for assistant professor – lecturer procedure".
4. Involvement of employees and students in the upcoming strategy process.
5. Sections by student representatives. Mail and document is attached as appendix 3.
 - a. Deadline for publication of timetables
 - b. Transition to digital communication – including digital submission of assignments and written exams.
6. Orientation by the dean
 - a. TEK's internal procedure for VTU-assessments of UVM-lecturers
 - b. News from the regulations committee
7. AOB

1. Welcome
2. The National Audit Office of Denmark's account regarding PhD.
The dean went through the overall ventures within the PhD.-field in connection with the account.

The account concerns the venture of the PhD.-study programme in the shape of a doubling of the intake of PhD.-students and the establishment of PhD.-schools rather than the earlier research schools.

The parliament has reserved approximately 4,8 mia. kr. to gradually increase the PhD. -intake between 2005-2012. The purpose is to increase the research effort and form the basis of continued growth and prosperity in Denmark. In 2012 the Parliament needs to decide how the PhD.-venture has to be carried in.

The dean mentioned, that the National Audit Office has chosen make status of the venture, because the venture it's big education wise and economically with demands of great organizational changes at the university.

It is yet too soon to measure the effect of the increased intake and the establishment of the PhD. - schools, because the new large volume year groups of PhD's. wont graduate before next year. The account can however, tell something about whether the PhD. -venture is on track and if it can participate in forming a foundation for the Parliament's decision in 2012 regarding if the venture ought to be carried on.

The dean enhanced the increased intake of PhD. -students nationwide from 1445 in 2005 to 2592 in 2010, which fulfils the ventures goal of 2400 PhD.- students in 2010.

85% of the collected growth during the period from 2006-2010 ha happened within the scientific educations.

The statistics show it takes about four years nationwide to complete a PhD.-study programme. Six years after started PhD.-study programme, 72% have finished the education while 10% have dropped the programme. 18% are most likely still following the programme.

The Dean mentioned in this connection, that TEK has started an upgrading of qualifications of the main supervisors, which most likely will help the execution time for TEKs PhD.-students in the future.

The National Audit Office has enhanced, that the universities employs too many international PhD.-students, mainly within the main areas of science, which is increased from approx. 15% in 2000 to approx. 30% in 2009. Many of the international PhD.-students leave Denmark after graduation.

It was discussed if international PhD.-students creates growth in Denmark, when the leave. And it was discussed for what reasons the PhD.-students leave Denmark.

CC (PhD.-student) explained that he does not wish to go back to his home country Romania after graduation. He wishes to work in a country in Europe, because there are more job opportunities than in Romania. RDG mentioned the students of DSF (De studerendes Fælles Råd) thinks that the foreign PhD.-students leave Denmark because of its rigid regulations of integration.

The dean pointed out, that the PhD.-students who leave Denmark have great value concerning networking and future potential opportunities/partners for collaboration for TEK.

The main conclusion of the National Audit Office's account is, that the PhD.-venture is on track, but there is room for improvement. The universities have achieved the goals of taking in more PhD.-students and to maintain the PhD.-schools. The PhD.-schools have entailed a clear distribution of the responsibility and a greater uniformity in the PhD.-study programmes.

The Ministry of Science ought to produce satisfactory and comparable data for the PhD.-field in collaboration with the universities.

The academy council took note of the account.

3. Suggestions to principles for a potential model of assistant professor – lecturer programmes at The Faculty of Engineering

The dean went through the principles behind a potential assistant professor – lecturer programme at TEK.

The TEK management wishes a discussion of how it is possible to increase the recruitment of research talents to TEK – alternative suggestion are welcomed. The point of origin is, that assistant professors, who are employed by TEK are especially talented and there for need extraordinary working conditions.

The suggestion, which is inspired by NATs programme "Frontline assistant professorship", has been discussed on management level which have resulted in suggestions for principles, which can by the foundation for a new assistant professor - lecturer programme at TEK. The management wishes with

the suggestion to hear the academy council's thoughts about the idea and the thoughts about the general recruitment of talents to TEK.

The academy council related to the eight points of appendix 2: "Suggestions to principles for the potential assistant professor – lecturer programme.

LCH expressed, that the suggestion is a good idea and that it probably will attract more talented applicants. This can also have an effect on keeping the foreign employees. A thought was, that it is worth considering to place the teaching free period at the start of the programme, so the assistant professor can get started on his/her research.

BNJ found the suggestion was interesting but that a lot of question need to be answered before it is possible to make a decision. BNJ went through every point with comments and questions.

The concerns and comments lead to a discussion with more questions. The dean answered that TEK with the suggestion wishes to employ people with special prerequisites and give them special working prerequisites.

The conclusion is that the academy council finds the suggestion interesting and relevant and the council looks forward to discussing the suggestion again, when it has been revised in connection to the comments and discussed by the management.

Ad 4. Involvement of employees and students in the coming strategy process

The dean informed the council about a new strategy process, which becomes one of the main tasks in the spring.

The strategy process from 2007 has now been implemented and it is now time to make a new strategy for the faculty. The new strategy's aim is to secure the best possible framework conditions, so the employees can provide the faculty's core output. Secondly the strategy needs to state the indicator for the faculty's research and education profile.

Education, research and cooperation with the surroundings and external financing become central focal points for the strategy.

The dean asked the academy council three questions, which was discussed.

- What does a good strategy contain?
- How can we secure a constructive and effective involvement from the technical/administrative personnel, research and education staff and the students
- How can we secure a follow up on the strategy

The council responded positively to the involvement of the staff in the strategy process.

BNJ thought that there are other questions that ought to be answered before the final decision for the best possible strategy. How will TEK be positioned in the future nationally and internationally? Which companies can TEK collaborate with nationally and internationally and which front runners are there? TEK needs to know its target to control the process the right way. The scientists can be interviewed about what they do and afterwards it will be possible to match people interdisciplinary across the faculty. When the match making is done, it will be possible to make effective research facilities. BNJ mentioned that it is necessary to look into how TEK can evolve as a workplace with the new strategy.

LB does not think that the process with collecting good ideas and the process itself contradicts each other. The process needs to reach further out beyond the departments.

RDG suggested the students to be involved through the student organizations. RDG suggested using suggestions from the project “De Studerende i Centrum”.

HA answered, that he wishes for more active students in various committees etc. Maybe it is the way TEK organizes itself that makes the students deselect the committee work. The project “De Studerende i Centrum” has the purpose to strengthen and improve the education profile. The project and the work groups work has resulted in that 18 projects with a purpose to make SDU a better place for education will be implemented in the period between 2012 and 2015.

The dean thanked everyone for their comments to the strategy and concluded that an overview of the people who have professional insight, so good ideas can be collected. Three trails need to be clarified. How can the education part, the research part and the strategic/administrative part are incorporated in the strategy.

The coming process will include all who wishes to contribute to the strategy process. The dean will keep the academic council posted.

Ad. 5 Articles from the student representative

a. Deadline for publication of timetables

The dean explained, that HA was invited to provide concrete answers to this agenda.

RDG explained that it is a huge problem for the students, that their timetables are not publicized until a week before the start of the academic year, because it makes planning of other activities impossible.

HA explained that the timetables typically are ready 1-2 weeks before the start of the academic year. This is the way it has always been. Maybe this is caused by the old IOT-culture. HA agree to make a longer deadline for the timetables, so they can be ready a month prior to the start of the academic year. This will of course take some time, because it means, that routines need to be changed and other challenges can appear. The planning of the timetables is dependent of the local system for booking of class rooms, extra courses etc. A deadline of six months is there for impossible. When this year has finished the changes in connection to timetables can be started and HA will make sure that this will happen the best way possible.

RGD thought a month is a satisfactory deadline.

LB proposed that there is a problem in the fact, that blackboard only works shortly before the start of the semester. HA suggested, that all problems regarding blackboard has to be reported to head of IT Søren Lauridsen.

b. Transfer to digital communication – digital assignments and written exams

RDG briefed the committee about the letter from the student office, appendix 3.

RDG thinks that the development of “Syddanske Studerende” is very positive. RDG asked if this meant that the lecturers cannot demand that papers are handed in by paper.

HA referred to the fact, that the message is from the student office, but agreed that the formulation can be misunderstood. The demands for digital exams are not the same demands as for written reports and take-home-assignments etc. HA refers the students who wish to hand assignments in digitally to speak to their lecturer about permission to hand in papers digitally. It is up to the lecturer to decide which papers can be handed in digitally.

RDG briefed the committee that a student from MMMI had complained because of the changes in the exam form due to the transfer to digital communication. This had resulted in, that some students had had a negative experience. One of the points of complaint was that the students had to bring their own computer and printer to the exam and had the full responsible if technical problems occurred.

HA answered that is decided from a political point of view, that the university has to have digital exams. The goal is that everything will function digitally within 1 ½ years. The process has begun, but has unfortunately been delayed due to various legal and practical problems.

The winter exam 2011-2012 is a trial period, where the universities future regulations are used only partly. If the students do not want to hand in their assignments digitally in the exam period 2011-2012, the students can hand in their exams by hand, if the person do not have a computer or the computer crashes during the exam. A solution needs to be found for the future, but the solution is not yet ready. At the current time experiments with digital pens are tested.

HA cannot promise, that the students do not have to bring all examination aids in the future, but the student need to be familiar with the boundaries and the means. From summer exam 2012 all exams are digital. The dean can make dispensations from case to case. For the summer exam there will be a spare storage of computers from the university.

HA hopes that we can minimize the problems and hopes all involved are focused on a solution. If the students have concrete problems they need to go to their lecturer.

Ad. 6 Orientation by the dean

Ad. A. TEKs internal procedure for VTU-assessment of UVM-lecturers

The process for the gathering of candidates for TEKs internal procedure for the VTU-assessments of UVM-lectures has finished. There has been no criticism of the fact that the agreement will end by the end of the year. There are two candidates from MMMI, two from KBM and three from ITI.

Ad b. New from the regulations committee

The regulations committee work with changes concerning freedom to research and choosing of board members because of the new demands in the university law. Everyone is welcome to share their point of view to the draft. The hearing deadline is Friday the 13th January at noon.

Ad 7. AOB

Future meeting activities in 2012:

15th March

19th June

18th September

14th December

Next meeting is held 15th March 2012 between 12.00-14.00