

Agenda for 13th meeting in Academy Council at Faculty of Engineering

Wednesday 9 February 2011 at 10.00 – 12.00
meeting room 1, Niels Bohrs Allé 1, Odense

Participants:

Dean Per Michael Johansen, Morten Willatzen (MCI), Linh Cao Houg (ITI), Søren Lind Christiansen, SLC (Adm.), Sven G. Sommer (KBM), Lone Borgersen, LB (Mærsk), Peder Christensen (Mærsk), Dorthe Anicka Wagenaar (Mærsk), Rune Duban Grandal, RDG (student), Sanne Lefevre (minutes taker)

Apologies: Bo Nørregaard Jørgensen (Mærsk)

Absent without apologies:

Pernille Lund (student), Ciprian Cimpan (student)

Agenda:

1. Welcome to the new student representatives per 1 January 2011 - Pernille Lund, Ciprian Cimpan and Rune Duban Grandal
2. Reorganization of RoboCluster
3. Information from the dean
 - a. 2010 intake of students
 - b. The newly established innovation unit, TEK Momentum
 - c. Status on resignation agreements and financial situation
 - d. Change of University Law
4. Subjects from student representative Rune Duban Grandal
 - a. Student's council on TEK
 - b. Criticism of lessons taught in English on SDU
 - c. Status on the new faculty
5. AOB
 - a. Suggestion that the meetings in Academy Council in 2011 will be held in the afternoons due to the fact that the current meeting time collides with already determined lessons.
 - b. Dates for meetings in 2011.

Ad 1. Welcome to the new student representatives per 1 January 2011 - Pernille Lund, Ciprian Cimpan and Rune Duban Grandal

The dean welcomed Rune Duban Grandal, who has been reelected.

RDG informed that the student representatives cannot press reply on meeting invitations sent via Outlook and that Ciprian Cimpan who is English speaking cannot read Danish. It was agreed that the agenda will be forwarded in both Danish and English. Subjects which are relevant for the students will be discussed in English.

RDG will ask the other student representatives to reply to meeting invitations on email.

The Academy Council approved that the subjects that RDG had forwarded after the forwarding of the agenda would be placed under point 4 on today's agenda.

Ad 2. Reorganization of RoboCluster

SLC presented the ideas behind the reorganization of RoboCluster. The goal was to strengthen the cohesion to the Faculty's robotic research by among other things to integrate the RoboCluster secretariat in the Faculty secretariat. As brand RoboCluster is unchanged. Today the employees have been moved to other units at TEK – including KBM, Mærsk, TECH EconomicSupport and TEK Momentum. Some of the employees have their work place in connection with the Robolab, where the Robocluster secretariat (Bjarke H. Nielsen and Morten Thrysøe) is placed. In this connection RoboCluster has a new webpage.

See more <http://www.robocluster.dk/>

Ad 3. Information from the dean

a. 2010 intake of students (extract of section from minutes in Danish)

The dean went through the report "Søgningen til Syddansk Universitet" regarding the growth on national basis. Read more:

http://static.sdu.dk/mediafiles//Files/Om_SDU/Dokumentation_tal/Studiestatistik/Ansoegning/Analyse_s_oegningen_SDU05072010.pdf

The intake of students in year 2010 is the largest intake ever in the history of University of Southern Denmark. USD received more than 10,000 applications, of this more than 4,000 with first priority.

8 out of 10 study programmes taught in English this year receive more first priority applications from foreign citizens compared with last year. The percentage increase is highest at Campus Sønderborg.

At the Faculty of Engineering there was a considerable increase from 2009 till 2010 in both first priorities (21%) and the total number of applications (32%).

Particular the Master of Science in Robot Systems Engineering and in Product Development and Innovation experienced an increase in number of first priority applications of respectively 10 (28%) and 8 (36%) applications.

The engineering study programmes which are offered at Campus Sønderborg experienced a significant increase in 2010 with an increase of 41% compared with 2009.

LB asked what the rationale is behind starting new study programmes with low enrollment numbers, e.g. Velfærdsteknologi (Welfare Technology) and Lærings- og oplevelsesteknologi (Learning and Experience Technology) and also about the considerations regarding how long study programmes with low number of students will continue. The dean replied that it is an estimate of many elements why he could not give an unambiguous answer. The dean's assessment is that a current growth of the student body requires a palette of study programmes that will be appealing to students.

b. The newly established innovation unit, TEK - Momentum

The purpose of establishing TEK - Momentum is to make use of the competences and knowledge of the university and to support USD to become accessible for the business community thereby making a foundation for innovation and growth. TEK-Momentum is supported by Region Syddanmark for a period of 3 years and has a specific responsibility to make applications for and carry through innovation projects with public funding within its field of operation.

TEK – Momentum consists of a knowhow and engineering bank which draw on engineering and research expertise from all institutes at The Faculty of Engineering.

TEK – Momentum has started well and has had contact with approx. 15 companies.

The dean informed about Udvikling Fyn, which is a new initiative where municipalities on Funen cooperate about common business and tourist initiatives starting 1 January 2011. The unified organization on Funen makes it easier to cooperate across municipality borders in order to make Funen more attractive for the business community and to attract more deep-pocketed tourists.

c. Status on resignation agreements and financial situation

SLC informed that there have been entered resignation agreements with 15 employees. All received the offer about resignation and all were offered 2 extra months of payment no matter position or seniority. The resignation agreements and the natural resignations of project employed employees on RoboCluster will in the long term improve the financial state with 12m. DKK. At present the management has carried out the necessary reductions and expects that at the gateway to 2012 the financial situation will be in balance.

LB commented that the process of the employment reduction had caused insecurity among the colleagues, and that the different messages about the financial state at the Christmas party and the summer party had been confusing. The dean replied that the process of briefing the Liaison Committee proceeds according to predetermined rules, where the committee is informed from start to end. The members of the committee are then to inform the colleagues that they represent. The dean expects that the heads of the institutes inform their employees about specific financial issues, and the dean will gladly participate in general discussions about the financial state.

d. Change of University Law

The dean gave a concise account for the contents of the hearing material. The hearing reply has been accounted for in the existing draft for the proposal of law to change the university law. The Academy Council will be informed about new hearing material when available.

Ad 4. Subjects from student representative Rune Duban Grandal

a. Student's council on TEK

In the beginning of March the dean has a meeting with coordinator Mette Ina Jensen from Syddanske Studerende to discuss student's council on TEK. The Academy Council will be informed about the results of the meeting.

b. Criticism of lessons taught in English on USD

In RUST Magazine no. 12/2010 TEK is mentioned because the students are unsatisfied with the linguistic skills of the teachers. The teachers may choose between different not compulsory courses to improve their English skills. The Academy Council recommends that a standard point is added to the semester evaluation where the teachers' language skills are being evaluated by the students. The heads of the institutes should follow up on the results of the evaluations, if improvements are necessary.

c. Status of the construction of the new faculty

The dean informed that Fyns Stiftstidende this day writes that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has found the money in order to make the sale happen. The dean informed that the time of movement probably will be 2014/2015.

Ad 5. AOB

- a. Suggestion that the meetings in Academy Council in 2011 will be held in the afternoon due to the fact that the current meeting time collides with already determined lessons.

The suggestion was not passed.

- b. Dates for meetings in 2011 – 8 June, 6 September and 6 December.