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Minutes of Department Council meeting on April 28, 2021 Klik eller tryk her for at skrive tekst.

**Participants:** Kjeld Pedersen, Simon Bøgh, Esben Skovsen, Esben Lindgaard, Jan Anker Nielsen, Peter Kjær Kristensen, Julie Thuri Thrane.

Absent: Nanna Bergmann Winther, Astrid Heidemann Lassen.

## 1. Budget 2021

Enclosure 1: Budget 2021 – Targets and principles Enclosure 2: Financial follow-up February 2021

As decided at the last meeting on September 24, 2020 we will make a brief review and discussion of Budget 2021.

**NOTE** // Mick Scholtka resigns from the Department Council because he is taking a break from his studies and is currently representing the students nationally in the Danish Students' Union. Julie Thuri Thrane, substitute member, will take his place for the rest of the year. Welcome to Julie and also welcome to Nanna, who like wise is a new member.

Agenda approved. Anne will remember next time to put "Approval of the agenda" on the agenda (oops!).

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Brief review, clarification of technical issues and discussion of budget based on enclosures.

Points from discussion:

- We have been allowed to budget with a deficit this year. We are still working to find the money. A significant reason for the deficit is that the costs of faculty contributions and community service have increased.
- We are looking into stagnant or declining revenues from the ministry, and if our economy is going to grow it will be through projects. In the next few years, our education income will fall there will be less teaching as the other faculties also take over. This is worrying and in order to create stability and security, we make contracts for the teaching with the various parties. We also work with our own education portfolio and on how we can get the finished graduates into work more quickly. AAU is also trying to change the skewed distribution of basic research funding between the Danish universities. There is an opening for renegotiation as it looks at the moment. In this context, it is important that we focus on the good stories.



- Budget principles (Budget 2021 Targets and principles) are published once a year and are an attempt to create transparency. There is a desire that the publication also shows figures on teaching for the groups and not just for the projects turnover. There can be a big difference in teaching and if we leave out these numbers, it gives a misleading picture.
- Annum is reduced we are starting to hit the pain threshold. Could the funds be distributed differently between section, groups and employees? There is a difference in how it is approached in the groups/sections – we do not want a "one fits all" solution. Is it possible to make joint purchases of PCs so that they do not have to be paid by annum? Suggestion: Consider buying computing computers together, and then buying cheaper lap-tops.

# Follow up:

Jan incorporates statements about teaching within the groups in the Budget principles.

# 2. Changes in the educations at Physics / nano

Information about changes and discussion of consequences for staff and students – are there conditions and circumstances we need to pay special attention to? How do we ensure a good reception of the changes?

We have been addressing the issue for a number of years, now the pieces are finally falling into place. We are still disguising the name of the education. We are now focusing on the content. There are many formal requirements and interests we need to consider. We are trying to change the education so it becomes a technical physics education. We work with a model where the education is built on different themes divided into semesters for example: materials, energy, electronic components, optical sensors, biotech. The difference from today's education may not really be that big, but the structure is different. It will be more simple, long-term and with a broader appeal and better interaction with other educations.

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Derived debate on digital teaching; do we at the department have a strategy or a larger plan for the digital teaching in the future? What are experiences, advantages and disadvantages of the teaching method?

We are at a crossroads. It is important that the knowledge we have built up is not lost. We can reduce and turn it all into self-study or we can do it smarter. We must include that parts that raises the quality. It is not a saving exercise. It is essential that we lay out a strategy; a good plan for future teaching.

Various groups have already been set up across the university and they are working on digitization and common AAU principles and recommendations in relation to teaching. We also have a number of deans who are very aware of this problem.

# Follow up:

Kjeld provides input on digital teaching, etc. in relevant contexts.

# 3. First year students will be moved to the departments on Campus from 2022

From September 2022, we will also be housing our 1st year students. The local plan has not been clarified yet, there are several options in play. How do we get the new students well integrated into the study environment? Discussion of challenges and possible solutions.



Discussed. It is important that students are as close to us as possible. Auditoriums are a challenge – they must be built on the long term.

### 4. Reconstruction of FIB 16 on the way

We will soon be renovating the basement at Fibigerstræde 16. We will create a functional and flexible learning and living environment for 100 "new" students. We expect that a rehousing will be necessary during the renovation. Discussion of the plans and possible solutions in relation to rehousing. Renovation is expected to begin at the end of 2021, and we can – if all goes well – use the building again around summer 2022.

Drawings and plans were presented at a staff meeting on April 26. Julie is part of the user group.

There are (already) changes in the schedule: we expect the work to begin in March 2022 and to be completed in December 2022.

There is agreement that it will be good change, especially common areas that are planned and which will create a good framework for social life among the students. This can become a gathering point for our students.

However, we must keep in mind how important sound and acoustics are in such open environments – it is important that there is a focus on it so that it becomes a good environment for the students which they can actually work in and use. We can benefit from experiences from others, for example from Architecture and Design.

There are several solutions in play around rehousing – there is a concern that the construction process drags on and the rehousing therefore also does the same.

### Follow up:

Kjeld takes input into the further process.

### 5. Communication to the department

Is there anything from today's meeting we need to communicate to anyone - and who will do it?

Nothing.

### 6. Any other business

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Feel free to bring items and topics to the meetings.

### Follow up:

The next meeting is on November 10 – Anne will send an email a little in advance with reminder to members to provide input on topics.