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Minutes meeting in MP Department Council on April 6th 2022

Participants: Jens Christian Moesgaard Rauhe (formand), Astrid Heidemann Lassen, Simon Bøgh (deltog i sidste halvdel af mødet), Esben Lindgaard, Jan Anker Nielsen, Peter Kjær Kristensen, Hamilton Delaney Miller, Simon Rasmussen.

Unable to attend: Esben Skovsen

Other participants: Camilla Kristensen (Keeper of the minutes) – Translation: Laura

1. Approval of minutes and agenda

Appendix: Minutes Department council meeting: 08.12.21 <https://www.intranet.mp.aau.dk/committees-councils/Department+Council/>

Approved.

Follow up:

Minutes for approval should be included in the notice looking forward.

Astrid Heidemann Lassen are requesting the option to use First Agenda – Camilla Kristensen are looking into it.

Budget and Economy

Appendix: MP Annual accounts 2021 and Budget 2022

Setting: For your information

Jan Anker Nielsen are presenting the annual accounts 2021 and budget 2022:

Annual account 2021

Overall, the corona pandemic has had an influence on the annual account once again this year as there has been fewer activities on the projects including less traveling, employments and purchasing. AAU yields a profit of 100 million kr. The institute has a deficit of about 2,8 million kr. Despite deviations from the budget, the dean has approved the annual account. In connection with the recap, there are questions about the various deviations from the budget to the final annual account. The increase of consumption costs is primarily due to big investments in laboratory equipment at the end of the year. There is an agreement in the committee that one should be working more strategically with the advancement of the laboratories so potential extra resources at the end of the year can be used more strategically. The deviation in the co-financing is caused by corona and

hence less activity on the projects. The payroll costs account for a big part of the expenses of the institute. Especially the expense of payrolls on VIP are significantly lower than expected. The deviation is due to corona as the planned projects has been postponed including employments and buy outs. The big deviation concerning repayments are primarily due to fewer maternity leaves. The falling building allowance results from the fact that the institute's employees have moved closer together. Finally, it is being called into question what the intern project incomes are covering. The term contains both various corona resources from the ministry as well as bubble-projects from the faculty.

Budget 2022

AAU has implemented a new budget model which means that there will be made budgets for 3 years at a time from now on. In the budget it states that the institute must have a project turnover of 54,4 million kr. in 2022. Jan Anker Nielsen are concerned about whether the project turnover is realistic. Furthermore, there is a concern about the rising rent costs on AAU which will influence the economy of the institute looking forward where the rent will increase with 2,5 million kr. from 2022 to 2024.

Esben Lindgaard is requesting that the management group will discuss how the institute will reach their goals about the budget 2022 including how the institute will have their good application process supported. The management informs that henceforward the focus will be on the quality rather than the quantity of the applications. Furthermore, employments will be prioritized in both the senior and junior layer to gain the desired growth. It is stressed that the change process that has been set in motion about the application processes and the distribution of teaching are requiring a change of the culture on the institute – a culture where there is a bigger focus on the community instead of the individual. In relation to this, one must work on establishing a bigger openness and more trust in the dialogue about how the institute uses their resources best, so it is not just the individual but the institute as a whole that becomes a success. Likewise, it is stressed that there will be need for retrieval of bigger projects if the budget is to be achieved.

Esben Lindgaard is requesting guidelines for the degree of co-financing on the different types of projects in hope of transparency and explicitness about expectations for various projects. The management comments that rigid rules for the degree of co-financing can be problematic regarding the project take home but adds that it is important that the economy team are being involved early in the application process as well as important that Kirsten is informed so the applications can be registered. It is also stressed that it is important with flexibility if any projects “emerge” that are more strategically important to prioritize for the institute as a whole.

The management informs that a strategy work for the advancement of the institute's laboratories will be initiated. The topic is included in the head of department's annual cycle of work which is to secure due diligence. Likewise, there will be focus on more coordination in the research areas about this topic so the respective employees in the research groups are more involved in this process.

The side of the employees are positive about the new strategic direction of the institute and approve the importance that the development of the institute must be with starting point in the present and future needs in the surrounding society.

Follow up:

No follow up.

2. Orientation about reduction and relocation of student places

Setting: Orientation about the consequences of a political agreement of reducing student workspaces in the big cities.

In March the ministry approved AAU's unified input about relocation and downscaling plans for the university. The unified relocation and downscaling percent are ending on 6,4. AAU still holds on to the former announced

education shutdowns and are looking into the admission limit and admission requirements on the specific educations. Focus is still on retention and quality assurance of our educational offers. The ENG faculty has registered a unified admission limit on all educations that belongs under ENG which gives some flexibility when the distribution is to be made on the institute level. Concerning admission requirements, the admission requirement for Mathematics has been increased from 4 to 7 on Physics, Nanotechnology and Mathematics. Among the student representatives in the department committee there are concerns that the increased admission requirement will have a negative effect on the number of admissions. Head of department Jens Christian Moesgaard Rauhe informs that studies have shown that the opposite is the case because there is more prestige in applying for educations where the grade point average is higher. On these educations there are also a clear correlation between the mathematics grade and the student's ability to finish the education. Higher admission requirements have on other studies shown to have a positive effect on the dropout rate. Besides, the institute has a big focus on establishing a good cooperation with the gymnasiums in this country, and SRP projects are mentioned as a good example of this cooperation. It is stressed that it is important that pupils have the opportunity of going to university by which it is demystified, and they get a bigger insight into studying at a university.

Follow up:

No follow up.

3. Future student workplaces

Appendix: Basement (sketch of the basement in FIB 16 after reconstruction) – attached.

Setting: The faculty has earmarked resources to reconstruct the student workplaces to optimize the space utilization. The institute is applying for resources to work on the booking of group rooms. The student workplaces in the basement of FIB16 are rethought in connection with the renovation of the building. On that background, IL wants to discuss the decoration of the future student workplaces.

The faculty has earmarked resources to restructure student workplaces to optimize the space utilization and by that reduce the rent expenses of the faculty. In the appendix there is included a sketch of the renovation of the student workplaces in Fib.16. Right now, there are room for about 100 students. After the renovation there will be room for about 200. The students have been involved in the process from the beginning. Parts of the committee point out that the practical needs should be considered (e.g. the Aalborg model, task calculation, study program) when the plan for distribution of the new group rooms are made. In all study areas there will be white boards, blackboards, and screens. Furthermore, there has been focus on making the study areas flexible and the students must adjust to sharing the available study workplaces in the future. Head of department Jens Christian Moesgaard Rauhe encourages the student representatives in the committee to discuss the plan in the respective study environments and return with potential comments. Distribution of the study areas are still in progress and thus not fully defined.

The institute/university has not yet decided what booking system to use in Fib.16. There is an agreement in the committee that there is a need for an intuitive and flexible booking system which is not Outlook. Astrid Heide-mann Lassen suggests looking closer at the booking system "AskCody".

The plan for the relocation of Skjernvej is set to be end of 2025.

Proposition: That the study area in the basement of Fib.16 will be named and not referred to as the basement when the area starts being used. It is suggested to let the students take care of the naming.

Proposition from the students: That there will be installed a changing table on one of the toilets on Fib.16. The remaining committee representatives do not agree that there is a need for this at the moment but if the need arises, they will reconsider it.



Follow up:

Camilla Kristensen will make sure that the proposal of the booking system "AskCody" will be passed on.

Orientation about building in FIB 12, 14 and 16

Setting: Head of department informs about the initiated projects.

Head of department Jens Christian Moesgaard Rauhe shortly informs about the building in Fib. 12, 14 and 16. In relation to Skjernvej, the plan is to make cleanroom in Fib.12. including getting offices and a chemistry depot. The expectation is that the building will be ready in 2025. The other laboratories on Skjernvej are considered in the already established laboratories in Fib.14. After the moving from first study year on Strandvejen, MP will be on the following addresses: Fib.10, 12, 14, 16 and Pon103.

Follow up:

No follow up.

4. Target agreement for MP 2022

Appendix: MP target agreement (attached)

Setting: There has now been made a target agreement for 2022 that we need to work on implementing during the year. We will get some of the activities (partly) economically financed.

Head of department Jens Christian Moesgaard Rauhe shortly informs about the target agreements that has been discussed earlier in the department committee. The target agreements are replacing the beforementioned 5% agreements. The target agreements aim to underpin the overall AAU-strategy and secure that we will reach our goal in the different units (faculties, institutes, etc.). The target agreement is divided into 7 central areas, that is: Education, research, knowledge collaboration, Communication and Profiling, Organization and Leadership, Administration and Service and implementation of Knowledge for the World. The target agreements of the institute are available on the Institute's intranet. In 2022 the institute has primarily focused on research and research development.

Follow up:

No follow up.

5. Any other business

Nothing.

Follow up:

No follow up.

6. Communication to the institute

7. Is there anything from today's meeting that needs to be communicated, and who does it?



There is a request for more communication about the renovation process and the moving plans for the students.

Follow up:

Camilla Kristensen will make sure to pass on the message to the relevant parties in the study team.