

Meeting on: 24 June 2021 from 14:00 - 15:00

Place: Microsoft Teams

PhD committee meeting

Minutes

Participants: Søren Højgaard Mørup (Chair, LAW), Helena Skyt Nielsen (ECON), Torsten Kolind (SOCSCIBUS), Peter Krøjgaard (PSY), Birte Asmuß (MGMT), Christoffer Green-Pedersen (PS), Inge Lise Lundsgaard Kongshøj (Vice chair, PhD representative, PSY), Cecilie Marie Løchte Jørgensen (PhD representative, ECON), Mathilde Albertsen Winsløw (PhD representative, PS), Natja Bech Kjeldsen (PhD representative, SOCSCIBUS), Michal Hron (Observer, MGMT), Kristoffer Holm (Observer, BTECH), Per Baltzer Overgaard, Randi Groslier Bjælde (Aarhus BSS HR & PhD)

Absent: Jesper Aagaard (PhD representative, LAW), Torben Andersen (BTECH)

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved without comments.

Aarhus BSS HR & Ph.d.

2. Short briefing on the current situation at Aarhus BSS Graduate School due to COVID-19 by Per Baltzer Overgaard

A short briefing on the current status for exemptions and extensions was given by Per Baltzer Overgaard. Requests for exemptions regarding research environment change stays are continuously coming in and are handled individually case by case as usual during covid-19. No new applications for extensions have been received since February. The PhD school administration has not received any new applications for dispensation from 30 ECTS since the summer of 2020.

Ref.: rgb

Date: 01 July 2021

Page 1/4

3. Briefing on the quarterly report for Quarter 1 2021 by Per Baltzer Overgaard

Appendix 1: Quarterly report for Q1 2021.

The briefing on the quarterly report was noted.

4. Briefing on the dissertation assessment committees appointed for the period from 10 Marts 2021 to 17 June 2021.

Appendix 1: Assessment committees in the period 11 January 2021 to 9 Marts 2021

The briefing on assessment committees appointed for the period from 10 Marts 2021 to 17 June 2021 was noted. Per Baltzer Overgaard commented that this time more women than men are members of the committees.

5. Briefing on courses approved since the last meeting

Appendix 3: Case presentation on courses approved between Marts and June 2021.

Appendix 3a: Stochastic Calculus

Appendix 3b: Insurance Mathematics

Appendix 3c: Offentlig digitalisering – teknologiske, forvaltningsretlige og metodiske aspekter

Between 10 Marts 2021 and 17 June 2021 three courses has been approved: Stochastic Calculus (ECON, 10 ECTS), Insurance Mathematics (ECON, 10 ECTS), and Offentlig digitalisering – teknologiske, forvaltningsretlige og metodiske aspekter (LAW, 1 ECTS).

The briefing on courses approved since the last meeting was noted.

6. Briefing on merit approved since last meeting

Since the last meeting merit has been granted in two cases. The briefing was noted.

7. Discussion of follow-up process to the “Quality in the PhD process” (KIP3) survey 2021

Appendix 4: case presentation on the follow-up process to the ”Quality in the PhD process” (KIP3) survey 2021

Appendix 4a: Report - BSS (D5134057)

Appendix 4b: Report - Business_Development_and_Technology (D5134058)

Appendix 4c: Report - Economics_and_Business_Economics (D5134062)

Appendix 4d: Report - Law (D5134029)

Appendix 4e: Report - Management (D5134031)

Appendix 4f: Report - Political_Science (D5134037)

Appendix 4g: Report - Psychology_and_Behavioural_Science (D5134038)

Appendix 4h: Report - Social_Sciences_and_Business (D5134041)

Appendix 4i: Report - AU_QualityinPhDProcess_21

Appendix 4j: Tabelrapport_BSS (D5134046)

Quality in the PhD Process (KIP) is a quadrennial survey that aims at providing specific, local knowledge to support the quality development of Aarhus University’s Graduate Schools as well as to contribute to international research on PhD degree programmes. It was carried out for the first time in 2013.

At an initial meeting between the PhD School Head and the Programme Chairs the results has been discussed and the following brief note with proposals for initial follow-up steps was prepared.

Locally at the departments, follow-up is expected via meetings with the PhD students, supervisors and possibly at the institute forum, respectively, before concrete measures are determined. In addition, the results are included in the international evaluation of the PhD schools and will be followed-up in the PhD committee and at AU level.

Across Aarhus BSS, there will be a focus on stress, teaching burden and guidance in teaching. In addition, it is being considered whether a follow-up study should be made of the perception of the benefits of an environmental change for PhD students to get the supervisors (and mentors) perception of the outcome

for comparison (should be considered for the entire junior faculty, and not only PhD students).

The PhD students commented on why they haven't received the open comments that was part of the survey. As the PhD students participating in the survey were promised full anonymity the open comments have only been made available for the PhD School Heads. Per Baltzer Overgaard suggested that the PhD students address the five PhD School Heads and request that they consider whether, and in what format, the open comments can be shared with the PhD committees.

The PhD students suggested that some comparative analyses should be conducted to better understand the results. The following extra analyses have already been requested from Rambøll by the PhD School Heads (*ref. they are now available*):

- International versus national PhD students
- Female versus Male PhD students
- Breakdown by seniority / year as PhD student (especially if the supervisor management is most pronounced here)
- Flexible (3+5 and 4+4) versus ordinary (5+3) PhD students

Furthermore, Gitte Wichmann-Hansen will receive all data so further analyses should be possible. This will be discussed by the PhD School Heads, and the PhD committee is welcome to come with suggestions.

The following was suggested for further local discussions within the PhD programmes:

- Make sure there is a forum to talk about the PhD process, stress related issues and insecurities related to the PhD study
- Present the result for the supervisors to increase their awareness of the students experience of loneliness, lack of supervisor availability and stress issues
- Mentor programme for new PhD students
- Investigate why the students find that the workload from the department is more than it should be
- Investigate if there are any structural issues that could be changed, both locally and in general

Concrete measures both locally and in general should be decided upon during the autumn of 2021.

8. Discussion of the international evaluation of Aarhus BSS Graduate School

According to the Ministerial Order no 172 of 27 January 2018 (The University Act) §14, 5, Danish universities must evaluate their Graduate Schools regularly.

Rector is responsible for initiating the international evaluation in collaboration with the head of the Graduate School, and follow up on the evaluation.

Page 4/4

Aarhus University is evaluating its five Graduate Schools in 2021. The last evaluation was conducted in 2015. The evaluation is based on two elements: a self-evaluation report written by the individual schools, and a site visit and written report by an international assessment committee.

The PhD students were invited to prepare a document with their own comments to be forwarded to the panel before the site visit.

To follow up on the evaluation, the head of each Graduate School will draft a plan for implementation on the recommendations and discuss this with the rector of Aarhus University. Aarhus University makes a summary of the evaluations of the five Graduate Schools and informs The Ministry of Higher Education and Science about the conclusions.

Subsequently, final evaluation reports will be published on the websites of the Graduate Schools.

The site visit is 13-14 September 2021. The evaluation panel is expected to meet with PhD students, supervisors, programme chairs, faculty management, the PhD School Head and the PhD association.

9. Any other business

No other business.

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