



Terms of reference of Aarhus University's Business Committee

Background

The goal of Aarhus University (AU) is to become a preferred partner for both the public and the private sector. AU's external collaboration must be strengthened: private companies and public sector organisations must collaborate more with researchers and students. This will give researchers the opportunity to apply their research in cooperation with the society to which they belong, while at the same time giving the public and private sectors access to the high-quality research and expertise that characterise AU. Together with researchers, companies and public sector organisations must have access to the university's advanced laboratories and instruments. Strengthened external collaboration on concrete projects, Master's theses, case competitions and so on will help ensure that students develop a closer connection to the labour market before graduation, through which they will obtain networks and improved career and job opportunities. It must be possible to translate this cooperation into increased innovation and competitiveness for society.

Tasks

The tasks of the Business Committee are:

- To ensure that research and science advice are strengthened through business collaboration.
- To enter into strategic framework agreements with major enterprises, public institutions, municipalities, regions and business regions. Framework agreements may include both educational and research collaboration, and may include all relevant subject areas. The framework agreements must be extended with sub-agreements at relevant levels (faculty, department/school, research group).
- To follow up on strategic framework agreements and action plans at least once a year
- To exchange knowledge with the faculties' business committees regarding collaboration with external partners, and to ensure cross-faculty coordination and knowledge exchange
- To strengthen the university's profile as an attractive partner
- To strengthen cooperation with SMEs

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- To contribute to strengthening the career-oriented dimension of AU's degree programmes (including case competitions)
- To strengthen entrepreneurship for both researchers and students by creating optimal conditions for the establishment of startup and spinout companies
- To strengthen the commercialisation of research through collaboration with business and industry on licensing and sale of technologies
- To ensure that the university's research infrastructure and facilities are included in collaborations with external partners to a greater extent than currently
- Strengthen AU's alumni network.

Working method

The committee must take the wishes and needs of students, employees and external partners as its point of departure.

The committee must set targets for its work, and must draw up an annual work plan which must be followed up on at regular intervals. Administrative support for the committee is provided by the Office of Business Collaboration through the involvement of the coordination group and other stakeholders.

- The coordination group is comprised of a representative from each of the four faculties, from AU Research Support and External Relations, and from AU Student Administration and Services, in addition to the head of the Office of Business Collaboration, who serves as chair. The group's function is coordination and execution on behalf of the Business Committee through administrative support, and must meet once a month at a minimum.
- The Committee for Research and External Cooperation and the Education Committee must contribute presentations and briefs as commissioned by the Business Committee through the Office of Business Collaboration.

The Business Committee or the Office of Business Collaboration allocates tasks (at a general level) between the coordination group, the Education Committee and the Committee for Research and External Cooperation.

The rector, pro-rector and university director are responsible for implementing the initiatives decided across the university. Support for this work is provided by the Office of Business Collaboration as well as the Committee for Research and External Cooperation, the Education Committee, the administration's management team and other stakeholders. The deans – with support from their respective faculties – are responsible for implementation at the faculties. In this connection, the deans may draw on the coordination group, which assists with cross-faculty coordination. Together with the administration's management team, the university director is responsible for implementation in the administration.

Membership

The committee is comprised of the rector, the pro-rector, the university director and the four deans.

Meeting frequency

The committee meets at least once a month and as needed.



Amendment and revision

The Business Committee must update the terms of reference annually.

Decided on 25 January 2017. Updated version approved on 9 January 2019. To be reviewed again on 4 December 2019.

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