



Terms of reference for the Business Committee at Aarhus University

Objective

On behalf of the senior management team, the Business Committee handles academic issues and framework conditions that are common to all of Aarhus University's faculties in business and innovation-related issues.

The Committee has the following main objectives:

- to realise Aarhus University's mission and vision as described in the university's strategy
- to identify and develop interdisciplinary initiatives which foster and implement the university's strategy for enterprise and innovation which can support and supplement the faculties' initiatives
- to coordinate and share knowledge across the faculties
- to influence the university's framework conditions through interaction with regional, national and international decision-makers
- to advise the senior management team with regard to the above.

The Business Committee works in close collaboration with the senior management team. For example, the senior management team may ask the Business Committee to develop specific proposals for initiatives or activities in relation to the area. Similarly, the Business Committee may submit proposals to the senior management team. The Business Committee works in dialogue with the faculties and is supported by the administrative Coordination Group in the business area. In addition, the Business Committee includes the Committee on Education, the Research Committee, departments, administration, external stakeholders and others.

Tasks

The Business Committee has the following main tasks:

- To strengthen the university's profile as an attractive partner
- To strengthen inter-faculty collaboration with external partners, including large companies, SMEs and public-sector institutions (including municipalities, region(s) and business regions)
- To strengthen entrepreneurship for both researchers and students by creating optimal conditions for the establishment of startup and spinout companies
- To strengthen collaboration with key business and entrepreneurial stakeholders, including the Central Jutland business development board (*Erhvervshus Midtjylland*), the Danish Executive Board for Business Development and Growth, Business Network Aarhus, Innovation Fund Denmark, the Danish Growth Fund, clusters and Incuba
- To ensure the best possible framework for the AU alumni network
- To contribute to strengthening the career-oriented dimension of AU's degree programmes (including case competitions)



- To ensure system support, including the AU Job and Project Bank and CRM
- 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
- To ensure implementation of the Business and Innovation Strategy 2021-2025.

Appointment and decision-making powers

The committee consists of:

- The director of enterprise and innovation (chair)
- A nominated science representative for each faculty who can represent, and has decision-making authority at, faculty management level
- The head of the Office of Business Collaboration.

The chair is assisted by a vice-chair appointed – with annual rotation – by the chair from among the committee's members. The director of enterprise and innovation regularly informs the senior management team about their work and presents relevant cases to be decided by the senior management team. The committee has decision-making authority within the areas of responsibility that have been delegated to the committee by the senior management team.

Operating procedures

Agendas for meetings are prepared by the chair, who is also responsible for developing concrete plans of action to ensure progress in relation to the committee's main tasks. A committee member must be designated as responsible for any major points on the agenda that involve several stakeholders in order to involve relevant parties in relation to developing ideas and consultation, as well to present any recommendations to the senior management team. The agenda, including case presentation and appendices, is sent out at least 10 days prior to a meeting.

A committee may appoint temporary (ad hoc) or permanent sub-committees to perform specific tasks or in order to generate ideas/proposals to the committee.

Involvement and openness

The committee is obligated to involve relevant stakeholders in its work. Involvement may take the form of consultation, collaboration on specific initiatives, participation in sub-committees, and seminars. Minutes of meetings are published at au.dk.

Budget

In connection with the preparation of the university's budget, the senior management team decides the budget for Enterprise and Innovation. The director of enterprise and innovation may decide to allocate some of these funds to the Business Committee. In



addition, an increase in external funding is expected. The committee will be involved in financial decisions when relevant.

Administrative support

The committee is serviced by the Office of Business Collaboration in Enterprise and Innovation in close collaboration with the administration and in ongoing dialogue with the Dean's Office/Secretariats via the Administrative Business Co-ordination Group. The Coordination Group is composed of a representative from each of the five faculties, from AU Research Support and External Relations, and from AU Student Administration and Services. In addition, there is the head of the Office of Business Collaboration, who serves as chair.

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