

## **Mandate for the working group for establishing common goals for teaching evaluations at AU**

Aarhus University (AU) aims to continuously improve the quality of the university's study programmes, the teaching which it offers as well to support a fruitful educational environment by ensuring the best possible conditions for student learning and completion rates.

Teaching evaluation is an important tool with a view to creating a common dialogue and a shared sense of responsibility for ensuring satisfactory study programmes. It is therefore vital that AU incorporates the students' and the teachers' evaluation of the teaching in its quality-assurance work and in developing both individual subject elements as well as the academic profiles of the study programmes. The students can help to assess whether the teaching, academically, pedagogically/didactically and through its practical organisation, provides an opportunity to develop the knowledge, the skills and the competencies contained in the learning objectives, and which will be honoured at the exam.

In this connection, the Education Committee wish to appoint a working group whose overall task is to draw up a proposal for common goals for systematic teaching evaluation at AU which recognise the various evaluation cultures, teaching methods and educational objectives.

The working process should ensure that the academic environments and study boards are involved to a considerable extent.

The group's first task is to prepare a report which contains the following:

- An introductory discussion of the purpose of the teaching evaluation at AU over and above what is required by law concerning publication.
- An account of existing teaching evaluation practice internally at AU as well as drawing on relevant Danish and international experience while focusing on

**Gitte Stavad Andersen and  
Hanne Kargaard Thomsen**

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which evaluation methods and initiatives ensure a high degree of quality and development of the teaching and other learning activities as well as ensuring optimum learning outcomes for the students.

- Proposals for common goals, concrete principles, methods and procedures for teaching evaluation at AU which satisfy and contribute to developing various teaching methods and educational objectives but which at the same time take account of the quality-assurance requirements.
- Proposals for criteria for when evaluations must, as a minimum, be conducted as well as minimum standards for follow-up.
- Proposals for organisation and distribution of responsibility at AU:
  - What is handled centrally and locally?
  - Who is responsible for which parts of the process, including evaluation follow-up?
- Proposals for possible reporting methods as well as principles governing publication of the results of the completed evaluations.
- Considerations re the subsequent implementation plan.

The report is submitted and presented to the Education Committee.

The working group is expected to start its work in mid-November 2012; the deadline for the working group's work is early May 2013. Meetings are expected to be held every two weeks.

The group is composed of representatives from the main academic areas including the pedagogical units, the study programme director and the head of department as well as student representatives.

The working group for teaching evaluation reports to the Education Committee, while the secretariat support is provided by Hanne Kargaard Thomsen (Quality unit).