

Meeting on: 3 April 2024 from 11.00-12.00

Place: 1443-340

PhD committee meeting

Minutes

Participants: Helena Skyt Nielsen (ECON), Simon Calmar Andersen (SOCSCIBUS), Sven Kunisch (BTECH), Dorthe Kirkegaard Thomsen (PSY), Birte Asmuß (MGMT), Susanne Kier (LAW, chair), Helene Helboe Pedersen (PS), Emilie Farø (PhD representative PS), Jonathan Seb Salicath (PhD representative, LAW), Dela Sawatzki (PhD representative PSY), Katrine Bønneland Tølbøll (PhD representative, SOCSCIBUS, vice-chair), Chengjiao Li (PhD representative, MGMT), Rita Madsen (PhD representative BTECH), Niels Mejlgaard (PhD School Head), Randi Groslier Bjælde (Aarhus BSS HR & PhD)

Absent: Marcus Ernø-Heising (PhD representative, ECON)

Aarhus BSS HR & Ph.d.

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved without comments.

Ref.: rgb

Date: 16 April 2024

2. Approval of observer

Kathrine By Larsen, PhD student at ECON, was approved as observer.

3. Briefing on changes of Senior Faculty members of the PhD committee
by Niels Mejlgaard

On two of the Graduate Schools PhD programmes a change in Programme Chair is either under way or has been completed. In both cases, the new Programme chair has been approved by Rector as Senior Faculty Member of the PhD committee. Niels Mejlgaard briefed about the following changes in Senior Faculty members of the PhD committee:

For PS: Professor Lasse Lindekilde replaced Professor Helene Helboe Pedersen as of 1 March 2024.

For ECON: Professor Eric Hillebrand will replace Professor Helena Skyt Nielsen on 1 May 2024.

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4. Briefing on the enrolment and recruitment of PhD students following the round of applications in spring 2024 by Niels Mejlgaard

A total of 313 applications were received for the spring of 2024 open call, and 65 applicants were assessed as qualified. This time 31 candidates are recommended for enrolment with grants, distributed as follows: ECON (9), MGMT (7), PS (5), PSY (4), BTECH (2), SOCSCIBUS (1), LAW (3). All of these are financed by the graduate school.

Of the candidates offered enrolment, 11 are female and 20 are male. Approximately 42% are international candidates, and four candidates are offered enrolment in the 4 year scheme. Most of the candidates will be enrolled as per 1 September 2024.

The briefing on enrolment and recruitment in spring 2024 was noted.

- 5. Preliminary discussion and reflection on the new report from VIVE "Sexisme og karriereforløb på danske universiteter"** by Niels Mejlgaard
[Appendix a: Sexisme_og_karriereforl_b_p_danske_universiteter_pdf-ua.pdf](#)
[Appendix b: HR_Sexisme_og_karriereforl_b_p_danske_universiteter_pdf-ua.pdf](#)

The PhD committee was asked to have a preliminary discussion and reflect on the new report from VIVE "Sexisme og karriereforløb på danske universiteter", unfortunately only available in Danish. The appendices are the report and a file with the main results from the report.

It was brought up that there should be a continuous focus on awareness raising about what inappropriate behavior and sexual harassment is, including cultural differences. Furthermore, the websites already available about what to do if inappropriate behavior is experienced should be brought to attention on a regular basis.

The Graduate School informs about what to do in case of offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate behavior on the "What if" webpage. This webpage also refers to the AU webpage on the subject for employees and students.

The discussion will continue amongst the Programme Chairs and a plan will be made for follow up on this report by the AU and Faculty management teams.

- 6. Knowledge sharing on how new PhD students are welcomed at the departments** by PhD students

The PhD students shared their experiences, and the onboarding programme was brought to attention. It is the expectation that all departments welcome new employees, including PhD students, in a similar manner. Niels Mejlgaard commented that this was a welcome reminder to look into these procedures locally at the Departments.

It was commented that when receiving guest PhDs, it is the expectation that the host makes sure to welcome the guest and that everything work related is taken care of, possibly in combination with a setup at the Department. It could be considered by the Departments to make a list of things to remember for the host.

- 7. Status on received applications for the 2024 Well-being funds** by Niels Mejlgaard

Deadline for applications for the 2024 well-being funds from the Graduate School was 2 April 2024. Applications from all PhD programmes has been received. Decisions will be made as soon as possible.

8. Briefing on the status of the AU well-being committee and discussion on how to continue working on well-being at the Graduate School by Niels Mejlgaard

As a result of a discussion with AUPA, the five Graduate School Heads has decided to discontinue the well-being committee. The rationale is that well-being is not the only subject that needs addressing. Hence, AUPA will be invited regularly to a meeting with the Graduate School Heads to discuss current PhD topics, including well-being.

Niels Mejlgaard encouraged the PhD committee to continue to raise questions to be discussed in the PhD committee, also on well-being.

The briefing was noted.

9. Written briefings enclosed on decisions made by the graduate school head upon delegation from the PhD committee at the constituent meeting in January 2024

Appendix 1a: dissertation assessment committee(s) appointed since last meeting
Appendix 1b: course(s) approved since last meeting

There were no comments to the written briefing.

10. Written briefing enclosed on current PhD numbers

Appendix 2: PhD numbers for Aarhus BSS Graduate School per 14 March 2024

There were no comments to the written briefing.

11. Any other business

No other business.

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