

Meeting on: 26 January 2024 from 14.00-15.00

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), Helene Helboe Pedersen (PS), Julia Hárune Nennstiel (PhD representative, alternate, ECON), Dela Sawatzki (PhD representative PSY), Katrine Bønneland Tølbøll (PhD representative, SOCSCIBUS), Chengjiao Li (PhD representative, MGMT), Rita Madsen (PhD representative BTECH), Niels Mejlgård (PhD School Head), Randi Groslier Bjælde (Aarhus BSS HR & PhD)

Absent: Emilie Farø (PhD representative ECON), Marcus Ernø-Heising (PhD representative, PS), Jonathan Seb Salicath (PhD representative, LAW)

Aarhus BSS HR & Ph.d.

Ref.: rgb

Date: 19 February 2024

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved without comments.

2. Briefing on the work of the PhD committee by programme chair Birte Asmuß

The legal basis can be found in the University Act § 16 b.

The University Act in English can be found here (please note that the translation in the link below is outdated. No new translation has been made):

<https://ufm.dk/en/legislation/prevailing-laws-and-regulations/education/files/the-danish-university-act.pdf>

The University Act in Danish can be found here:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/r0710.aspx?id=198434>

The PhD order:

<https://ufm.dk/en/legislation/prevailing-laws-and-regulations/education/files/engelsk-ph-d-bekendtgorelse.pdf>

Standard rules of procedure for PhD committees at Aarhus University (in Danish only):

<https://www.au.dk/om/organisation/regelsamling/styrelse-administration/01/2008-au4/>

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The PhD Committee has an advisory function to the PhD School Head, and PhD School Head Niels Mejlgård (NM) called on all Committee members to bring questions and topics of importance to the PhD programmes to the attention of the Committee.

3. Appointment of chair and vice-chair of the PhD committee (recommendation to the Dean)

PhD programme chair Susanne Kier (LAW) was elected as chair and PhD student Katrine Bønneland Tølbøll (SOSCIBUS) was elected as vice-chair of the PhD committee. A recommendation on the composition of the PhD committee has been approved by the Dean.

4. The Head of the Graduate School's authority to approve PhD courses and merit applications until 31 January 2025 as well as the authority to recommend assessment committees to the Dean until 31 January 2025

The PhD Committee delegated the competence to approve PhD courses and merit applications, as well as the authority to recommend dissertation assessment committees to the Dean, to the PhD School Head. This has been the practice since the formation of the PhD school at Aarhus BSS. If the PhD committee gives the PhD School Head this authority, the PhD committee will be informed about approved courses, merit applications and appointed assessment committees in connection with ordinary meetings.

5. Briefing on PhD field committees as recommended by the Department Heads for the period 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025 by Niels Mejlgaard

Appendix 1: PhD field committees 2024, approved by the Academic Counsel.

The briefing on the recommendation for PhD field committees for the period 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025 was noted.

6. Briefing on the 2024 meeting schedule for the PhD committee by the chair of the PhD committee

Typically, a meeting is planned in connection to the enrolment and recruitment of PhD students following the open call for applications twice a year, and a constituent meeting in January. The next meeting will be held on 3 April 2024, following the application round with deadline 1 February 2024. If relevant, other meetings can be scheduled.

7. Written briefings enclosed on decisions made by the graduate school head upon delegation from the PhD committee at the constituent meeting in January 2023:

Appendix 2a: dissertation assessment committee(s) appointed since last meeting
Appendix 2b: course(s) approved since last meeting

There were no comments to the written briefings.

8. Written briefing enclosed on PhD numbers for 2023

Appendix 3: annual report 2023

It was commented that the general number of enrolled students is falling. The expected uptake this year will be comparable to last year.

9. Any other business

Well-being funds:

A new call for funding for well-being initiatives will be available shortly. The deadline will be 2 April 2024.

In 2021 the University Senior Management Team decided to allocate University Management's Strategic Funds (USM) to activities enhancing well-being of PhD students. They allocated DKK 80,000 per year for two years to Aarhus BSS Graduate School. As this has been considered a success, Aarhus BSS Graduate School has decided to continue this practice for the time being.

PhD students, PhD supervisors and/or the PhD programmes can apply.

The funds can be used for initiatives that reduce loneliness and stress and contribute to social integration of the PhD students in their environments. Initiatives that go across PhD programmes and/or Graduate Schools will be prioritized.

Copy for:
Dean
