

Akademisk Råd (Akademisk Råd)

10-04-2025 14:00 - 16:00

Kollokvierum Vest, Victor Albeck bygningen

# Indhold

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## Referat

### Punkt 1: Meeting information

Absent: Assistant Professor Tina Wang Vedelø, Department of Public Health, student Signe Lyrum Klauber, Department of Dentistry and Oral Health

### Punkt 2: Introduction round by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.00-14.05)

The council members introduced themselves.

### Punkt 3: For discussion: Core facilities at Health by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard and Head of the fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS) core facility Charlotte Christie Petersen (14.05-14.35)

Head of the FACS core facility Charlotte Christie Petersen gave a thorough presentation on her experiences running a core facility, including the tasks they cover, the high increase in users over the last decade, the current equipment that is state-of-the-art, the well-trained and continuously educated staff, the well-functioning executive board and the receipt of the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry (ISAC) recognition in 2022 (as one of only eight labs in the world).

Charlotte also addressed some of the challenges she is experiencing, including the increasing demand, the increasing prices that prevent some researchers from using the FACS, the funding for new equipment, career paths for core staff, acknowledgements and co-authorships and a tight economy.

As a closing remark, Charlotte suggested that core facilities could be organized differently and recommended that they: i) are funded at university level, e.g. via Aarhus University research Foundation, ii) have more secure and long-term economy for salaries, iii) can lower user fees to only cover running costs, iv) gets partial coverage of service contracts, and v) use a shared booking system and administration across the university.

The Academic Council thanked Charlotte for her informative presentation with applause.

Christoffer Laustsen also shared his experience running the MR Research Centre facility facing some of the same challenges as Charlotte brought forward.

The council discussed strengths and weaknesses of the core facilities at Aarhus University, including the current infrastructure of the facilities, the funding challenges they face with expensive equipment, the costs that can be too high for the users, the vulnerable set-up with small staffs, and the pros and cons of the current bottom-up organization versus the more centralized structure now planned at SUND, Copenhagen University.

The council suggested developing a shared and searchable catalogue of equipment across Health and if possible, also across Aarhus University to be able to get a better overview of the many facilities.

The council also suggested organizing the facilities differently, e.g., more like an independent, administrative unit.

As a closing remark, the dean informed the council that the faculty management is currently discussing the future organization of core facilities at Health.

#### **Punkt 4: For discussion: Consultation of draft of the revised Aarhus University By-Laws by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.35-14.55)**

The council discussed the draft of the revised Aarhus University By-Laws with a view to submitting consultation response.

Overall, the council approved the proposed revisions but has the following points of attention for the draft:

- The Academic Council notes that student representatives must be full-time students (p. 3, 5). This does not correspond well with the increased number of e.g. Professional Master's Degree Programmes where students are part-time.
- The Academic Council asks for clarification on how the two postdoc/assistant professor seats in the Academic Council are to be secured in an election and if it will lead to an increased number of VIP members (and an increased number of students members as per the 25% rule).
- The Academic Council notes a discrepancy in the wording of the Danish version about "Bestyrelsesleder" (the board) and "Forperson" (the academic council). Both are referred to as "chair" in the English version. A more consistent wording of the Danish version is suggested.

#### **Punkt 6: News from Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (15.05-15.15)**

The council unanimously appointed Maiken Stilling (Department of Clinical Medicine) and Steffen Thiel (Department of Biomedicine) for the Higher Doctoral Dissertation, as the two previous appointed members had to decline.

Søren informed the council that the decided topic for the Sandbjerg seminar in August will likely be "Freedom of research and expression in a new (geo)political context". The final programme for the seminar will be sent out June 2025.

Søren reminded the council on the new group in charge of HR and PhD related consultation processes. From May 1 - August 31:

Associated Professor Rikke Nielsen

Professor Sebastian Schlafer

Professor Anne Hammer Lauridsen

PhD student Christine Cramer has submitted her PhD and is therefore resigning from the council. The council thanked her for her time and service with applause.

#### **Punkt 7: News from Dean Anne-Mette Hvas (15.15-15.25)**

Anne-Mette informed the council on the 3-days course "Leadership for All" that Health HR will run again in the Fall. The Academic Council will get up to 4 seats in this second round and will receive an invitation with registration link after Easter. The course will be in Danish and is for both VIP and TAP (but not PhD students and students) and you sign-up on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Punkt 8: For discussion: Awarding of fully funded PhD Scholarships by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard and chairs of the Health Stipend Committee Christina Dahm and Christian Fynbo Christiansen (15.25-15.55)**

The Chairs of the Health Stipend Committee Christina Dahm and Christian Fynbo Christiansen gave a presentation on the new PhD scholarships assessment, including background, guidelines and process, and the underlying thoughts/considerations.

The background for the changes was: more focus on the talent of the applicant, the applicant should be an ambassador of the faculty, and it should be possible to apply for partial funding.

The only change in the new assessment guidelines is the weighting (see presentation for details).

The 15 applicants with the highest median score are invited for an interview, including a 3-minute pitch. The committee will recommend 10 candidates to the dean.

The council thanked for the presentation with applause and discussed the assessment process, including the use of sanctions if the student does not live up to the expectations, the thoughts behind the new weighing, the need to make academic citizenship count more in general, and the distribution between the departments. Finally, some concern was voiced with regard to potential applicants being discouraged by the strong emphasis on talent and perception of high expectations with regard to extra-curricular activities.

It was decided to invite Christina and Christian back in 2026 to hear about the experiences with the new scholarship assessment.

**Punkt 9: AOB by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (15.55-16.00)**

It was suggested and decided to bring the financing (gap) of the research year and PhD scholarships to a future meeting agenda.

It was suggested and decided to bring (lack of) representativeness in grant panels (the DFF in particular) to a future meeting agenda.