Akademisk Råd (Akademisk Råd)

18-12-2025 14:00 - 16:00

Kollokvierum Vest, Victor Albeck bygningen

Indhold

Referat

Punkt 1: Meeting information

Absent: Ugne Stukas, Andreas Breenfeldt Andersen

Punkt 2: For orientation and discussion: Research Evaluation and Local Action Plans, visit from Department of Dentistry and Oral Health by Head of Department Siri Beier Jensen (14.00-14.30)

Siri gave a brief background of the department and presented the main conclusions and recommendations from the department's local action plan, developed in response to its research evaluation. She outlined the chosen follow-up approach, detailing planned initiatives and main focus points from the process.

Key priorites moving forward include 1) recruitment and career development, 2) research funding and grant support and 3) impact and visibility.

Among other things the council subsequently discussed with Siri the department's funding landscape and its approaches to securing external funding. The Council further suggested seeking inspiration for funding applications from other departments within the faculty, as there may be significant potential in learning from one another across departments. Sharing knowledge across departments was highlighted as mutually beneficial.

The council thanked Siri for her presentation

Punkt 3: For discussion: Adjustment of the Academic Council's rules of procedures (forretningsorden) by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.30-14.45)

The Council approved the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, allowing both of the Council's seats for PhD representatives to be filled by employed PhD students from the next election in 2026 and onwards.

It was proposed to draw attention to the wish that both seats should be open to PhD students regardless of whether they are employed or not. Sara will follow up on this matter.

Punkt 4: Student Research Prize – a status by the Assessment committee (14.45-14.50)

The Assessment committee gave a status on the incoming nominations.

To increase the numbers of nominations in the years to come it was suggested to highlight the prestige in the prize as a part of the material that is sent out. Also, it was proposed that the prize be awarded as a monetary grant, potentially to be used for conference participation.

Punkt 5: News from the Chair by Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.50-15.00)

The council gave an update on how feedback from the Academic Council meetings to the departments is currently functioning. At present, most departments have agreed on an annual cycle (at least twice per year) for council meeting feedback within relevant departmental fora, while a couple are still in the process of making these arrangements.

In addition, it was proposed that the departments' newsletters include references to the minutes of Academic Council meetings on a regular basis.

Søren gave feedback from the meeting with the Faculty Management December 2 on the recommendations from the two workshops regarding "Research Integrity with a Focus on Authorship" and the potential trial use of the CRediT system as a supplement to existing authorship lists.

Søren informed the council on the Council Chairs' recent meeting with the Rector. Different topics, including the stable financial situation at AU, updates on the new campus as well as the LEAF-project (see item 8) were discussed.

Søren briefly informed the council on the November 2025 election for the Academic Council (students and PhD students only) and announced that a new observer from the Young Researcher Association (YRA), Luisa Schertel Cassiano (Assistant Professor at Dept. of Dentistry and Oral Health), will take over the position from Tina Wang Vedelø as of 1 January 2026.

Punkt 7: Presentation and discussion of the report from the survey "Quality in the PhD Programme 2025" by Head of Graduate School Helene Nørrelund (15.10-15.35)

Helene presented the 2025 survey report on quality in the PhD programme. The overall findings were highly positive, indicating a high level of satisfaction among PhD students. However, student well-being was highlighted as an area of concern, with 17% of respondents reporting severe stress symptoms.

A clear majority of PhD students (80%) reported satisfaction with their education, including with respect to academic outcomes, research environments, supervision, and the various components of the PhD programme.

Subsequently, the Council discussed the importance of aligning expectations between PhD students and supervisors, the necessity of clarifying requirements for physical presence during international stays, and the opportunity to share both positive and negative experiences related to such stays. The relatively high proportion of PhD students reporting severe stress in the survey was also considered. In this context, the Council proposed comparing the survey data with population-level data, as these figures may not be unique to PhD students but could also reflect broader generational trends.

The council thanked Helene for her presentation.

Punkt 8: Presentation and discussion on the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) project at Health, by Professor Thomas Corydon, Biomedicine (15.35-15.55)

Thomas presented an update on the LEAF project, which has been conducted at Health throughout 2025. The project aims to reduce the climate footprint and promote a more sustainable laboratory culture, without compromising the quality of research or education.

The pilot demonstrated that the laboratories at Health already possess a strong sustainability profile (all five participating laboratories were awarded the LEAF "Bronze certification").

Drawing on the pilot's positive experiences, the LEAF steering group and the five participating laboratories have proposed recommendations for the continued development of LEAF at Aarhus University.

Based on this experience, the University Senior Management Team has decided that, from 2026, sustainability certification of laboratories will become a permanent element of AU's climate action plan, subject to approval by the University Board.

Subsequently, the Council discussed the LEAF project with Thomas and congratulated him on the excellent results.

Punkt 9: Any Other Business (15.55-16.00)

Nothing to report