

Akademisk Råd (Akademisk Råd)

25-02-2026 14:00 - 16:00

Kollokvierum Vest, Victor Albeck bygningen

Referat

Punkt 1: Meeting information

Absent: Anne Hammer, Ditte Rasmussen, Rikke Nielsen, Jesper Willer, Luisa Cassiano

Punkt 2: Welcome to the new PhD student and to the new observer from the Junior Research Association, by Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.00-14.05)

This item was postponed due to absences from relevant parties.

Punkt 3: For orientation: AU Action Plan for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion 2030 (14.05-14.15)

Anne-Mette briefed the Council on the activities outlined in the AU Action Plan for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion 2030. The initiatives are organized into four focus areas:

1. **Recruitment:** Improved conditions for employees with young children. At Health, this will be expanded to “across all life stages.”
2. **Inclusive leadership:** Strengthened leadership of diverse staff groups.
3. **Career:** Clear frameworks for language use and intercultural communication.
4. **Workplace culture:** Respectful tone and behaviour.

In addition, work will be undertaken to expand the data foundation for diversity, equality and inclusion initiatives.

The action plan runs over a five-year period, aligned with the AU Strategy 2030. The Council decided to place particular focus on areas 1) and 3). It was agreed that the initiatives will be included on the Council's agenda on an ongoing basis in the coming years, enabling the Council to provide input and qualify Health's implementation of the initiatives.

Punkt 4: News from the Dean Anne-Mette Hvas (14.15-14.20)

Anne-Mette informed the council about the faculty's plan to establish a hub in Kigali, Rwanda, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with three leading universities in Rwanda. The hub will focus on educational, innovation, and research activities.

It was decided to invite Professor Per Kallestrup later this year to provide further insights, and the council will have the opportunity to offer their perspectives.

Punkt 5: News from the Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.20-14.30)

Søren informed the council that the topic for this year's Sandbjerg seminar for all academic councils at AU will likely be “Innovation”. Additionally, the council chairs are

considering moving the Sandbjerg seminar, starting in 2027, to late October to avoid overlap with the semester start in August.

Punkt 6: For discussion: The use of generative AI including the risk of plagiarism in PhD theses by Associate Professor Steffen Sinning and Chair Søren Dinesen Østergaard (14.30-15.00)

The council commenced with a broad debate regarding the challenges associated with the use of AI tools in relation to written assignments and examinations. Both the benefits and drawbacks of AI tools were thoroughly discussed, with members sharing their experiences.

A key point of concern was the need for clearer guidelines at AU. Additionally, it was proposed that oral examinations be introduced for BA projects and MA-thesis. Another suggestion was for the university to offer AI-focused courses for students, enabling them to develop their skills in using the tool for academic writing. The council acknowledged that it is a relatively new development for students to be allowed to sit exams with such tools, and there was a consensus on the desire for dedicated courses to support this.

Lise provided an update, confirming that oral exams will be incorporated into the new curriculum for both BA and MA projects, and noted that discussions regarding examination formats are ongoing.

Finally, the council discussed the risk of plagiarism in PhD theses. The number of suspected plagiarism cases reviewed by the Committee on Textual Integrity has significantly declined from 2023 and onwards (coinciding with the launch of generative AI), raising concerns about whether current tools are sufficiently equipped to detect plagiarism, particularly in relation to the use of generative AI. In response, the importance of the oral defense was highlighted. It was proposed to draw inspiration from Switzerland, where the oral defense consists of both a formal examination and a public lecture. It was decided to revisit the topic at future meetings.

Punkt 8: The Student Research Prize - Award ceremony and presentations by the 4 winners (15.10-16.00)

Søren delivered a brief speech to congratulate the four winners, commending their excellent research. Following this, the students provided concise and well-structured presentations on their work, responding to questions from the council. The council expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Afterwards it was suggested that next year the presentations could either be broadcast live or recorded to reach a bigger audience. Sara will investigate these options.