



08 JUNE 2022

Forum PhD Committee meeting no. two for 2022

Meeting date 08 June 2022 at 11:00 – 12:30

Location Bülowsvej 17, room A126

Secretary Lærke Sadolin

BÜLOWSVEJ 17

FREDERIKSBERG C

tihu@science.ku.dk

Attendees:

Representatives of the scientific staff (attending): David B. Collinge (PLEN/chair of the PhD Committee), Brian Møller Andersen (NBI), Henriette Steiner (IGN) and Christian Gamborg (IFRO)

Representatives of the scientific staff (apologies): Niels Martin Møller (MATH)

Representatives of the PhD students (attending): Cecilie Cold (NBI/vice-chair of the PhD Committee), Gregor Lützenburg (IGN) and Pia Beck Tonnesen (IND/deputy)

Representatives of the PhD students (apologies): Lea Ellen Matthiessen (NEXS), Nikolaj Theodor Thams (MATH), Nanna Weise Havshøi (PLEN), Lærke Godsk Jensbye (IFRO/deputy), Jesper Dahl Jensen (CHEM/deputy), Ane Elise Schrøder (SNM/deputy), Mengqi Liu (PLEN/deputy) and Sofie Stilling (IGN/deputy)

Guests (attending): Lise Arleth (FS), Lærke Sadolin (FS), Marie-Louise Holm (FS) and Charlotte Krenk (FS)

Guests (apologies): Gabriele D'Oria (FOOD), Marie Højmark Fischer (BIO), Ingelise Lundgaard (FS), Tim Hubbard (FS)

Minutes

SIDE 2 AF 4

Ad. 1 Welcome and presentation of agenda

David welcomed and presented the agenda. The representatives of the committee, guests and observers were registered.

Ad. 2 Approval of minutes from the meeting 28 March 2022

The minutes from the PhD Committee meeting on 28 March 2022 were approved with a few changes from David.

Ad. 3 Summaries from the working groups on *the role of the PhD Coordinator* and *Workplace Environment of PhD students*

The groups presented the current status of the subject since last meeting.

The working group on the role of the PhD Coordinator:

Gregor summarized the outcome of the PhD coordinator workshop and the outcome of the questions presented for the PhD coordinators at the workshop. Enclosed is the summary of the outcome in writing (see padlet notes).

The Committee agreed that some points should be addressed at department level and other points written into the role description of the coordinators. Furthermore, it was suggested to make a recommendation to the institutes of how many students should be associated per coordinator and encourage the institutes to investigate their data in order to follow this recommendation. Lise will make sure to mention the relevant issues at department level and inform the Committee when and where it will be addressed on department level.

The working group on Workplace Environment of PhD students:

Cecilie announced that it is time to hand over the outcome from the group and analyze how it can be implemented. An extra sentence about gender equality and physical disabled students should be added.

The Committee especially discussed the subject of disabled students and how important it is that this is aligned with the rest of KU's profile in this area. Lise added, that though it might raise an enormous discussion, it is very important to create awareness and make our values visible. However, we need to think very carefully about how to implement these changes.

Marie-Louise informed of a *Hyrdebrev* KU received from the Ministry on how KU is obliged to accommodate the needs of disabled students; furthermore, there is a focus in Campus Service on how to live up to the standards for accessibility etc. However, it looks like PhD students may fall through.

It should be thoroughly analysed how to process from here and it should be discussed further at the next meeting. As first step, Lærke will look into how it can be aligned with the rest of the administrative processes and for example contact the communication department to make sure the recommendations are aligned with the general policy at KU.

At the end of the discussions, David mentioned the working group on career development and suggested that the Committee discuss this subject again at a future meeting.

Ad. 4 The PhD Vision project – conclusions from workshop 3

Lise gave an update on the proposal from the workgroup addressing the contents of the PhD education and summary of comments from workshop 3.

In all, the plan of phase 1 is followed. However, Lise emphasized that there is a discussion still going on. From July 4th to the end of August several boards will be included in the discussions and a more political phase will be starting.

The working group on education has come quite far in clarifying and the working group on economy need more clarification before more detailed conclusions can be processed.

Gregor problematized the structure of 10 ECTS-credits PhD courses being mandatory since the model is not flexible enough to reach the PhD students' different needs. Lise mentioned the students' possibility to apply for exemption and get more flexibility. This way the institutes (and KU as an organization) will be more likely to commit as well.

Other members of the Committee added that the mandatory courses also can be seen as helpful to the students and add value in terms of how to navigate and communicate at KU, how to cooperate with the PhD coordinator and how to understand the cultural codes better.

Ad. 5 Mental Health of PhD students

Cecilie introduced the subject followed by an open discussion.

Cecilie raised the issue that PhD students who are not employed at KU cannot respond to the APV, and wants to inquire whether this can be changed. There is a need of allocating more resources to this subject to gain more knowledge and to find a way to evaluate on the mental health of the PhD students not being employed at KU.

Furthermore, there is a wish to investigate how to improve the mental health of PhD students as the number of PhD students who are seeking help with

Prescriba through KU is rising. It is already pointed out, that the PhD students need a go-to person about well-being issues who is not the supervisor or the coordinator. It is a problem that the PhD students do not trust the coordinators with personal issues. Cecilie stresses that this is the beginning of a discussion which needs a follow-up and suggests that a working group will be formed.

In the meantime, Lærke will find out if it is possible to get the numbers of PhD students at KU from Prescriba and whether the unemployed PhD students can be part of the APV at KU or, if necessary, the PhD students can have their own APV.

Ad. 6 Danish Language courses for PhD credits

Gregor introduced the subject followed up by an open discussion.

Gregor argued that it should be flexible how to choose courses and which courses is needed for different students, since the PhD students' way to wisdom and knowledge building is individual.

The 2 main messages are a) who decides which courses a PhD student should have and b) it is critical for some PhD students that Danish courses do not count in the course portfolio.

Cecilie argued that it should be possible to include Danish courses to the mixed bag of courses and Pia stated that it is impossible to make quality control on Danish courses. Lise agreed on this. However, Lise stated that it is hard for her to defend Danish courses to be accepted as mandatory (even if quality controlled).

The Committee decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Ad. 7 AOB

The PhD graduation ceremony is held on September 16th 2022 15:00 – 17:00 in Festauditoriet at Frederiksberg campus:

<https://science.ku.dk/phd/formular/registration/>

Cecilie informed that Gregor will take over the role as vicechair for the rest of the period.