



16. JUNE 2023

MINUTES

Forum PhD Committee meeting no. 2 for 2023

Meeting date June 16th 2023 at 11:00 – 13:00

Location Bülowssvej 17, room A126

Secretary Charlotte Krenk

BÜLOWSVEJ 17

FREDERIKSBERG C

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Attendees:

Representatives of the scientific staff (attending): David B. Collinge (PLEN/chair of the PhD Committee), Stergios Piligkos (CHEM, member), Morten Arendt (FOOD, repress. NEXS, member), Niels Martin Møller (MATH, member), Henriette Steiner (IGN, member)

Representatives of the scientific staff (apologies): -

Representatives of the PhD students (attending): Teresa Klara Pfau (NBI, Vice chair of the PhD Committee), Lea Ellen Matthiesen (NEXS, repre. FOOD and IFRO, member), Marie Højmark Fischer (BIO, member)

Representatives of the PhD students (apologies): Nena Batenburg (MATH, member)

Guests (attending): Lise Arleth (Head of PhD School and Dean of Research), Pietro Mendonca (PLEN, deputy member), Courtney Horn Herms (PLEN, deputy member), Ingelise Lundgaard (FS), Marie-Louise Holm (FS), Signe Lange Jespersen (FS)

Referent: Charlotte Krenk (FS)

Minutes

Ad. 1 Welcome and presentation of agenda

David, chair of the committee, opened the meeting and presented the agenda. No comments were added and the agenda was approved.

Ad. 2 Minutes from the meeting on March 8th 2023

The minutes were approved by e-mail on April 20th. No comments were added.

Ad. 3 Status on the Implementation of the PhD Vision Project and Discussion of the Future Role of the PhD Committee, including delegation of tasks

Lise Arleth, Associate Dean for Research and Head of the PhD School, presented a status of the implementation of the PhD Vision Project (see attached slides);

- PhD Vision Project's vision phase and decision phase ran through 2021-22 and closed by the end of 2022. Currently the project is in its implementation phase namely the PhD Implementation Project.
- The scope and delineation of the PhD Vision Project areas were presented.
- An overview of the process was presented.
- The future changes and impact of the project were presented.

For further details see the slides in appendix to the minutes.

The Committee was invited to ask questions and share their thoughts. There was a question about the reason for choosing to place the Associate Dean for Research as the Head of the PhD School. Lise answered that it has to do with ensuring a paved way for topics of the PhD Studies to the top management level.

A question was raised to whether there is a mechanism included in the PhD Vision Project to ensure that the PhD coordinator is not the same person as the PhD supervisor. This issue will be considered as part of the implementation project.

The internal guidelines for how to manage the PhD area were discussed. The guidelines are under revision as part of the PhD Vision Project. They are at a work-in-progress stage as they are part of the implementation project to develop a new practice for managing the PhD area.

It was pointed out that there can be a perceived distinction between guidelines and rules when it comes to ensuring compliance at department level which might be useful to take into consideration. It was also remarked that the PhD regulations which were discussed and adjusted at the previous PhD Committee meeting also have guidelines implicitly included. The PhD Committee's jurisdiction in regard to the guidelines and quality control as a priority was briefly addressed.

The process for approving PhD courses outlined in the draft was discussed in regard to having the needed academic qualification for it, whether the committee members are to collect input from the other PhD students, and how to best make use of the committee members' time.

A final question was made whether it will be possible to comment the 10 ECTS course. The answer is yes when the course is ready. However, it was emphasized that input to the course was already collected in 2022 and therefore comments made now and later should take their point of departure in the specific course when it is ready.

It was concluded that the committee was positive towards the overall idea of the future role of PhD Committee as presented in the appendix. A second draft for the delegation will be presented to the PhD Committee at the next meeting.

Ad. 4 Organizing a Seminar for the PhD Coordinators, Deputy Heads of Research, and the PhD Committee

The committee was invited to participate in the organization of a seminar for the PhD coordinators, deputy heads of research, and the PhD committee which will take place 8th November 2023 at 13.00-16.00, the venue is not yet in place.

It will be a seminar for PhD students and relevant academic staff. The administrative staff will not be participating (as last year) as they have now other support structure in place.

A working group was established to organize the seminar:

- David B. Collinge (PLEN, group coordinator)

- Teresa Klara Pfau (NBI)
- Pietro Mendonca (PLEN)
- A deputy head of research (Lise will liaise)

The group is self-organized under the leadership of the group coordinator.

Ad. 5 How is the work of the PhD Committee communicated in your department?

The committee was invited to share their experience of the current level of communication of the PhD Committee in their department. Experiences were shared from the various departments. All showed that the knowledge of the PhD Committee and its work is very limited.

The importance of telling the PhD students about the PhD Committee and the rest of the organization was emphasized. Also, the importance of creating ownership of the dissemination task was stressed. Lise assured that these are exactly part of the idea of the Vision Project and thereby the implementation project.

The committee discussed what can be done about the current level of knowledge about the PhD Committee. The pros and cons of using official channels such a newsletter was addressed. In that context the level of interest and relevance for the PhD students were mentioned.

It was decided to continue the discussion in a working group.

Working Group for Dissemination (increase knowledge of the PhD Committee) consists of:

- Courtney Horn Herms (PLEN, group coordinator)
- Niels Martin Møller (MATH)
- Marie Højmark Fischer (BIO)
- Nena Batenburg (MATH – needs to be confirmed)

The group is self-organized under the leadership of the group coordinator.

Ad. 6 Working groups – how can they play together with the role of the PhD Committees role and work frame?

The discussion focused on which working groups were relevant to continue at this point. The details on how the working groups play together with the role and framework of the PhD Committee were not addressed in detail

other than it was pointed out that the working groups are self-organized under the leadership of the group coordinator.

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At this point the working groups are seen to have a beneficial role as a forum to go further in depth with specific topics. The goal of the working groups can be different. The goal can be of a practical nature as goes for the planning of the upcoming PhD seminar. It can also be broader and less specific e.g. the groups were a topic is elaborated further as to inform the committees work at a later point in time.

The committee decided on the following working groups (WG):

- WG for Planning the PhD Seminar (see Add 4)
 - David B. Collinge (PLEN, group coordinator)
 - Teresa Klara Pfau (NBI)
 - Pietro Mendonca (PLEN)
 - A deputy head of research (Lise will liaise)
- WG for Dissemination (see Add 5)
 - Courtney Horn Herms (PLEN, group coordinator)
 - Niels Martin Møller (MATH)
 - Marie Højmark Fischer (BIO)
 - Nena Batenburg (MATH – needs to be confirmed)
- WG for Improved Wellbeing of the PhD students
 - Teresa Klara Pfau (NBI)
 - Gabrielle D’Oria (FOOD)
 - Henriette Steiner (IGN)

The working group focusing on the role of the PhD coordinators is put on hold for now as this is included in the implementation project.

The need for a working group regarding PhD courses is discussed but decided to be dismissed for now as it is considered to be better to keep the discussion of the courses in the committee as such.

Ad. 7 Information

The PhD Committee has been asked by KU International Office whether there is any input for an upcoming career fair?
For further details about the fair (see the attached appendix to the minutes).
No input was brought forward.

Ad. 8 AOB

Status of the PhD website

It seems some of the content on the PhD website has been removed by mistake. The administration is working intense to get it all back – and in a updated version.

It was pointed out that some of the content has not been fully up to date which has created considerable stress for some PhD students. It is being worked on and will be finished as soon as possible.