



13. SEPTEMBER 2023

MINUTES

Forum PhD Committee meeting no. 3 for 2023

Meeting date September 13th 2023 at 13:00 – 15:00

Location Bülowssvej 17, Konsistoriums mødesal

Secretary Lærke Sadolin

BÜLOWSVEJ 17

FREDERIKSBERG C

lsem@science.ku.dk

Attendees:

Representatives of the scientific staff (attending): David B. Collinge (PLEN/chair of the PhD Committee), Morten Arendt (FOOD, repr. NEXS, member), Niels Martin Møller (MATH, member), Trine Agervig Carstensen ((IGN, member)

Representatives of the scientific staff (apologies): Henriette Steiner (IGN, member), Stergios Piligkos (CHEM, member)

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

Representatives of the PhD students (apologies):

Guests (attending): Lise Arleth (Head of PhD School and Dean of Research), Boris Bolvig Kjær (MATH/deputy), Pietro Mendonca (PLEN, deputy member), Courtney Horn Herms (PLEN, deputy member), Nikos Hatzakis (CHEM, deputy member), Ingelise Lundgaard (FS), Charlotte Krenk (FS), Marie-Louise Holm (FS), Else-Marie Baun (FS), Signe Lange

Jespersen (FS), Kristine Schultz Olsen (FS), Pia Fredberg Nielsen (FS),
Camilla Volden Van (FS)

SIDE 2 AF 5

Referent: Lærke Sadolin (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 June 16th 2023

The minutes were approved by e-mail on August 8th.

Lise mentioned that the June minutes states, that the delegation decision from the PhD board to the VILF's would be presented at the PhD Committee meeting of September 13th. However, this topic needs to be discussed some more and the return from the delegation decision will be given at the December PhD Committee meeting instead.

Ad. 3 Implementation of the Ph.D. Vision Project

Lise presented status on the process and the appendixes.

Appendix 3 - Overall structure and course content - the future PhD programme at SCIENCE:

Representatives from MATH was skeptical about some of the sub-elements in the planned structure and suggested the following reformulation of the paragraph on "Fundamentals of the PhD programme":

Compulsory course that trains the PhD students in general academic skills that

- are widely applicable in the area of Natural Sciences
- transfer to many careers inside or outside academia

Lise explained that comments from MATH have been taken into account in the planning of the compulsory course, but that it is not possible to make tailored modules for individual groups of PhD students during the phasing in of the course. After implementation of the model, there will be ongoing evaluation and any changes will be considered as part of this process.

The PhD committee approved the overall framework (presented in appendix 3), including that language courses will be possible as part of miscellaneous activities, that the education embraces 27-35 ECTS and that there is no more specific course requirement than minimum 17 ECTS courses (internal and external).

Appendix 4 - Description of the 10 ECTS Mandatory PhD course at SCIENCE (Draft):

Some members of the PhD committee found that there are challenges in implementing a course with a 'locked' content and times for when it can be taken. PhD students underlined the necessity to have a plan "b" for those students that are not able to participate in the exact week. There are parts of the current content that some of the members do not find relevant for the specific groups of PhD students, and it should be thought through if students must follow certain classes and if module 2 is too thin and should be more flexible in content or be removed and combined into the remaining modules.

MATH representatives suggested the following change to the "Purpose":

The primary purpose of the course is to train the PhD students at SCIENCE in general academic skills that are widely applicable in the area of Natural Sciences and transfer to many careers inside or outside academia.

Also, MATH representatives suggested to have a specialized course on university pedagogy for MATH PhD students, instead of the general course on university pedagogy planned in Module 3.

David encouraged more openness to what big data can be used for, even though it is not within the individual student's specific field of study. Creating a model that suits everyone equally well is not possible.

It was suggested to involve SCIENCEs user panel when the model is evaluated, as it is a challenge to communicate competences to people outside UCPH.

The members of the PhD committee were encouraged to forward any additional comments to the documents (appendix 3 and 4).

October course workshop:

Toolbox courses are to be discussed at the October course workshop. Lise, Marie, and Teresa volunteered to plan the workshop. The working group will meet to decide the programme. An official invitation to the workshop will be sent out in September, when the participants are identified. The plan

is to ask the deputy head of research to elect representatives from their departments to participate in the workshop. It was decided that 30 PhD students should be invited. A distribution of the participants between the departments was approved.

Ad. 4 Status from the working groups

WG for Planning the Ph.D. seminar (8 November)

The working group will collaborate with Lise on the content of the workshop. The focus is on the topic of which problems the coordinators encounter in their day-to-day work. A calendar invitation has been sent to all coordinators and we encourage everyone to remember them at the event.

WG for Dissemination (increase knowledge of the PhD Committee)

The working group has not yet held a meeting, but a proposal for a Friday bar with the theme 'meet the PhD Committee' has already been made, which was well received.

WG for Improved Wellbeing of the Ph.D. students

The working group has discussed what they wish to focus on and has been in contact with the previous members of the working group. They said that they would like to focus on diversity and planned to invite Beate Sløk Andersen from HR to talk about this. Lise informed that the previous working group on the wellbeing of the PhD students discussed the theme, however, the recommendations should be for all employees at SCIENCE and therefore it should be included in the general work at the UCPH for well-being and working environment.

Ad. 5 AOB

A timeframe for when the PhD rules and deadlines can be expected to be updated on the website was requested. Furthermore, it was mentioned that it is important that the secretaries' contact information is up-to-date and clear (especially in connection with theses). It was stated that the general rules and guidelines have mainly been updated in terms of specific updated UCPH rules and their implementation into the SCIENCE general rules and guidelines.

Some members raised the need to update the general rules and guidelines, having outdated information removed and ensuring the rules are in alignment with processes in practice for instance regarding finalizing the thesis (e.g. enough time for print). The administration is very aware that it needs updating, and this is part of the large PhD project that is ongoing. The PhD committee will be involved in this process.

MATH students requested to get an overview over the decision-making process of the fundamental packet and mandatory courses, since the

decision is upheld despite concerns from some of the members of the PhD committee, namely the PhD student members from MATH. Lise explained that seminars and meetings has been held with representatives from all departments at SCIENCE, and that all input has been taken into account, and where most of the solutions have been landed. Lise has listened to the criticism but maintains that we must begin by finding a solution that works for the majority of all departments. The decision has been made based on an overall assessment of all the discussions and input and it is ultimately Lise's executive decision as the Head of the PhD school.

David and Lise asserted that the request for a documented overview of the decision process could not be met but pointed to sources for reference namely the SLT's minutes of meetings and to the PhD Committee minutes:

[Noter fra SCIENCE Ledelses Team møder - KUnet](#)

[PhD Committee – University of Copenhagen \(ku.dk\)](#)

Finally, David thanked Lea for her efforts, as this was her last meeting at the PhD Committee.