

MINUTES - AUPA BOARD MEETING

TIME: October 6th, 3 pm

LOCATION: Meeting room 2, Dale Mortensen's Building



Participants: Helene (ST), Morten (BSS), Sylvia (BSS), Byron (ARTS), Karsten (ARTS), Sabrina (ST)

1. Welcome
2. Formalities
 - a. Election of Chairman
Helene
 - b. Election of minute taker
Sylvia
 - c. Approval of minutes from last meeting
Approved by everyone
3. News from the four associations

BSS: BSS hosted the first faculty-wide PhD introduction meeting for new PhDs at BSS. This was a one day event with participation by half of the new PhDs. Furthermore, recently, PHABUSS and the PhD committee discuss the outcomes of the evaluation of the Graduate school at BSS.

ARTS: Recent topics are: when to go abroad; making it easier for students to attend PhD courses; how to improve the PhD-supervisor relationship; improving the situation that the majority of PhDs hand in their thesis too late (in average one year delayed); low degree of internationalization among PhDs; integration of 4+4 students (no experiences so far); and major progress in developing the "colleague sparring" workshop.

HEALTH: The graduate program has been massively changed; therefore a lot is happening at the HEALTH faculty. Among others the program should be made more PhD friendly, in order to increase the quality of the PhD program. The PhD association should develop a survey to identify the needs of PhD and members are also part of four different working groups.

ST: PHAUST has elected a new board. Recently discussed topics are: matching of expectations between PhDs and supervisors; evaluation of the Graduate school at Science and Technology; (non) transparency of the PhD budget; need to increase the internationalization of the PhDs and also the intake of external PhDs; and reduction of the high work load.

4. “Colleague sparring” workshops

ARTS (PhD Community) had some meetings to discuss the organizations of the workshops. They discussed practical and theoretical matters and also invited Vibeke Broe. The new working title of the group is “Joint action”. Great progress has been made on the development of a manual and the organization of an info meeting. All relevant material can be accessed through a shared google document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AvhCRI0ogJA08OsqcL4K_C5dEhlugVHLT5rFYdfGeg8/edit?usp=sharing

Ideas for the first intro meetings could be that it takes places at the PhD café and that we also collaborate together with the PhD housing community to raise the awareness among PhDs. Moreover, Morten will try to arrange that AUPA can sponsor the first meeting. Another idea for the meeting is to invite the psychologist from the HEALTH faculty and Vibeke Broe to the meeting as well, in order to have some professionals with expertise present. In the future the “Colleague sparring” workshops should be centralized at AUPA.

For further information on existing AU counselling service, see <http://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/administration/hr/workingenvironment/psychologica-l-work-environment/psychological-counselling-service/>

5. Follow-up on meeting with PhD school leaders

6. Follow-up on PhD Project management course

5.+6. have been discussed together.

The two points discussed by AUPA at the meeting with the PhD school leaders are the PhD course and the stress level among PhDs. The PhD school leaders as well as the teachers are very positive about the evaluation of the PhD Project management

course. The course will now be offered twice a year and the next time it will run in Spring 2016. AUPA will also be involved in the next evaluation round after the session in Spring 2016. Regarding the stress level, this topic has been raised and also the idea of the “Colleague sparring” workshops has been introduced, but due to time constraints no further discussion took place.

7. Teaching loads evaluation

Helene developed a nice overview of teaching norms at the four different faculties, based on official PhD contracts (see Dropbox folder). A next step will be to upload this overview on our homepage, in order to improve the transparency among faculties and to provide PhDs students with information on the different PhD teaching activities.

8. PhDs going into the private industry

9. Evaluation seminar for Vibeke Broe

8.+9. have been discussed together.

Of high importance for the government and also AU is the support of PhDs to find a job outside academia. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of PhDs at AU end up working in the public and private sector. Thereby a great challenge is to educate companies about the value of PhDs for the public and private sector. Especially smaller companies and/ or those outside of main cities do not know a lot about how to work with PhDs as employees. Additionally, PhDs are also not aware of how to profile themselves when applying for a job. Hence, a great amount of work needs to be done on both sides of the PhD-industry relationship.

One way of promoting the exchange between industry and PhDs is the PhD career consulting service offered by Vibeke Broe. Her work will be evaluated in a seminar on the 5th of November 2015. AUPA (Helene & Sabrina) will prepare a little presentation about our satisfaction with Vibeke’s work and will raise some points where we see room for future activities (e.g improving the mentor program, offer company visits, and organize a PhD alumni database). In order to prepare the presentation it would be helpful if we can find PhDs who made good experiences with

Vibeke's work, because it is in our interest that Vibeke can continue her work in the future.

10. Any other businesses

Sylvia: A. What is the role of AUPA in the CUL recent workplace assessment?

B. How can PHABUSS organize a facebook page and what are the experience of the other PhD associations with their facebook page?

Next meeting will be around mid/ end November 2015.