

MINUTES – AUPA BOARD MEETING

TIME: February 18th, 9-11

LOCATION: Meeting room 3, Dale Mortensen's Building



Present: Sabrina, Sanne (left at 10 am), Sylvia, Karsten, William, Nicolas, Helene

1. Welcome

Nicholas and William from BSS visiting. We do a short presentation round.

2. Formalities

- a. Election of Chairman
- b. Election of minute taker
- c. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Helene takes the chair; Sabrina does the minutes. People approve of the minutes from our last meeting.

3. News from the four associations

BSS: Main issue: PHABUSS tried to become more transparent. Their work has been inspired by other PhD associations. Every PhD student should have access to their material.

Another issue concerns PhD committee meetings, which are usually held in Danish. This decreases the participation of internationals. This is especially a problem with the department of law. We will bring the issue to the PhD school leaders at the upcoming meeting.

ST: Also discussing internationals: getting started in Denmark, finding accommodation, etc. PHAUST has been talking to the International Centre to find out which offers they have for international PhD students. In Roskilde, for instance, there is a housing problem.

PHAUST has an upcoming meeting with the PhD programme committees to discuss status in all departments and suggest topics for discussion locally.

New mentor programme: find a mentor to talk with about the things you would not normally discuss with your supervisor. PHAUST has developed a tool on how to find a mentor.

HEALTH: The annual PhD day has just been held, it went well.

The association has discussed union representatives and how to find these. They were invited to a meeting in the PhD association. The union representatives are going to send out some advertisement to the PhD students about who they are and how they can help.

PhD contract: employment terminates once you hand in the thesis. For internationals, this means their visa expires, so they have to go home and then come back for the defense. Would like some research assistant positions to formally employ the internationals for three months after their contract expires. It has been suggested that they hand in three months early, but that would also not work: the PhD law says that a hand-in terminates the studies.

Help remind faculty or admin. doing budgets, they can reserve money to hire PhD students as research assistants.

ARTS: There was a last minute cancellation of their last meeting. The only new development is that there is a new member of the PhD association, 'The ARTS PhD network'. Attendance at the general assemblies is low. Byron is considering how to recruit more people: lures people with wine and food.

4. Joint Action workshops

Sanne, Jesper, and William had meeting with Sanne Angel to get feedback for Joint Action Manual.

Based on their meeting, we are moving away from the initial model of having an interviewer-interviewee. We do not have anyone educated in this, so Sanne Angel (psychologist at HEALTH) is worried about the interviews done by non-professionals. This may work at HEALTH because people are used to these types of conversations. If the environment is sufficiently safe, people will open up. Group discussions are maybe better suited for our purposes.

An Austrian PhD student in psychology is interested in helping out on a voluntary basis. General worries concern work-life balance and supervisor relationship.

At the next J.A. meeting, the format will be discussed once more. Planning of the first day (introduction) is crucial; 'there will be no second chance'. Therefore, the first day should encourage people to participate more than once. Thus, it is also very important how the whole thing is pitched.

The next J.A. workgroup meeting is on the 25th February. Afterwards, AUPA can give feedback on the ideas of the group.

With regard to the PhD school leader meeting, Helene will present the status of J.A.

Dale's Café can be used as a venue for the meetings. The PhD House Activity Group might be interested in a collaboration for the social part of the meetings. Helene is meeting with their president; someone from J.A. should also join.

5. New members for AUPA

Who will run for the next board?; whom do we recruit?

ARTS: Byron, Karsten(?), and Karsten will ask someone he knows. BSS: Nicholas and William. There is another open spot. Health: Sanne is continuing; Sara is not. ST: Helene continues, and Sabrina stops due to hand-in. There is a new members, Jesper, who is also participating in the J.A.

We would like pictures on the Facebook page to make it more personal. Helene will write an email to advertise for the general assembly. She is also making a list of all secretaries from all departments to be able to send out emails to all PhD students.

6. AUPA posters

Byron and Helene have prepared a suggestion for a poster to advertise the association. We have a lot of comments; generally, we are not sure whether it is actually a poster we want or just a letter/pamphlet. Some of the wording seems a little off, since we do not do social events. There are suggestions for re-structuring. We are not fond of the yellow colour. The thing with the 'how the university works' is just spot on: this is what we do. William will make a suggestion for a new version.

It may be a good idea to stuff pamphlets in the pigeon holes of all the PhD students. We can also send to the secretaries so they can distribute it.

7. Project management course

The course could be mentioned quickly at the next PhD school leader meeting. The courses are running very well. It is very popular, and there are more interested people than there are open spots. We wish to encourage that they keep the course running.

8. Meeting with PhD school leaders

We will bring forward the problem of non-Danish speaking participants at the PhD committee meetings at BSS. An interesting question

is what the unions will think about this exclusion of some employees. We will encourage the PhD school leaders to act on this.

We can take up the recurring problem of international PhD's having their visa expiring upon hand-in. We suggest to plan ahead in budgets for hiring them for three months afterwards.

We will also discuss the J.A. (status).

Another possible discussion is how budget cuts will affect PhD admissions. (The head of PhD committee at BSS has suggested only calling for PhD's once a year.).

9. General assembly

Our next meeting will be the general assembly, on 10th March 2 pm. The first board meeting follows immediately hereafter. One of the first presidents of AUPA, Steen, will join us for the general assembly to talk about the work of AUPA.

We will try to pass some ideas and questions on for the next board to discuss. Some things were lost during the last transition.

For next year in AUPA

1. Joint Action
2. Poster & recruitment of new members/outreach
3. Develop a 'marketing plan'
4. Bringing up new topics to discuss in faculty associations
5. Improve infrastructure between AUPA and local associations

10. Any other businesses

There were no further business.