

Minutes: AUPA BOARD MEETING
TIME: June 16th, 9.00-11.00
LOCATION: Meeting room 3, Dale Mortensen's Building, IC



Present: Helene, William, Nadia, Litten, Karsten, Rune, Jesper, Christos, Byron

1. Welcome

Welcome to Chris and Rune. They fill in the last empty spots in the board.

2. Formalities

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

3. Update from local associations based on emails

ST: Working on their general assembly to be held in August. The graduate school is hosting an event for the PhD students in the fall.

BSS: PhD committee had a meeting on 1st of June. One of the issues was that some meetings are still in Danish, despite participation of international PhD students. The last meeting was held in English, but it was not an official decision. Rumors on budget cuts on the library.

ARTS: The PhD association is starting new activities after the summer. PhD students at ARTS feel lonely according the APV. The PhD association is aware of the situation, however, PhD students in general work in small networks and the nature of their work is not that collaborative, hence there is an assignment for the PhD association. The academic council needs to approve all future theses. Budget cuts and future funding is on the agenda, but it is only talks.

Health: Strategy plan for the 2020 is under construction. PhD Day 2017 is in the pipeline.

4. Budget cuts

BSS: A few years ago it was bad, but now it seems like things are going in the right direction. There is a general focus on external funding. Some sections get external funding and thereby help the other sections. In the broader picture it is positive that the BSS are hiring staff at the moment.

ST: Admittance of new PhD students seems to be dependent on external funding, but this is just our gut feeling.

ARTS: A lot of focus on external funding, however it is normal. The cuts are affecting the teaching, longer days – less time. Less hiring of external lectures and more hours per teacher.

Health: Some of the big departments are firing a lot of staff. Difficult to get PhD funding at the departments.

- 5. Joint Action workshop – evaluation and future**
Really good workshop, many positive PhD students attended.
An evaluation meeting and a small report are coming up. The meeting will try to cover who attended in order to future coordinate future speakers and advertisement. Hopefully 2-3 people from AUPA can arrange future meetings.
22 answered the survey – around 30 participated in the workshop in total. In general people liked it. The form is useful, the content was relevant, and most people want to attend again.
A future suggestion is to connect the speaker to the theme.
Estimated cost: 2000kr for the café, drinks: 3000kr. (or less)
Next meeting could be in September/October.
In the future: more workshop, but lower costs. Maybe get some costs covered by the Graduate School. Try to see for external funds, as Tuborg Fondet.
Dales Café is a good place to host it, because of the informal setting.
An AUPA calendar to be useful in order to plan future events – Karsten will set it up. The PhD activity House could be interested.
If anyone wants to help it would be appreciated and suggestions to themes, speakers, and so on is very welcome.
- 6. Update on finances and secretary**
AUPA got an extension of the funding from the PhD school leaders for 2017. The budget for next year is accepted. A secretary will be assigned to AUPA. The secretary will be funded by the AUPA budget; approximately 160 DKK per hour.
- 7. Follow-up on email policy (William)**
After a PhD is finished the student's email and PURE profile is closed down, hence contact information and CV on the former student disappears. We would like them to be inactive for potential future employers to be able to look one up. William will follow-up.
- 8. Project management course**
PhD students get 2 ETSC points for attending. Last time it got a very good evaluation. 24 seats per semester. We will try to open up more seating. This spring had 40 applicants for the 24 seats.
Next time 30th of August – AUPA will send a representative to the evaluation.
- 9. APV**
AUPA had a re-run of the APV in collaboration with the PhD school leaders. In general people feel that they need to work more than the 37 hours. Some people feel stressed, differences on genders and nationality. It could be beneficial for AUPA to make a workgroup and get a broad view in order to distribute some of the answers to the specific departments. Workgroup for next meeting: Lissen, Jesper, Rune, (William) present their conclusions on the report. A summary/evaluation could be a report that could go public.

10. Danish PhD network and PhD evaluation

- a. Invitation from DTU
- b. Comments for the questionnaire?
- c. How do we manage this discussion and analysis?

In October there will be a report from the ministry evaluation the quality of the PhD students in Denmark.

The evaluation is based on the ongoing debate regarding the quality and quantity of the PhD projects. Some PhD students raised questions about the survey from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. PhD students have not yet been involved in the debate. Should AUPA join the discussion? Pros and cons in order to join the debate before or after the questionnaire is public.

AUPA is talking to DTU in order to make a national PhD network and join the public debate.

It seems reasonable to divide the questionnaire and the national PhD association. AUPA supports collaboration with DTU about a national PhD association and will send representatives.

DTU will contact AUPA and we will make a strategy for our collaboration after that. AUPA encourage members to talk to PhD students in SDU, Aalborg and Copenhagen in order to see what other Universities do.

Workgroup for the evaluation: Chris, Helene, Sanne, Byron, (Hanna), (William). The workgroup will present their summary of the questionnaire at the next meeting. AUPA will discuss the summary to have a common stand.

The final report will be public through Phd.au.dk/AUPA and potentially used for a debate letter for a Danish newspaper. This will be before the results come out to be able to enter the discussion with a clear basis.

11. Other businesses

The PhD Bekendtgørelsen is affecting the graduate schools to structuralize the PhD projects.

Christos Kavvouris(BSS) and Rune Dall Jensen (Health) will join the board.

Next meeting ultimo August – A doodle will be emailed.