

MINUTES - AUPA BOARD MEETING
TIME: October 14th, 1.00-3.20 pm
LOCATION: Dale's Building Meeting room 3



Formalities

- Election of Chairman: Helene
- Election of minute taker: Litten
- Approval of minutes from last meeting

Quality in PhD – Pernille Andreasen/Rune (30 mins)

Pernille Andreasen has a background as an anthropologist and does research within CESU. The topic of her current project is how doctors and nurses with PhD degree use the PhD to impact on their clinical work and working environment in general. The study is qualitative, and both medical/nurse PhD themselves and their colleagues were interviewed. The results are not yet published, however, the study was interesting in its approach to assess PhD use and PhD quality.

PhD survey from ministry

- We sent the article to Berlingske. They have promised to look at it. Information could be a back-up.
- We are still in contact with DTU about establishing a national PhD day. We promised to take care of the political content of such an event. The results from the analysis should come out in December, so we propose to have a meeting in January.

Updates from local associations

- BSS: APV - action plan for the departments. There is a new PhD course in statistics, which is popular.
- Arts: APV - carrier counseling and talking about boosting the supervisor/PhD relationship. Arts is not doing so much about the loneliness. Does anyone have suggestions to improve the recruitment to the PhD association at Arts?
- Health: Work is being done regarding the APV, and it is being discussed locally. Also, most did not know about the Joint Action workshops. They should therefore be advertised better in Health.
- ST: A new board was just elected. Also here, the APV is being discussed. They are currently looking into evaluations of teaching assistants as the evaluation form has been changed.

Other updates

- Secretary: The PhD administrative group is currently interviewing candidates. Hopefully, there will be someone employed end October/start November
- Project management course: The evaluations were good at the final course day on August 30. For this semester, the course is full, but without waiting list. There is money to run the course two times in 2017 too.

- How to get published seminar: AUPA has given constructive inputs for the course, which is now advertised. It will be late November
- APV/Omnibus: PhD students are lonely, but Omnibus has already written about it some years ago -> Same problem. We discuss to later make an article about what have been done? The APV will be on the agenda again at the next meeting.

Joint Action workshops

- Evaluation of second workshop: There was a slightly lower show-up, but evaluations were generally positive. We should try to have the workshops on Thursdays, perhaps integrate with a recurring bar-event in the PhD House Activity Group
- The PhD school leaders have awarded AUPA with 20,000 DKK for the Joint Action events in 2017 and 2018.
- The workgroup would like to have more hands. Now the concept is running and need low work investment. Litten will help out.
- Plan for next workshop
 - 1st December.

Collaboration/contact with DPU in Emdrup (Karsten)

- There is a group of PhD students who are interested in Joint Action and working with the APV. Also, they would like to be up-to-date with what is going on in AUPA. We will offer them to join our meetings by video conference or to have a contact person in the board that can keep them updated. Karsten will get back to them.

Holiday policy (question from ST) (Jesper)

- In early summer, PHAUST got an email from a PhD student, who was handing in in August. She was frustrated, because she was forced to take her vacation before handing in, something that is almost not possible for most PhD students at this stage. However, there is not much we can do, since this is a general rule for all project-employments. We can only promote more information out to the PhD about the rules.

Website update

- The website needs a thorough update. But the general content, but we would also like to extend it with more information.
- Three general things will be changed:
 - Refresh the information about AUPA, the board and our work in general
 - Have a “transitioning out of the PhD” section
 - Have a “APV-followup/best practices” section
- For the two latter bullets we need to collect information and put it together in a meaningful way. We do have a little bit for the “Transitioning out of the PhD” part, but we need to be more thorough.
- Division of responsibilities:

- Future secretary: Programming and layouting the website
- Rune: Collect information and put together in a meaningful way
- Nicolas: Collect information from BSS
- Jesper: Collect information from ST
- Litten: Collect information from Health
- Byron: Collect information from ARTS
- Content of the two extra website parts:
 - Transition out of PhD:
 - Name and links to find more information
 - One topic could be that vacation can not be postponed after handing in the thesis (especially for people handing in, in the end of the summer vacation)
 - Important dates to keep in mind
 - People who are relevant to talk to
 - Ideas to “how to get started” on the next career step
 - Perhaps visa information
 - Best practice/suggestion:
 - Actual tools and approached that are being performed locally to increase well-being
 - stress-handling tool at iNANO
 - buddy-programmes
 - maybe the breakfast socializing thing in Emdrup
 - Suggestions and thoughts from us/other PhD students to what could be done
 - stress handling
 - lonely handling

Meeting with PhD school management November 30 at 9-9.30

- We are invited to the meeting in the PhD school leader group. We will bring the APV as a topic. Also, we will evaluate the Joint Action workshops.

Other businesses

- Stress offer (Karsten): A psychologist in-tern will as a project offer some stress-lowering counsellings for PhD students and postdocs. They will be free and run weekly over a couple of months. We think it is a good idea and will support it. However, we are not sure how many signups there will be.
- Law change proposal: A draft for a law change regarding unemployment support is out for comments. We see that some have taken advantage of the rule and it is fair to change. But we could argue to perhaps postpone the date, since it could be a problem that the rule is implemented so quickly (January 2017), but it is really important to remember that the issue is probably that the time to hand in the thesis perhaps is to short (or the supervisor is exploiting the system).