

The PhD committee



MINUTES

27 JUNE 2017

Forum The PhD committee

SCIENCE RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION
PHD SECTION

Meeting held: 11 May 2017 from 13.30 – 16.00

Place: Meeting room A131, Bülowsvej 17, Frederiksberg

BÜLOWSVEJ 17

Secretary: Michael Cleve Hansen

DK - 1870 FREDERIKSBERG

Present:

Anine Laura Borger, Anne Hjort Bendsøe, David B. Collinge, James Connelly, Karen Stoltenberg Nissen, Kell Mortensen, Line Nicolaisen, Michael Cleve Hansen, Morten Pejrup, Pernille Louise Forsberg, Ryszard Nest, Sidsel Kjems, Tone Bengtsen

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Apologies:

Christian Gamborg, Dorthe Djernis, Søren Wengel Mogensen

Agenda:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) PhD & Postdoc Career Day by Jacob Juul Gade (Office for Private and Public Sector Services)
- 3) Approval of minutes from the meeting 31 March 2017
- 4) Announcements
- 5) The annual meeting 2017 of the PhD school – with focus on the five workshops
- 6) The Action and Development Plan for the PhD school 2017-2019 – with emphasis on the content, format and time table
- 7) The future of three mandatory PhD courses, initial discussion
- 8) Any other business

1) Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2) PhD & Postdoc Career Day

In order to attract the interest of the future PhD graduates towards a career outside academia, the SCIENCE Office for Private and Public Sector Services plan to arrange a career day late October 2017. Jacob Juul Gade, who will be the administrative officer in charge, presented the draft programme and stressed that also major companies in Denmark will be invited, e.g. Chr. Hansen, Novozymes, Haldor Topsøe, Microsoft, companies that normally employs PhD graduates. Thus the participants will have the opportunity to “match-make” with companies that suit their preferences, and further be provided with information on the general working conditions at the labor market in Denmark. The career day will also focus on entrepreneurship and therefore a representative from Cap Nova will present the various funding possibilities. David Collinge told that PLEN also plan to arrange a career day in October, and therefore Jacob should inform the date of the career fair with Lene Mariager, who is responsible for the PLEN event.

The PhD committee supports the initiative and stressed that the career day fits well into the part of the action and development plan for 2017-20 that focus on employment after the PhD. Thus, Jacob will be invited to the annual meeting of the PhD school, cf. point 4.

3) Approval of minutes from the meeting 31 March 2017

The minutes were approved.

Kell informed the committee that the minutes mainly reflect a summary of decisions taken (*beslutningsreferat*) and as a consequence the detailed discussions are not displayed. However, if a member finds it important to state a certain point in the minutes, the point will be included.

4) Announcements

David: At PLEN the issue of stress is currently discussed – an increasing number of PhD students suffer from stress and the department is looking for means to fight it.

Kell: The development of the new PhD administrative IT system is progressing and hopefully SCIENCE is soon able to sign the contract. If everything progresses according to plan, the system will be implemented in January 2018. The system will be tested during autumn 2017, and the tests will

involve various stakeholders from the departments and the central administration.

Morten: At the national PhD conference on 8 April, the minister and the audience applauded the universities for their ability to maintain a high scientific quality of their PhD graduates even though the number of annual enrolments is doubled. Morten was also pleased but stressed that SCIENCE should continue to improve.

5) The annual meeting 2017 of the PhD school – with focus on the five workshops

The annual meeting of the PhD school will take place 8 June 2017 from 12 to 20 at Schæffergården in Jægersborg and the meeting will be open for the members of the PhD committee, PhD students (2-3 students selected by the departments), PhD coordinators, VILF's, PhD secretaries from the departments and employees from the PhD section.

Currently, eight departments have provided the PhD section with names of PhD students, and hopefully the rest will follow soon.

The programme for the annual meeting will include presentations from Morten Pejrup & Kell Mortensen and John Renner Hansen as well as five workshops:

Employment after the PhD: David Collinge & Sidsel Kjems

PhD student networks: Line Nicholaisen & James Connelly

PhD supervision: Anine Laura Borger & Morten Pejrup

Work environment for PhD students: Christian Gamborg & Dorthe Djernis

Communication and infrastructure: Ryszard Nest & Tone Bengtsen

The committee was introduced briefly to the structure of the five workshops – most of the workshops will be based on group discussions and brainstorming and the ambition will be to identify specific tasks and problems and to come up with suggestions for solutions.

The results and findings from the workshops will be embedded in the action and development plan and in order to get as much input as possible, the PhD committee decided to run the workshops twice (one hour per session). In order to constitute the individual workshops, the PhD section will ask the participants to select three of the five workshops. The workshops will be headed by members of the PhD committee (as shown above) and at the end of the meeting, the main findings from the workshops will be presented in plenum.

6) The Action and Development Plan for the PhD school, 2017-2019 – with emphasis on the content, format and time table

The action and development plan (ADP) for 2017 – 2019 will be based on the five topics discussed on the annual meeting, cf. point 5:

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Employment after the PhD
PhD student networks
PhD supervision
Work environment for PhD students
Communication and infrastructure

The PhD committee will work on the new ADP during 2017, and include the findings from the workshops at the annual meeting of the PhD school. Thus, the chairs of the workshops will also be responsible for presenting a first draft ADP for the individual chapters. At the committee meeting in September 2017, these drafts will be discussed and at the meeting in December, it is the aim that the ADP will be completed.

The ADP will be presented in a table similar to the format of the previous ADP, and will, if possible, be added a column with a time-table for the individual sub-goals and measurable milestones.

7) The future of three mandatory PhD courses, initial discussion

PhD students enrolled at UCPH-SCIENCE have to pass the course Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) – either the independent version or as a component of the Introduction course that also contains the RCR. PhD students who teach undergraduate students as part of their PhD programme also have to pass Introduction to University Pedagogy (IUP). The RCR course is provided by Department of Food and Resource Economics (IFRO), while the Introduction course and IUP is offered by Department of Science Education (IND).

The two departments are paid by the PhD school – 1.500 DKK per passed ECTS.

A few facts about the three courses:

Introduction to University Pedagogy: Hosted by IND, awarded 3 ECTS and mandatory for PhD students who teach undergraduate students at SCIENCE. Approx. 200 PhD students pass the course per year (roughly 50 % of the population).

Introduction Course for New PhD Students: Hosted by IND, awarded 3 ECTS, the RCR module is embedded in the course. It is a residential course and the participants have to pay the expense for lodging etc. (5.000 DKK). Approx. 125 PhD students pass the course per year.

Responsible Conduct of Research (stand alone version): Hosted by IFRO, awarded 1 ECTS and mandatory for all PhD students at UCPH. Approx. 200 PhD students pass the stand alone course per year.

It is the general impression of the PhD school that the courses are worth the time and money, but maybe some adjustments and perhaps additions are called for? *E.g.* Should the PhD school offer an “Introduction course light”? (the introduction course without the RCR part), should the Introduction course continue to be a residential course?

The point will be further discussed at the next meeting where the evaluation reports from the PhD students are present.

8) Any other business

The agenda and enclosures for future meetings will be distributed to the members by e-mail and will also be “uploaded” in the calendar invitation.