

The PhD committee



## MINUTES

28 APRIL 2017

**Forum** The PhD committee

SCIENCE RESEARCH AND  
INNOVATION  
PHD SECTION

**Meeting held:** 31 March 2017 from 10.00 – 12.30

**Place:** Meeting room A131, Bülowsvej 17, Frederiksberg

BÜLOWSVEJ 17

**Secretary:** Michael Cleve Hansen

DK - 1870 FREDERIKSBERG

### Present:

Anine Laura Borger, Anne Hjort Bendsøe, Christian Gamborg, David B. Collinge, Dorthe Djernis James Connelly, Kell Mortensen, Michael Cleve Hansen, Morten Pejrup, Ryszard Nest, Sidsel Kjems, Tone Bengtsen

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### Apologies:

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### Agenda:

- 1) Agenda
- 2) Approval of minutes from the meeting 7 February 2017
- 3) Announcements
- 4) The result of the national PhD analysis – The Quality and Relevance of the Danish PhD programme
- 5) The Development and action plan for the PhD school, 2017-2019
- 6) Planning the annual meeting 2017 of the PhD school
- 7) Any other business

**1) Agenda**

The agenda was approved. An extra point about confidentiality of PhD theses was added as point 6a.

**2) Approval of minutes from the meeting 7 February 2017**

The minutes were approved.

**3) Announcements**

**David Collinge:** At PLEN a survey about the Introduction course for new PhD students has been carried out and – among other things – the aggregated answers showed, that international students claim to benefit the most from the course and also, that the duration of the course (residential course that lasts five days) is considered to be too long.

At the next meeting, the PhD committee will continue to investigate the quality and content of the PhD courses supplied by the PhD school, incl. the Introduction course.

**Kell** stressed that it important to start the recruitment of PhD students for the PhD committee of 2018 already now.

**Morten:** The project concerning the implementation of a new PhD administration system is still on track. A contract with a supplier is expected to be signed soon and after the summer holiday, the system will be ready for tests and further development. If all goes well, the system will be implemented at the beginning of 2018.

**Anne** told that a national network for PhD students is about to be established. PhD students from University of Aarhus, University of Southern Denmark and the Technical University of Denmark have already started to meet, and the intention is to include the remaining universities in Denmark.

**4) The result of the national PhD analysis – The Quality and Relevance of the Danish PhD programme**

The Ministry of Education and Research has conducted a huge investigation about the quality and relevance of the Danish PhD programme. The main findings were published in report that was briefly discussed by the PhD committee.

The overall conclusion of the investigation is that the Danish universities since 2006, when the Globalization agreement was implemented, has been able to double up the number of annual PhD enrolments without losing quality in the individual PhD projects. This is quite an achievement. Due to the increased number of enrolments the Danish PhD programmes attracts quite a few foreign PhD students (30 % on the national level and more than 50 % at SCIENCE) and an increasing number of the foreign PhD graduates choose to stay in Denmark after their graduation. Most of the PhD candidates state that the quality of their PhD education is very good or at least

sufficient, and in average they claim to spend at least 50 percent of their research hours on their own project.

The PhD committee found it very positive that the ministry concluded that the quality and relevance of the Danish PhD programme are satisfactory and lives up to international standards.

More information about the analysis – the report and underlying statistics are available from this web-page of the ministry:

<http://ufm.dk/en/publications/2017/the-quality-and-relevance-of-the-danish-phd-programme-compilation-of-main-results>

### **5) The Action and Development plan for the PhD school, 2017-2019**

The PhD committee decided at the meeting 7 February 2017 to write an action and development plan (ADP) for 2017 – 2019. At the present meeting, the PhD committee selected the following five topics to constitute the new ADP:

- 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 the five topics will be addressed at the annual workshop of the PhD school, cf. point 6 below.

The PhD school will continue to address the focus areas highlighted in the plan for 2014-16 – mainly generic topics that will never be final concluded and continue to be relevant to some extent.

### **6) Planning the annual meeting 2017 of the PhD school**

The annual workshop 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 elected by the departments), PhD coordinators, VILF's, PhD secretaries from the departments and employees from the PhD section.

The programme will include presentations from Morten Pejrup & Kell Mortensen and John Renner Hansen as well as five workshops.

The workshops will be coordinated by a member of the PhD committee as shown below:

Employment after the PhD: David Collinge & Sidsel Kjems

PhD student networks: Anne Hjort Bendsøe & 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

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### **6a) Confidentiality of PhD theses**

According to the Ministerial order on PhD education, the assessment and confirmation of the PhD degree must be based solely on the fully open section of the PhD thesis, which must be presented as an independent thesis. The assessment committee must base its assessment entirely on the part that is open to the public and, similarly, the defence will only deal with this section.

If a PhD thesis contains confidential parts (patents or articles) the author has two options. Either to postpone the assessment and the defence until the IPR applications has been handled, or hand in a re-written thesis in which the confidential parts are left out.

In order to make the PhD thesis publically available prior to the defence, it is sufficient to place a hard copy of the thesis at the department, *e.g.* in the office of the PhD secretary, 14 days before the defence is scheduled.

If the PhD students wish for the thesis to be made publicly available through the Royal Library at a later time point, the PhD secretary at the department can arrange for this.

### **7) Any other business**

None.