

Minutes of meeting

Subject: IGT Department Council
Date and time: 11 June 2026, 10.00 – 12.00
Location: Ellehammer

22 June 2026

Participants: Jens Ejbye Schmidt (JESC)
Henrik Karring (HKA)
Shuang Ma Andersen (MASHU) - *online*
Vahid Karimi (VAK)
Raghunandan Sharma (RASH)
Simon Svane (SIMS)
Christina J. Birke Rune (CJBR)
Jasper Lorens Betton (JLB)

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Guests/observers: Hossein Nami (HON)
~~Mathias Porsmose Clausen (MPC)~~

Guests (ad. 3): Knud Villy Christensen (KVC)
~~Ciprian Cimpan (CIC)~~
~~Davide Giacalone (DG)~~
Muhammad Tahir Ashraf (MUTA)
~~Rime Bahij (RIMB)~~

Cancellation: Martin Aage Barsøe Hedegaard (MARHE)
Kathrine Lynge Wiingaard (KALW)
Christian Godsk Andersen (CGA)
Emma Kaae Løfgreen Tveden-Nyborg (ETN)
Marie Lykke Diget (MLD) - *internship*
Maiken Helene Vestergaard Pedersen (MHP) – *internship*

Minutes: Mette Kornelia Hansen (MKH)

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Introductory remarks and messages by the chairman
3. Presentation on ongoing work related to the development of new education programs within the department
 - ~~Master in Life Cycle Engineering – CIC (approx. 15 min.)~~
 - Bachelor and Master in Chemical Engineering and Bio Engineering – ~~MARHE, DG, MUTA, RIMB, KVC~~ (approx. 15 min.)

4. Strategic hiring and involvement of Health & Safety Group and Department Council
5. Economy
6. Information about new Head of Unit for SDU Chemical Engineering
7. Welfare and working environment at IGT (fixed point)
8. IGT Student Club (fixed point)
9. Planned future recruitment at IGT (fixed point)
10. AOB, incl. planning of meetings for fall 2026

Ad. 1

Approved.

Ad. 2

This department council meeting was initially scheduled for 13 May 2026 but was postponed due to JESC's illness.

The change in date led to multiple cancellations for this rescheduled meeting.

Ad. 3

Bachelor and Master in Chemical Engineering and Bio Engineering:

KVC provided an update on the ongoing curriculum revisions including the introduction of artificial intelligence and programming courses based on input and suggestions from Head of Education Thomas Skjødeberg and input from forum for Head of Educations (HoE). These changes are being implemented within the current constraints.

It was suggested and agreed to hold a teaching seminar after the summer break to further discuss these revisions at department level.

Responsible: JESC will discuss this with the IGT Educational leaders.

Ad. 4

JESC presented the current approach to strategic hiring and acknowledged that the process has previously lacked sufficient transparency and involvement. It was emphasized, as required in the Danish University Act (Universitetsloven), that the Department Council must be involved in discussions on strategic hiring, while the Head of Department has the final decision-making authority.

JESC also noted that dialogue with the individual units is important, particularly when a potential hire may affect laboratories, office space, finances or the working environment. Strategic hires can affect planned hiring and unit budgets, either by replacing planned positions or by creating deficits that units must address, necessitating open communication about the rationale and consequences.

The Health and Safety Group should also be involved when strategic hiring has a significant impact on the working environment.

Responsible:

It was agreed that Department Council members will discuss this topic within their respective units and bring feedback to the next meeting on whether it should be addressed only in the Department Council or also within the units.

Ad. 5

JESC provided an update on the department's current economic situation, including the status of the individual units, next year's budget planning and external funding. All units have been asked to review their budgets in more detail before the summer.

A significant shortfall in reported project hours in mTime was highlighted. Current reporting corresponds to approximately 65% of expected external project hours, resulting in for example an estimated shortfall of around DKK 1.5 million in Chemical Engineering, with similar challenges in the other units.

JESC emphasized that failure to meet external funding and project hour commitments may result in stricter financial controls or reduced departmental decision-making authority. Unit leaders and staff are therefore expected to follow up on mTime registrations linked to external funding and budget adjustments.

Ad. 6

Professor Alexandros Asimakopoulos took up the position as Head of Unit for SDU Chemical Engineering on 19 May 2026.

Ad. 7**Offices and laboratories**

JESC provided an update on current office and laboratory space challenges. As a temporary measure, several IGT offices have been converted into four-person offices. The expected new office building is anticipated to help address the office shortage and allow for a redistribution of functions and staff.

The plans for relocation of dry labs, wet labs and potentially teaching labs are still developing. Staff will be informed and consulted as the plans are finalized, and a status update will be given at an upcoming IGT lab meeting in September.

IGT Coffee Room

It was noted that the IGT Coffee Room will have new furniture: smaller long tables.

IGT Events

The department recently had the annual IGT Summer Seminar in Nyborg.

Also, on 18 June the department will visit Alsion Sønderborg which will include presentations from both "Bitten & Mads Clausen Fond" and "Project Zero".

The day will conclude with a visit to "Danfoss Universe Park".

IGT Semester Start Reception

The date for the annual "IGT Semester Start Reception" has been set. The event will take place Thursday 10th September 15.00 – 17.00. Outlook invitation has been sent out to all IGT staff. Invitations for IGT students will follow in August.

The IGT Student Club is encouraged to promote the event to all IGT students.

Ad. 8

No student representatives were present at this council meeting.

However, it was noted that the IGT Student Club remains active. The student room is being used for student activities, and the Student Club recently hosted a pizza and games event.

JESC has nominated the IGT Student Club for the student category at the annual celebration.

Ad. 9

Planned future recruitment at IGT (only base funding):

SDU CHEM

- DIAS Fellow interviews coming up. Candidates will now be screened by SDU and candidates for physical interview selected.
- Chemical Engineering in early spring next year (assistant, associate, full professor) – if more good candidates are applying it will be possible to hire 2 persons.
- Position lab technician – have not had a perfect match.
Will revisit this again in fall and decide whether to repost the position.

SDU BIO

- A new technician has been hired and will start mid-July.
- Associate Professor in Synthetic microbiology and Bioimaging – deadlines have passed.

SDU LCE

- Associate Professor – Bhuvan has been hired.

Ad. 10

Council meetings autumn 2026

The council has two meetings per semester.

For Autumn 2026 the meetings are planned for: 28 September and 25 November.

Status of council members for autumn 2026

As JLB will graduate this semester, the council will invite substitute member Frederikke Schelde Agger to attend upcoming meetings.

Input from JLB

JLB once again raised the issue of the lack of a lunch break in the teaching schedule. It was noted that TEK Head of Education Thomas Skjødeberg is addressing the matter at faculty level, with the aim of establishing a standard lunch break across faculties. Students are encouraged to continue raising the issue, as it is considered important for student well-being and learning outcomes.

Formatting guidelines for Master's theses

JLB also raised the need for clearer formatting guidelines for master's theses.

Responsible: JESC will follow up with Ciprian Cimpan regarding the development and communication of such guidelines to future students.

Next meeting: 28 September 2026, 10.00 – 12.00 (TEK Benz)

Agenda items are welcome at mkh@igt.sdu.dk no later than 7 September 2026.