

Minutes from Department Council meeting KBM

Tuesday 26 May 2020, 13:00-15:00

Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Introductory remarks and messages by the chairman
3. General update on the Corona situation
 - a. Teaching situation (both lecture and lab) for the rest of this semester and for the fall semester
 - b. Guideline for physical meetings
 - c. Feedback from the students on sitting home and having online teaching/exams
 - d. Feedback from the employees on sitting home working
 - e. Research situation – especially lab capacity
4. New TEK building, including new research labs
5. Procedure for submitting proposals
6. New name for the department – status
7. Sustainable Development Goals
8. Planned future recruitment at KBM (fixed point)
9. Welfare and working environment at KBM (fixed point)
10. AOB

Participants:

Jens Ejbye Schmidt (JESC), Rikke Klindt Muller (RIKM), Knud Villy Christensen (KVC), Shuang Ma Andersen (MASHU), Henrik Karring (HKA), Christina Buch Sahner (CBS), Mette Kornelia Hansen (MEPED), Kasper Dalgas Rasmussen (KDR), Morten Østergaard Andersen (MOAN), Mathilde Snijder (MAS), Emil de Bekker Steffensen (EBS)

Absent with apology:

Mikkel Kristensen (MIK)

Ad. 1 + 2

Approved. No comments.

Ad. 3

- a) The different Corona phases were shortly discussed, including the impending reopening of SDU for staff. At present we are awaiting the specific guidelines for the return. Students are not yet allowed to return to SDU. Possibly, they will be allowed when the new semester starts. Information will follow in due time.

All teaching for the rest of the semester will be online. This also applies for the upcoming exams.

- b) For staff: Meetings will continue to be online until further notice. This means that you cannot yet have physical meetings in the offices and in the meeting rooms.

Capacity in the laboratories is still limited (25%) but we expect to be allowed to increase the level.

- c) The general message is that project supervision and teaching have worked OK online. MAS has asked her fellow students in their Facebook group, and has received feedback that is has worked well circumstances taken into account. It should be noted, however, that there may be a need for optimization in the learnings objectives if we should risk another lockdown in the autumn. Also, different teachers have very different ways of conduction online teaching. Greater standardization will be appreciated and will make it easier for the teachers. The Study Board is presently discussing minimum requirements for teaching and supervision.

We fear that new students will have significant difficulties if they start their new university life sitting at home receiving online teaching. For now, the plan is that SDU will be open for students from August 2020, so hopefully this will not be the case.

HKA experiences that supervision works well online; however, it can be challenging with particularly large classes where one risks that the teaching becomes too much one-way communication. It may be harder for the students to ask questions and some tend to “hide behind the screen”.

Several agreed that having a “toolbox” regarding online teaching could be very helpful. Also, this would create great possibilities in the future, e.g. allowing the teacher to maintain his/her teaching while being abroad participating in a conference, reduce vulnerability and maybe even sometimes be timesaving. Yet, we must avoid the risk of teaching ending up only being online. Teaching with physical presence is still preferable and expected. JESC stresses the importance of getting the different experiences, good and bad, out in the open. This will improve our basis for optimizing the education forward-looking.

- d) The first period of the lockdown has been challenging for some employees, who have experienced an increased workload trying to convert all teaching into online teaching. This compared to the fact that during the same period you may have had small children at home while working – some even had to be home-schooled. After some time, it has been possible to find some kind of routine and the entire learning experience has been good. The transition will be easier next time, if a lockdown were to happen again.

All in all, teaching has been the most difficult thing to accomplish from home. Research-related work has been OK, if you have not been limited by not being able to work in the laboratories. Also, it depends on your ability to structure your working day and it is important to find a good work-life balance. The same applies to the students.

- e) The limited laboratory capacity (25%) is expected to be increased when employees return to SDU. Reduced capacity may result in “bottlenecks”. The laboratory booking system must still be used in order for KBM to demonstrate compliance with the guidelines. There will be door signs indicating maximum number of persons allowed in each laboratory. Cleaning will take place once a day.

Ad. 4

The building of new barracks east of the TEK-building has been approved. 1/3 less than original wishes/needs have been granted. Biomass lab will be removed from Killerupgaard into the new barracks. We will also have

room for food-lab and GMO-lab. The new facilities will allow more space for research and also result in internal rearrangements within the TEK-building. The barracks should be ready for use 10 September 2020.

Ad. 5

Forward-looking applications must be pre-approved by JESC. Please send 5-10 lines to meped@kbm.sdu.dk as early as possible in the process explaining your project. You will then receive feedback/approval from JESC. Always consider if we have relevant employees within the department that can be involved in the project before hiring external persons. This assessment is extremely important, and we need to be able to demonstrate that the reflection on involvement has taken place. Discussion is not always possible since not all agencies accept funding of permanent staff. Also, often the researchers that are going to be hired are very specialized with competences that are not commonly found at the department.

A general discussion on allocation of funding from the ministry at the university took place.

Remember, that TEK Innovation can be of great help if you involve them early in the process for the proposal writing etc.

Ad. 6

TEK management has approved a new name for the department. Future name is:

- **“Institut for Grøn Teknologi” / “Department of Green Technology”**

followed by the present section/center name, which is: SDU Biotechnology, SDU Chemical Engineering or SDU Life Cycle Engineering. The abbreviation “KBM” will be replaced by “IGT” (Institut for Grøn Teknologi). The process has been postponed due to Covid19 but will now be implemented 1 September 2020.

Ad. 7

The planned SDU activities have been postponed but will be resumed when possible. KBM benchmark is still important and at the end of the year we need to show our contribution. The aim is that the effort must provide value and not just be an additional administrative burden.

Some find it time consuming having to implement the SDG's in their teaching while others already, to some extent, have it as part of their teaching. You need to identify where the different SDG's fit in. KVC stated that an attempt has been made to implement it for the coming 1st semester.

Also, it is now in some applications a requirement.

Ad. 8

In the pipeline: HKA: 1 postdoc, MASHU: 1 postdoc, Gang Liu, LCE: 1 ph.d. (*readvertisement*)

Ad. 9

Already discussed, see Ad. 1.

Common KBM breakfast takes place first Monday each month.

Ad. 10

Next meeting: September 2020. Meeting information will follow.