

English summary

Minutes from the Department Council meeting – September 15th 2026

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The Institute Council reviewed the status of the Institute Fund, noting that fewer hours than expected had been allocated in Spring 2026, resulting in a surplus that will be carried forward. Discussions focused on the growing workload associated with curriculum revisions, research applications, and research leadership, and on ensuring a more consistent and transparent compensation model across departments and programmes. The proposed allocation of Institute Fund resources for Autumn 2026 was generally well received, with particular attention given to supporting the extensive curriculum revision work expected over the coming semesters. The council also discussed the ongoing development of a promotion and merit framework at SDU, highlighting the importance of clear expectations and avoiding language that might undermine the document's intended standards.

Preparations for the upcoming staff seminar were reviewed, with a focus on recruitment, promotion, and onboarding in line with SDU's strategic goals. The council discussed the continued use of English as the working language for staff seminars and agreed that this remains an important inclusion measure. Updates were also provided on the implementation of the educational reforms, which are progressing according to plan, and it was agreed that the institute's degree programmes should be presented more widely within the organisation to strengthen mutual understanding and awareness.

The council further considered student recruitment figures for 2026. While enrolment numbers had declined, particular concern was expressed about the decision not to open a second admissions round for Humanities programmes, as this has left several programmes below capacity and may have long-term consequences for both academic environments and programme development. The future of German studies was discussed in particular, including the need to rethink and further develop the programme in dialogue with secondary schools. Finally, members received updates on the Humanities building refurbishment, upcoming strategic discussions within the institute leadership, and changes to the university's project overhead model that will take effect from 2027.