



## Summary

June 15, 2020

**Subject:** Executive meeting  
**Date and time:** June 11, 2020 at 10.00-11.30  
**Venue:** Zoom  
**Participants:** Head of Department: Jesper Bo Nielsen (JBN)  
User Perspectives: Birgitte Nørgaard (BN)  
CMSS: Lisa L. Froholdt (LF)  
DaCHE (Danish Centre for Health Economics):  
Dorte Gyrd-Hansen (DGH)  
Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Biodemography:  
Kaare Christensen (KC)  
Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacy: Kim Brøsen (KB)  
Environmental Medicine: Philippe Grandjean (PG)  
Health Promotion: Pernille Tanggaard Andersen (PTA)  
**Cancellation from:** General Practice: Jens Søndergaard (JS)  
**Taken by:** Line Bach Ulstrup (LU)

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- 1. News from IST** Finances:  
The research units have the finances under control. Overall it also looks fine.  
PhD scholarships 2020: IST can award 13 scholarships and has already awarded 6. JBN has received several more applications than scholarships remaining. JBN is considering to spend part of the IST surplus funds to finance some extra PhD years.  
Study travel account (Studierejsekonto): Grants awarded in 2020 can be transferred to 2021. If the congress has been postponed to later than 2021, the grant is annulled, but you are free to apply again.
- 2. COVID-19** Working environment: SUND reports that the reopening is going reasonably. The disinfectants are in place. There is a continuous focus on employees who are nervous about catching COVID-19. In principle, all employees are expected to return to work, but of course taking special circumstances into account.  
PhD-defences: Has been online for a period, in future it will also be a possibility. From the fall, both physical and online PhD-defences will be possible.

PhD-delays: SUND will to some extent support delays of 3rd year PhD-students. IST is evaluating possible solutions for 1st and 2nd year PhD-students.

Handling of COVID-19:

DGH: There has been large variation in the information to employees across departments, e.g. SAMF has not been asked to return to work.

JBN: It is important for the academic environment to meet at the workplace. Later, the heads of research will discuss the best way to return to “before” and discuss the culture of “presence” in general. Likewise, it must be debated which positive things from the COVID-19 period that we can learn from.

### 3. Building activities

Esbjerg: Proceeding according to plan. Expected occupancy Nov. 17, 2020. The organizing of offices is underway.

Odense: The building activities are roughly according to schedule. There is an ongoing process about the biobank and the new premises for the freezers. The original drawings from years back were drawn up with an expected growth of 20%, but this level has already been reached. The process concerning offices will continue in the years to come. Especially IST and IMM have large distribution tasks, but JBN is confident.

### 4. Open Access & grants

Open Access: The SDUBIB pool closed in the spring of 2020.

JBN recommends that you remember to include funds for Open Access when you make external applications. JBN is considering whether IST should set aside money to support completely or partly young researchers’ payment for Open Access.

EU fund raiser: SUND has asked the heads of department for support to employ an EU fund raiser. JBN has responded positively to the dean and suggested that the person not only assist in the pre-funding phase but also assist with post-funding, e.g. final reporting.

### 5. News from councils & committees

KC:

University Council: most recent meeting dealt primarily with the reopening.

Academic Council: Still working on employee participation and employee involvement. A rather long process. We wish to involve the employees earlier, but at the same time get the employees to engage themselves more.

JBN:

The committee for academic theses: Helle Ploug Hansen retires from the committee. IST proposes professor Rikke Sand Andersen, General Practice, awaiting the dean’s approval.

KB: Would it be a good idea to get a similar committee for evaluation of academic positions?

KC: It has earlier been discussed in the Academic Council and recently it was suggested to continue this process.

## 6. Comments from participants

PG: Environmental Medicine employees are on their way back to work. Some still work from home.

KC: The unit is almost back to everyday life.

KB: Painless reopening. Nice to see colleagues again. KFF has employed three more persons as of June 1. KFF is still hosting the GCP-unit, which over time will be attached to OPEN, but the time frame is unknown.

DGH: The unit is doing well. Some discussions in connection with the reopening. Everybody has been by their office, but probably not all employees will be back until after the summer holidays, i.a. because there is not room for everybody in the lunchroom at the same time. The unit is planning an internal seminar at the end of June, it will partially be digital.

PTA: Flexible reopening. Only SUND is back at work. It is a problem that employees cannot meet as before, i.a. a maximum of five persons in the lunchroom.

The new programme at Public Health Science will be online in Danish, and the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH)/SIF will teach. Health Promotion will continue to teach physically the English version of the programme in Esbjerg.

BN: The unit has held a reunion garden party for the employees, and we are working on returning to previous conditions.

Most likely necessary to discuss the organizing of teaching in the fall.

LLF: The unit is back at campus.

LU: The unit secretary at KFF retires at the end of June, and instead IST has employed a study secretary, Bettina Hansen. At the same time finances and HR will partially be moved to the IST-secretariat.

It is uncertain whether inaugural seminars for professors will be possible in the fall. IST has planned seminars in September and October. LU will clarify with SUND.

JBN: Considers a major joint event for the entire department as compensation for the annual department forum.

Kind regards

**Line Bach Ulstrup**  
Department secretary