

Summary

Subject: Executive meeting
Date and time: Thursday, December 3, 2020
Venue: Zoom
Participants: Head of Department: Jesper Bo Nielsen (JBN)
General Practice: Jens Søndergaard (JS)
User Perspectives: Birgitte Nørgaard (BN)
CMSS: Lisa L. Froholdt (LLF)
Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Biodemography:
Kaare Christensen (KC)
DaCHE (Health Economics): Dorte Gyrd-Hansen (DGH)
Clinical Pharmacology, Pharmacy & Environmental
Medicine: Kim Brøsen (KB)
Health Promotion: Pernille Tanggaard Andersen (PTA)
Taken by: IST-secretariat: Line Bach Ulstrup (LBU)

December 3, 2020

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Agenda:

1. News from IST

Teaching: BlackBoard closes in 2021 and will be replaced by ItsLearning. It seems that the new system is more complicated. Just before you are going to use the new system, you should spend a couple of hours getting to know the system.

GET: The first three interviews have taken place. The process continues in December and January.

Influenza vaccine: We do not find it ethically correct to vaccinate our employees preventively, when more vulnerable persons would not be able to get the vaccination.

GDPR and students: At present the master students at IST sign a guest researcher agreement if they need access to data, the students must also pass the GDPR online course. There are still several unanswered questions about this procedure, i.a. if the students themselves should be data processors. Or could specific "master student contracts" be made? It continues to be an ongoing process. JBN sits on this SDU committee.

Marie Kruse, IST, has created a site on Teams with guidelines etc. for supervisors of master students. Please contact Marie, mkru@health.sdu.dk, for access to the site.

PTA: Important that the students themselves become responsible for preparing the data management agreements, but of course according to IST/SDU guidelines. JBN: I quite agree. Some units have many students, and it would be a huge task for supervisors if they must make the agreements. The guest researcher agreement is still available at the help index (Stikordslisten):

<https://sdunet.dk/da/enheder/institutter/ist/stikord>

Relocations WP 9: CPOP has moved out of the building, and some units have moved to other floors. Part of the 3rd floor is vacant. The faculty has decided that the GCP unit from WP19,2 will move in with OPEN on the 3rd floor. In addition, Cochrane/CEBMO moves into 6 offices on the 3rd floor as they will become a part of SDU/The Clinical Dept. Hopefully IST can cooperate with these new groups in future.

Finances: Lower funding activity than earlier. The expected grants have not been received, but expected expenditure in 2020 also lower, primarily due to COVID-19.

Work from home: JBN is asking the heads of research to pay attention to employees who have difficulties working from home and to generally have focus on the work-life balance. KC: Is of the opinion that there will be a delay. Perhaps not consequences of COVID-19 in research until over the next year. It is difficult to be updated on the work process of the employees.

LLF refers to an article from the SDU psychologist, Birgitte Zethsen, about "Well-being and stress during corona".

https://sdunet.dk/da/administration/nyt_om_administration/nyheder/trivsel-coronatiid
https://sdunet.dk/en/administration/nyt_om_administration/nyheder/trivsel-coronatiid

Moving in Esbjerg: Long process, but attractive building and good physical surroundings. Hopefully the students will use the buildings more.

After moving, passers-by in the hallways had a full view of offices and computer monitors, but these problems are in the process of being solved.

New SUND: You can now clearly see where New SUND will be situated. The first shell construction has been completed. There are several work groups who continue their work in the years to come on plans for moving, furniture, equipment, freezers etc.

SUND will attempt to keep employees updated about the process and status.

The building is expected to be ready by the end of 2022 with occupancy from the beginning of 2023. New OUH will probably not be completed until 8-9 months later, so it is possible that some units and employees cannot move until later. It is hoped that the teaching zone/linkage zone to New OUH can open at the same time as New SUND.

- 2. News from SUND** The executive groups are spending much time on the moving process. Meetings have been held on the SUND strategy. Generally, the strategy is fine and still relevant. Perhaps look at new mutual basis for IST strategy or for some units. Perhaps after COVID-19 to ensure a continuous cohesion across units and presence for continuous sparring with colleagues.
- 3. Councils and committees** KC: Good discussions on the five-point plan, e.g. on the VIP-TAP ratio.
Dept. council: There were no candidates for the departmental council. The new council was decided by lot. Invitations will be sent out for a first meeting in the beginning of January.
- 4. New job structure at the universities** New structure from December 2019. The change gives equal status to research and teaching, and an increased focus on career paths.
The position of professor mso will no longer be possible, but it will be possible to appoint professors for time-limited positions. The position of study assistant/associate professor can now also "to a limited extent" be used for teaching and similar tasks. These appointments must have the dean's approval.
Postdocs and assistant professors: In future the category of postdoc will be used more as a temporary position without a continuing career at the university and does not give the possibility of getting a diploma in education (pædagogikum) either. Postdoc positions will be limited to 4 years put together across universities.
Assistant professors get the possibility of a tenure track to become associate professor. The department will have the option to offer it but it will not be a candidate requirement. For many years, IST has given equal status to postdocs and assistant professors, and it has worked well. This strategy will be challenged by this decision from SDU.

5. Comments from participants

DGH: There has been held two PhD-defences. One was 100% online and the other was with 10 persons present and the rest online. Both ways worked well.

The unit will also focus on external funding for some time to come.

The unit has many online meetings and seminars.

DGH has been reappointed to the Danish Medicines Council for a two-year term. Furthermore, Dorte is in a COVID-19 committee that is working on a report. Very interesting work.

PTA: Much focus on moving. Working on an adjustment of the curriculum at the Public Health Master's programme. It is beginning to be difficult, both during the COVID and the moving process to set a mutual agenda and feel how the employees are doing.

LLF: The unit is settling in after the move. Many employees find it difficult to have offices with several glass partitions. Also focus on funding.

LLF entered an industrial board of directors for development, innovation and education within the range of the blue Denmark (MARLOG), which is also hoped to strengthen the unit's external funding.

KB: A termination of employment has been made with study secretary Bettina Hansen. The termination was made in agreement and in good order.

The unit is a large group trying to find their feet in a new structure, and it is a challenge during COVID when many works from home. Regular unit meetings are held, and an on-line bingo event is scheduled.

BN: The joining of User Perspectives and the occupational therapists still takes up time. It is a complicated situation but made further difficult by COVID.

First joint meeting held Tuesday where i.a. joint name, meeting structure, knowledge sharing etc. were discussed.

KC: In the middle of 2nd year of the large grant "Long Life Family Study". It is a collaboration with several US universities, and the participants are primarily recruited at physical visits. As only the EBB's employees can get out and get data, then we are a little ahead of the others. However, it takes great logistical flexibility to be ready to visit participants at times when the infection numbers permit.

JS: The unit has received a grant from the Ole Kirk's Foundation for a project on vulnerable young people. Generally, it is difficult to carry out projects in general practice, but on the other hand, several projects using video consultations have got off to a good start.

Involved in an evaluation of physicians' and patients' attitude towards the use of medicinal cannabis. It will be finished shortly.

A satellite unit in Esbjerg will be started up to provide for the teaching of medicine in Esbjerg.

The unit has been asked to submit proposals for a mandate for the development of the subject "communication" at the medical studies.

JS has become co-editor of "Pro-medicin".

LBU: Kirsten Nybo Jakobsen and Susanne Barrit retire at IST in the beginning of 2021. The successors are employed centrally in the IST-secretariat. The administrative tasks are becoming increasingly specialized which is the reason why it still makes sense to bring together the administration, but the secretariat pays very much attention to still being accessible for the units.

6. AOB

JS: Has a wish for a big, joint party when circumstances permit us to meet again. JBN: After the lockdown in the spring, we started on the planning of a major joint Christmas staff party. As this was not possible, we are now aiming at having a joint summer party or Christmas staff party in 2021.

Kind regards,

Line Bach Ulstrup
Head of Secretariat