

Department of Public Health

February 29, 2024

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KMG

# **Summary**

Subject: Executive Meeting (FLM)

**Date and time:** February 29, 2024 at 12.30 – 13.30

Place: OD SUN M1.21

Desper Bo Nielsen (JBN), Head of Department

Birgitte Nørgaard (BN), User Perspectives & Community-based

Interventions

Dorte Gyrd-Hansen (DGH), Health Economics DaCHE

Pernille Tanggaard Andersen (PTA), Health Promotion (online)

Jens Søndergaard (JS), General Practice FEA

Tore B. Stage (TBS), Clinical Pharmacology, Pharmacy and

**Environmental Medicine** 

Non-attendees: Lisa Loloma Froholdt (LLF), CMSS

Kaare Christensen (KC), Epidemiology, Biostatistics and

Biodemography

**Notetaker:** Kirsten M. Gauthier (KMG)

### Agenda:

- 1. IST from March 1, 2024
  - a. Substitute
  - b. Fulfillment of duties
- 2. Diskussion of strategy in relation to presence, visibility, and interconnectedness
- 3. Comments from participants

#### Ad. 1 IST from March 1, 2024

#### a. Substitute

JBN: JS serves as a substitute from March 1, 2025. Continuous handing over of duties.

## b. Fulfillment of duties

JBN takes care of PhD scholarships, travel funds, and salary negotiations for the researchers until April. Invoice approval must be changed from Head of Department to IST-economy, but somebody must be asked which account should pay.



The Heads of Research must look very closely at the application budgets before they are sent to JS. Large foundations such as for example Carlsberg, VELUX, Novo Nordisk, and TrygFonden now grant a bench fee, as they do not grant overhead. The Economy Office has made a documentation for bench fee. Bench fee goes directly to the departments, it is not part of the project budget for the applicant to use. Bench fee is calculated according to "årsværk", so it is a problem if you do not have "årsværk" in your application.

# Ad. 2. Diskussion of strategy in relation to presence, visibility, and interconnectedness

Before Corona, employees were always at work in their offices. Several employees now work from home to a greater extent, which may challenge the cohesion at the department and at the units. New employees do not know other employees, perhaps only some employees from their own unit. How do we get to know other researchers at our own department? Visibility as to students at IST, the students must have the opportunity to meet researchers and instructors. Foreign employees are often used to always show up at work, and perhaps not many other employees are at work here. IST is at risk of losing the synergy of the many specialties at the department. IST has all kinds of competences, we can deal with everything in-house, but this requires that we know each other. Common events would be good, formerly there were presentations by new researchers at IST-forum. Common PhD defences. Action is required from the Heads of Research. It should be culture rather than a requirement.

Perhaps we should consider an IST summer party – date and place should be advertised soon, but who will take care of it? Perhaps meetings for a couple of units at a time including a social gathering afterwards. We could start with a presentation round from each unit.

#### Ad. 3. Comments from participants

JS: No big changes are planned while waiting for next Head of Department. We could consider making a common brand. We have a strong professional engine, but the presentation of our department could be far better.

DGH: Our brand could be that IST can deliver everything. The engines would be much stronger if they collaborated more. There is a strong foundation to work on.

TBS: Positive atmosphere at KFFM.

PTA: Soon a strategic seminar for half a day, what unites us? Has become Head of Campus Esbjerg (2 years). Must have contact to foundations, bring together employees from 2 Faculties, and create ownership.

JBN: small campus, so important with a good cooperation between SUND and SAMF, and cooperation between CMSS and SAMF and Aalborg University. The municipalities invite to collaboration, for example the municipality of Varde.

BN: A new PhD-course in 2-3 weeks takes up a lot of time. Vacancy announcement for the ergotherapy group. Stay (2 days) in Svanninge for both groups.

GDH: Vacancy announcement for professor position, 2 persons were employed. DaCHE article published in British Journal, and it was among the 10 best articles.



JS: Meeting with Minister of Health, Sophie Løhde, tomorrow. I was happy with JBN as Head of Department, but happy now because JBN is returning to General Practice on full time.

News from CMSS (LLF): Everything is well, some changes of employees, a new Emeritus, and a new senior researcher with a background in anthropology has been employed. We have received funds to look at the culture and working life on board 4 ships with 50% women and await hopefully positive replies with more funds for the same project.

We have been lucky to get two large grants:

Innovation Fund Denmark with a total grant of DKK 56,059,542 and approx. 2 years for CMSS.

Horizon projekt of DKK 55,839,000 with 1.5 years for CMSS.

We are working on a new strategy plan in accordance with our performance contract. Interested in further education in working environment. Very different working environment at ships.

Kind regards,

**Kirsten M. Gauthier** Unit Secretary