

Minutes - IST Executive meeting

Date and time 19. March 2026 kl. 12.00 - 14.00

Department of Public Health

Location M-2.22

Invited Pernille Tanggaard Andersen (PTA), Head of Department
Jens Søndergaard (JS), General Practice
Tore B. Stage (TBS), Clinical Pharmacology, Pharmacy and Environmental
Medicine
Dorte Gyrd-Hansen (DGH), DaCHE, Health Economics, DaCHE
Kaare Christensen (KC), Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Biodemography
Charlotte Overgaard (CO), Health Promotion
Lisa Loloma Froholdt (LLF), Maritime Health and Technology

Apologies from Birgitte Nørgaard (BN), User Perspectives and Community-based Interventions

Circulated by Christina Brøkker-Knudsen (CBK)

Agenda:

1. 12.00 – 12.05: Welcome, presentation of the agenda and approval of the minutes
2. 12.05 – 12.15: Kirsten Specht, new research support officer, introduction
3. 12.15 – 13.00: Mutual orientation from Head of Department and Heads of Research
4. 13.00 – 13.30: Presentation of IST finances (closed session)
5. 13.30 – 13.55: PhD funding and overhead (OH) in relation to the Region's PhD funding, by PTA
6. Any other business
 - a. Reminder: Recruitment workshop on 14 April

Item 1

Approved

Item 2

PTA welcomes Kirsten Specht (KS), who introduces herself. Kirsten was originally a nurse and has worked in intensive care and anesthesia departments. After completing her Ph.D. at KI and Sygehus Lillebælt, she has been employed at IRS as a postdoc and associate professor, and has worked at Sjællands Universitetshospital, Køge and Sygehus Sønderjylland, Aabenraa. She has completed the university teaching programme at SDU and has been professionally engaged nationally and internationally. Until 2025 she served as Chair of the Danish Nurses' Organization's Research Council.

Item 3

The Head of Department informed the group that the working time agreement, previously discussed at an Executive meeting, will be revisited. The agreement has been subject to criticism due to the absence of a formal consultation process and will therefore be circulated through the appropriate representative channels. It was further noted that the agreement does not adequately reflect current working practices at IST.

DGH noted that the current overview of workload deductions does not contain all categories of academic work, particularly in relation to teaching obligations.

The Head of Department announced that Jacob Grauslund has been appointed as the new Dean of SUND.

<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/sundhedsvidenskab/aktuelt/nyheder-sund/moed-den-nye-dekan-paa-sund-jakob-grauslund>

Furthermore, attention was drawn to the forthcoming restructuring of the Faculty PhD fund, and all were encouraged to participate in the information meeting scheduled for 26 March. A proposal was made to invite Uffe Holmskov to a future Executive meeting at IST.

<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/sundhedsvidenskab/aktuelt/nyheder-sund/sund-styrker-talentudviklingen-med-nyt-samlet-program>

DGH reported that Kim Rose has been awarded the Novo Nordisk Foundation Prize for Teaching, for outstanding Interdisciplinary teaching at Data Science. In addition, the MSc programme in Health Economics has been finalized and is expected to enroll approximately 20 students from 1 September 2026.

CO reported substantial ongoing activities related to educational development, both within the existing Public Health programme and in relation to future educational initiatives.

LLF informed the group that a needs analysis concerning a potential professional Master's programme in the maritime sector has been completed. The decision regarding further development now rests with the Faculty of Engineering (TEK). LLF also participates in an interdisciplinary maritime research network at SDU.

TBS reported that, following significant external funding, the unit plans to recruit up to 15 additional staff members before October 2026. This expansion poses challenges regarding office capacity. Progress was also reported on the Green Lab certification of the laboratory facilities, with the initial phase proceeding very successfully. Regarding research funding, a recent internal pitch session for early-career researchers was highlighted, during which constructive feedback was provided by senior colleagues. A more systematic process for feedback on grant applications is currently being developed. TBS further noted uncertainty regarding the future organization of the project Women in Health.

The Head of Department stated that office capacity would be reviewed, including the possibility of reorganizing shared office spaces. This matter will be addressed further at the next Executive meeting.

KC reported an increased institutional focus on data collection. However, delays related to RIO processes were noted, primarily due to high workload rather than lack of willingness.

Item 4

This item was discussed in closed session.

Item 5

No additional issues were raised beyond those addressed under Item 3.