

Minutes of meeting

Subject: Department Council meeting
Date and time: June 4, 2026, 10.00 – 11-30
Location: OD SUN M-2.13
Participants: Pernille Tanggaard Andersen (PTA), Head of Department, Chair
Elisabeth Assing Hvidt (EAH), Associate professor, vice chair
Birgitte Nørgaard (BN), Head of Research
Trine Kjær (TK), Professor
Ulrich Halekoh (UH), Associate professor
Jan Beyer, Laboratory technician
Ngaio Ustrup, Administrative staff

Appologies from: Jacob von Bornemann Hjelmborg (JBH), Professor
Helle Hansen Søht (HHS), Coordinator

Minutes taken by: Christina Brøkker-Knudsen

Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda
2. SDU's central and cross-cutting strategic funding pools, by PTA
cf. <https://sdunet.dk/da/servicesider/oekonomi/budget/centrale-og-tvaergaende-strategiske-puljer?fromlogin=1>
3. Working time agreement at SUND – status, by PTA / all
4. The educational landscape at SUND – next steps, by PTA
5. Mutual orientation

Minutes of meeting:

Item 1

Comments on the agenda were raised by NU, noting that several items do not concern the part of the institute council representing technical and administrative staff (TAP). TK and BN responded that the items are important to discuss in the council.

The council's terms of reference were discussed. The key point is to bring forward the

council's perspectives as an advisory board to the Head of Department.

Further discussion addressed how the information generated in the council should be shared—and whether it should be shared at all. This is a challenge, as not all units are represented. It was agreed that for each item it will be discussed whether confidentiality or a duty to inform applies.

PTA noted that it is acknowledged that the agenda should reflect that the council includes both academic staff (VIP) and technical/administrative staff (TAP).

Item 2

PTA briefly presented the strategic funds and how to apply. Reference was made to the link in the agenda, which leads to a webpage containing all relevant information.

PTA also informed us that new initiatives are forthcoming. NU asked whether SUND Research Support should pay particular attention to this; PTA responded that this focus has already been emphasized. PTA encouraged the council to share this information with colleagues.

Item 3

Consultation responses on the working time agreement have been submitted by several parties at IST. There is a desire for a more transparent process and for sufficient time to ensure a proper process and involvement of relevant staff groups. Particular attention is being given to the wording of the agreement, so that it covers the entire staff group and is inclusive.

The academic staff group recommends that agreements like this should in future be reviewed in multiple internal bodies and not only handled through the trade unions.

The purpose of the agreement was discussed, as it remains unclear. Its potential impact on the working environment going forward was also discussed.

CBK noted that it is important to remember that union representatives (TR) represent the employees, and if employees cannot support the agreement, the union should not sign it.

Item 4

PTA informed us that meetings have been held within selected programmes regarding the future educational landscape at SUND. Dilemmas and development opportunities for individual programmes were discussed. As a result, it has been decided to close the 120 ECTS Master's programme in Public Health in Esbjerg. Work is underway to convert it into a 75 ECTS programme. In addition, other programmes will also need to be restructured and/or merged, though this has not yet been decided.

Item 5

EAH: The Research Unit for General Practice attended a conference, where morale was high. There has been considerable discussion of the working time agreement, but overall things are going well.

JB: Freezer clean-up has been completed. The Green Lab certification process is ongoing. Documentation has been submitted, and a response on whether certification for KFFM has been achieved is expected shortly.

NU: Has taken over the coordinating role of the work environment group and is currently arranging a first aid course. There is room for more participants, so the message should be spread—please notify NU. Work is also ongoing regarding office space, as several units are working in very close quarters and will soon face space shortages.

PTA informed that SUND Faculty centrally also is working on principles for the use of office space.

TK: There has been a very busy period with DFF applications at DACHE. Kim Rose Olsen has received a teaching award for Data Science. Several members of the unit are participating in the Folkemøde on Bornholm.

PTA: Several colleagues from IST are participating in the Folkemøde, many also contributing to debates. It is positive that IST is strongly represented.

CBK: Mentioned discussions regarding the programme for the Department forum. PTA briefly outlined current plans: first, a status update on the strategy work; followed by presentations on communicating research, for example via social media. The council expressed a desire for clearer guidance on when to contact SUND Communication and how to ensure better support.

BN: Highlighted that the Early Career Researcher Committee is functioning very well and is highly rewarding to be part of. They have initiated an IST lecture on Imposter Syndrome scheduled for 17 September.