

Executive meeting

Institute of Public Health

3 October 2013

Participants: Arja Aro (AA), Kaare Christensen (KC), Kim Brøsen (KB), Jan Sørensen (JAS), Jesper Bo Nielsen (JBN), Jørgen Jespersen (JJ), Philippe Grandjean (PG)

Absent: Jens Søndergaard (JES), Lotte Huniche (LH),

Minute taker: Ellinor Kruse (EK)

General news from IST

Following graduate programmes have been accredited:

- occupational therapy
- midwifery science and
- nursing research

The programmes will have some co-teaching and are expected to be finally approved within September 2014.

Staff news

- Prolongation of Susanne Eifer Moller employment to end of the year (external funding)
- Anna Oksusyan will be employed as assistant professor for a period of 3 years at the Max Planck Odense Center
- Tessa L. Gjødesen has taken over the function as project manager of KIC instead of Liv Nymark

News from the Management Group (meeting where all Heads of Institutes at the Faculty of Health Sciences meet)

AA: In a few years, the University of Southern Denmark in Esbjerg will be moving to surroundings close to the University College. A meeting about the new structure has been held for all employees in Campus Esbjerg. Unfortunately the information was only in Danish, not considering the number of international staff present. Health Promotion was not mentioned as one of the prospective education areas though it is the 2nd most popular at Esbjerg Campus at the time being. The outcome of the meeting caused concern in the research unit. Two persons had been assigned by the Dean to participate in the working group in Esbjerg, but had not been involved in the process. JBN will look into the matter together with AA and JJ.

Economics 2014/2015

JBN: The Faculty of Health Sciences is demanding an efficiency improvement of 2% in 2014 (equivalent to approx. DKK 850,000). The Faculty's deficit is primarily due to the reorganisation of the PhD fellowship. The Institute of Public Health has a healthy economy. One of the options is to transfer expenses from ordinary activities to external projects and another options is that positions will be vacant for a longer period than originally planned and thus postpone the expenses. JBN believes it is going to be a challenge but not impossible.

News about PhD scholarships

JBN: Far more PhD students have been enrolled than the target figure set by the Ministry. In the future an appointed grant committee will consider the applications. The committee will meet four times every year. A plan of allocation has been set up. I.e. in 2014 it is possible to enrol 90 PhD students (12 at Institute of Public Health). The number of PhD students may increase, but will require an external funding of all 3 years. Allocation of scholarships is no longer a matter of course.

KC fears the changes will encourage the research units to focus on hiring postdoctoral fellows, as the requirements are less restrictive. JBN agrees it is more restrictive.

News from the Academic Council

KC The Academic Council has commented on following areas in the University's Strategy towards 2020:

- 1) The University's core values are not mentioned in the Strategy. Are they still valid or will they be altered accordingly?
- 2) Mission and vision are quite clear. But where are the employees - and future employees? How can prospective employees see themselves in the organisation and in the strategy?
- 3) The University's future seems to be missing. The history is well described, but the future is missing (the many new building, programmes and extensions)? The Council think they are worth mentioning,

Round the table

JJ calls for more awareness on plagiarism among young researchers, but believes it is also an assignment for the PhD school.

KC : It has become clear that the number of hours biostatistics have given supervision and guidance have increased enormously with the increasing number of PhD students the past years. The Staff situation has not been increased accordingly. KC wants to discuss the issue on the next meeting.