

AGENDA PHD COMMITTEE MEETING 12 SEPTEMBER 2022

Time: Monday 12 September 2022 at 13:00 - 14:30

Place: 1525-626 Det Skæve Rum

Participants: Brian Vinter, Claudia Nielsen, Emilie Nicoline Stepien, Julie Frost Dahl, Lis Wollesen de Jonge, Marianne Hammershøj, Morten Frederiksen, Stefan Hallerstede

Apologies for absence: Hadi Sehat

Secretariat: Frederikke Kongsted Hansen, Lone Iversen

1. Approval of agenda (2 minutes, Stefan Hallerstede)

Approval of agenda

Approved

2. Approval of minutes (2 minutes, Stefan Hallerstede)

Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting on 9 May 2022

Appendix 1

Approved

3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions etc. for the period 3 May 2022 – 7 September 2022 (2 minutes, Stefan Hallerstede)

At each committee meeting an overview is presented of the following:

- Defences – assessment committees
- Qualifying exams
- Requests

Appendix 2A, Appendix 2B, Appendix 2C

At each committee meeting an overview is presented of the following:

- Defences – assessment committees*
- Qualifying exams*
- Requests (incl. credit transfer granted during the PhD study, if any).*

Action: If any of the members have any comments to the lists, please send them to Lone Iversen

4. News from the PhD students (15 minutes, PhD students)

Any issues the PhD student members might wish to put forward for discussion.

The issue of stress was brought up for discussion including the high increase in stress-related numbers over the years. As part of the discussion, it was mentioned that the topic of well-being is high on the agenda among the students.

It was suggested that this could be an issue to be discussed at the interview with the candidate during the admission process to make the candidate aware that a PhD study is different from their Master's studies.

It was also commented that it was important to be aware that stress can crop up at different times during the PhD study depending on where in the process the student is at a given time in the PhD project.

It was mentioned we need to talk about stress, and that uncertainty of the future could also further stress. Another important thing mentioned was that we must try to address the culture, not just the individual, to battle stress.

Monthly lunches, excursions, more of a social life could also be important in order for our PhD students not to drop-out. Alignment of expectations between PhD students and supervisors are equally important.

5. Follow up on Workplace Assessment – WPA (15 minutes, Stefan Hallersted)

A follow up on how the PhD program handle the challenges with experienced stress and loneliness in connection with work locally. Brought forward from last meeting (request from Stefan Hallersted)

Appendix 3

The discussion during item 4 also covered some of item 5. Brian Vinter mentioned that GSTS could not send out the well-being e-mail discussed earlier in the Well-being Committee. He would instead adopt the idea fostered by the Graduate School at BSS and have a FAQ/What if list on our website to make it easier for PhD students to find relevant information.

Brian Vinter also mentioned that employment and PhD studies should not be looked upon as separate.

We are entering the MUS season, so it was stressed that MUS is held by the Head of section. However, if the Head of section is the same as the PhD student's supervisor, MUS will be conducted by the Head of department.

6. University elections coming up in Autumn (10 minutes, Brian Vinter)

University elections, including PhD student nomination and election for the 2023 PhD committee is coming up.

What can be done to raise awareness and motivate interest and engagement in running for the election. A discussion is desired.

University elections, including PhD student nomination and election for the 2023 PhD committee is coming up.

The elections will be announced on the GSTS website and news e-mails as well as separate e-mails to the PhD committee and Heads of program will be sent out.

A discussion ensued in terms of what else could be done to raise awareness and inspire interest and engagement in running for the election.

7. Any other business (2 minutes, Stefan Hallerstede)

- *If it is possible to assemble 20 students for a generic course, the course will be held.*

- *Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen will come to all locations and carry out Well-being workshops.*

These workshops will be for both PhD students and supervisors