

Minutes, PhD committee meeting 9 May 2022

Information: **GSTS PhD Committee meeting**

Time: Monday 9 May 2022 at 9:30 - 11:00

Place: Online via Zoom

Participants: Stefan Hallerstede, Henrik Skovgård (Agro, observer), Morten Frederiksen, Marianne Hammershøj, Claudia Nielsen, Julie Frost Dahl, Emilie Nicoline Stepien, Brian Vinter.

Apologies for absence: Lis Wollesen de Jonge, Hadi Sehat

Secretariat: Liselotte K. Heller, Maria Fauery Iversen

Item 1: Approval of minutes from the PhD Committee meeting on 20 January 2022

Approved.

Item 2: Approval of agenda

Approved.

Item 3: Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 13 January 2022 to 2 May 2022

The announcements were approved with no further comments.

Item 4: Workplace Assessment (WPA)

The result of the workplace assessment (WPA) was discussed amongst the members of the PhD committee. The committee concluded that PhD students are still struggling with loneliness in connection with work and experienced stress, which makes them, feel unwell. There was a discussion on whether or not Corona has influenced the result. The result is similar to previous results and it was therefore concluded that Corona is not the cause.

Brian Vinter mentioned that these results appear from the WPA across the Graduate Schools at Aarhus University and across all the Graduate Schools at the universities in Denmark. These challenges shall therefore be handled at both a higher level as well as local. It was mentioned, that social activities with involvement of or arrangement by PhD students is a way to deal with the challenges locally.

Stefan Hallerstede suggested that the committee should follow up on how the PhD programmes handle the challenges with experienced stress and loneliness in connection with work locally.

Action: There will be an item on the agenda in this regard at the next meeting.

Item 5: Follow-up on Action plan

Brian Vinter shared the status of the action plan by going through it item by item. The progress runs slowly but steady.

Brian Vinter kindly asked the committee to consider an alternative solution to meet the requirement of “a neutral and independent point of contact to talk to” in item 6. It was mentioned that it could be a person hired for this purpose (not full-time) or it could be handled by the Students counselors (for Bachelors and Masters students).

Suggestions for which kind of profile that could be relevant for this role or suggestions for an entirely other solution are welcomed and can be sent directly to Brian Vinter, Head.GS.Tech@au.dk.

Item 6: Individual courses

6.1. Course description: ‘Applied Statistics’

Approved

6.2. Precise course titles coming up later – two courses on innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up

Approved

6.3. Science Writing and Communication

Approved.

Item 7: Discussion of the transferable skills PhD course portfolio 2023

Here it was mentioned that all courses are scheduled to be held either in Aarhus or online. There are no courses planned at other locations in 2023. Brian Vinter commented that he is planning to have relevant courses held at Campus Viborg and Campus Roskilde in the future.

The committee had a discussion on the importance on following up on the number of participants in the various courses to make sure that the courses are scaled correctly.

The transferable skills PhD course portfolio 2023 was approved.

Item 8: Follow-up on Science Teaching evaluation

Stefan Hallerstedte shared the course committee’s thoughts of the evaluations of Science Teaching. Overall, the evaluations had improved, which especially came into expression in the participants individual comments.

The course committee will continue to follow the evaluations closely.

Item 9: For your information

9.3 New attendee from the secretariat

Lone Iversen will be the new support for the PhD committee from the PhD secretariat as Liselotte K. Heller is going to start in a new position outside AU.

In addition to that, there is two colleagues in the PhD secretariat, who will start their maternity leave in the beginning of August and one colleague who has moved to AAU. Therefore, three new colleagues will start on 1 June 2022 and one colleague on 1 August 2022. The PhD secretariat will consequently have a little longer processing time in the next coming months.

Item 10: Any other business

No other businesses.