

Minutes from the Danish SDC board meeting, 3 June 2013, 13:00 – 15:00

MINUTES

The meeting was conducted as a video meeting between AU, AAU (Cph campus) and SDU.

Participants:

From AU: Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU, Chair), Morten Laugesen (SDC); Søren Walbum Høst (SDC);

From AAU (Cph): Nils O. Andersen (KU), Ib Poulsen (RUC);

From SDU: Henrik Pedersen (SDU)

Absent with notice:

Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU), Lene Lange (AAU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU) and Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS)

The Danish SDC Secretariat

Date: 31 January 2014

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- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from SDC board meeting, 8 April 2013**
- 3. Status of the hiring process of a new SDC-director**
- 4. Status of the activities in Beijing**
- 5. Recruitment of students for the SDC Master's programmes**
- 6. Budget and accounts for the first quarter of 2013**
- 7. Any other business**

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from SDC board meeting, 8 April 2013

Minutes from SDC board meeting, 8 April 2013 were approved.

3. Status of the hiring process of a new SDC-director

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen gave a short account of the hiring process and the considerations the selection committee take as the basis of selection. Two candidates have been invited for a second round of interviews.

4. Status of the activities in Beijing

Acting SDC-director Morten Laugesen informed the board about activities in Beijing.

4.1 Strategic allocation of Danish SDC PhD stipends

The Danish side will allocate SDC PhD stipends strategically to strengthen collaboration with selected CAS institutes. This is part of a broader effort to involve relevant CAS institutes in the educational activities of SDC.

4.2 *Proposal for a revised compensation structure*

A proposal for a revised compensation structure has been submitted to Danish Ministry for Science, Innovation and Higher Education (DMSIH). DMSIH is currently reviewing the proposal.

An increasing number of activities related to the Master's programmes are carried out by Danish lecturers while in Denmark, e.g. course and exam preparation, supervision of projects and theses etc. The proposal is designed to take these activities into account when compensating the universities for their contribution to SDC.

4.3 *SDC-post docs*

Omics and Neuroscience & Neuroimaging are in the process of hiring SDC post docs to be stationed in China. The post docs will carry out research in collaboration with Chinese partners and act as liaisons officers for fellow researchers and lecturers.

4.4 *DMSIH and CEO of Danish Industry Foundation visit SDC in Beijing*

In April 2013 Jacob Fuchs and Christina Bording of DMSIH visited SDC where they met with SDC staff, researchers, teachers and students.

In May 2013 Permanent Secretary of DMSIH, Uffe Toudal Pedersen, and CEO of the Danish Industry Foundation, Mads Lebech, visited SDC in Beijing where they met with SDC staff and Danish and Chinese students of SDC.

The visitors had a frank talk with both Danish and Chinese SDC students.

4.5 *The House of the Danish Industry Foundation*

The Steering Committee for the SDC Building will convene in Beijing in week 24 to discuss the remaining unsettled issues.

4.6 *SDC Master's programmes*

Morten Laugesen gave an account of the latest development. The board expressed concern about reported student dissatisfaction and the fact that some Danish students will leave SDC by the end of the semester.

In October 2012 students expressed dissatisfaction with several aspects of the SDC Master's programmes:

- Lack of coordination between courses.
- The academic level on selected courses too low.
- Irregularities in relation to exam and exam preparation.

In response to the critique the SDC-secretariat and the HEPs met with the students to get to the bottom of the issues. In the past months both the SDC-secretariat and the HEPs have worked on addressing the issues:

- Division of responsibilities has been made clearer
- Administrative set-up has been consolidated
- Academic issues have been addressed

Issues still remain, most critically it is still difficult for the science programmes to get access to labs and carry out field work as an integrated part of their programme. Some students worry about the effects on their thesis work if obstacles to do lab- and field work remain. Both Chinese and Danish sides are aware of these difficulties and are working actively to improve conditions.

This involves strengthening collaboration with selected CAS institutes as mentioned above under 4.1.

The students have overall responded positively to the changes made and it is the impression of HEPs and staff at SDC that student satisfaction has improved since last semester.

The board took notice of the account and expressed satisfaction that improvements have been made in response to the student critique. The board also voiced their support for the efforts of SDC to involve selected CAS institutes with the aim of giving the students at SDC better opportunities.

4.7 *Study start 2013*

SDC, student forum and HEPs are currently working on an introduction programme for the new students. Danish students are expected to arrive in Beijing on 26-27 August and the introduction programme will begin on 28 August.

The semester starts on 9 September.

4.8 *JMC*

The third JMC meeting is scheduled for 24 October in Beijing.

If possible, ISAB and IAB will convene in continuation of the JMC.

5. Recruitment of students for the SDC Master's programmes

Søren Walbum Høst gave an account of the recruitment initiatives 2012-13 and informed the board about the strategy for recruitment 2013-14 in light of the disappointing number of applicants:

- Early effort. The SDC-secretariat and the recruitment group have started preparation for autumn initiatives
- Face to face. The SDC-secretariat and the recruitment group will intensify activities such as targeted info meetings and lecture visits
- Social media. The SDC-secretariat and the recruitment group will further develop the social media activities
- Word of mouth activities. The SDC-secretariat will strengthen the involvement of present SDC students in the recruitment efforts

The Chinese partners have informed the Danish sides that they have recruited 99 students for the coming seven programmes.

At the last meeting of the recruitment group on May 31, concern was raised about difficulties getting access to BA students on relevant programmes at some universities. The board agreed to address the issue.

The board took notice of the plans for improving recruitment. Furthermore the board made the following suggestions:

- A strategy seminar for Head of Educational Programmes, Principal Coordinators, the board and the SDC director. The SDC-secretariat will start planning for a seminar to take place in November 2013
- If possible, some board members will participate in the next meeting of the recruitment group in week 33 to learn more about the challenges reported.

6. Budget and accounts for the first quarter of 2013

The accounts show some deviations from the budget but the SDC secretariat maintains its expectations for 2013.

The board took notice of budget and accounts for first quarter of 2013.

7. Any other business

Next board meetings are October 3 and December 17, 2013

Jacob Fuchs and Christina Bording participated in the last 30 minutes of the board meeting.

Minutes by Søren Walbum Høst