

**Minutes from Danish SDC board meeting, 8 April 2013, 16.00-17.15.**

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

**Participants:**

From AU: Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen (AU, Chair), Hans Gregersen (SDC), Morten Laugesen (SDC);

From AAU: Nils O. Andersen (KU), Lene Lange (AAU), Martin Bendsøe (DTU), Ib Poulsen (RUC);

From SDU: Henrik Pedersen (SDU)

Jørgen Staunstrup (ITU) and Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard (CBS) were absent.

**Agenda:**

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from SDC board meeting, 11 December 2012**
- 3. Brief status of SDC activities in Beijing**
- 4. SDC Accounts 2012**
- 5. SDC budget 2013**
- 6. Adjustments of the Compensation model**
- 7. PhD stipends**
- 8. Collaboration with CAS-institutes**
- 9. Danish personnel stationed abroad**
- 10. Any other business**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda was approved

**2. Approval of Minutes from SDC board meeting, 11 December 2012**

The Minutes were approved

**Morten Laugesen**

Head of Secretariat, PhD

Date: 29 April 2013

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### **3. Brief status of SDC activities in Beijing**

Hans Gregersen informed the board of the number of Danish applicants for the seven SDC Master's programmes in Beijing. Except for the Neuroscience and neuroimaging programmes, the number of applicants is generally lower than last year for the four existing Master's programmes. The SDC secretariat will forward the actual number of applicants for all programmes to the board members after the meeting.

The board decided that Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen on behalf of the Danish SDC board contacts the Danish universities and ask them to extend the application deadline for all Master's programmes until 15 May.

The board reconfirmed the Danish universities' commitment to actively contribute to the teaching activities for all seven Master's programmes starting in September 2013.

The Chinese side has recently interviewed potential students for some of the Master's programmes, including Neuroscience & Neuroimaging and Omics. It is expected that 15 Chinese students will be enrolled in each of the seven Master's programmes. The two SDC directors will not participate in this and coming years' round of interviews.

The teaching contribution from the Danish and Chinese side was very unbalanced during the first semester with Danish teachers responsible for more than 85 pct. of the total teaching. UCAS has acknowledged the lack of contribution and plans to increase the number of Chinese teachers.

The Academic College of the SDC (SDCAC), the Student Forum and the Teaching Committees for all four Master's programmes have now conducted initial meetings meaning that the core organizational set-up of the SDC has been completed. Meetings will now be conducted on a regular basis.

The Industry Advisory Board (IAB) and the International Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) are expected to meet in the autumn when the JMC convenes for the third time.

The students of the two social science programmes (Innovation Management and Public Management & Social Development) are expected to do internships/project oriented work in private companies and public institutions during the third semester. During the last 12 months, Hans Gregersen has contacted a large number of companies to inform them about the opportunity of receiving SDC students.

Hans Gregersen has been asked by the chairman of the Student Forum to present a letter to the board in which the chairman strongly supports that SDC after the summer holiday is moved to UCAS' Zhongguancun campus in central Beijing instead of UCAS' newly constructed campus at Yanqihu north of the capital. The letter also speaks in favor of keeping the future SDC activities in central Beijing rather than moving them to Yanqihu. The board took notice of the information but stressed that it is in no position to influence the decision. The board is confident that UCAS will make the necessary and best arrangements to facilitate the activities of SDC.

#### **4. SDC Accounts 2012**

Hans Gregersen presented the SDC accounts for 2012. The level of activities is slightly lower than expected at the year's beginning but has nevertheless doubled compared to 2011.

Altogether more than 150 Danish PhD students, researchers and teachers went to China on 234 trips during 2012. Most visits last between 8-30 days. Only 10 pct. of the stays exceed one month. The board expressed its satisfaction with the overall level of activities.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that the SDC accounts will undergo revision as part of Aarhus University's accounts expected to be approved by the university board at the coming meeting in late April. The board approved the accounts and asked the SDC secretariat to forward the documents to the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

#### **5. SDC Budget 2013**

Hans Gregersen presented the budget for 2013, identical to the version already sent to the board members in early March. The activity level is expected to further increase for all five research themes in comparison to 2012.

The board discussed the need to further allocate funding to the development of new themes. Hans Gregersen explained that at the moment UCAS' main focus is on the five existing themes before broadening the collaboration by including additional themes.

The board approved the budget for SDC 2013 and asked the secretariat to include the approved adjustments discussed under item 6 of the agenda.

#### **6. Adjustment of the Compensation model**

Morten Laugesen presented the suggested adjustments to the existing compensation structure and argued for the need to reconsider the compensation mechanisms. It is necessary to open up for compensation for the increasing workload on Danish ground, including coordination of research and teaching activities;

teachers' preparation for classes; supervision and assessment of project reports, theses, etc.

The board agreed on the suggested adjustment and decided to increase the annual compensation paid to each of the Danish universities responsible for a SDC Master's programme.

The board also agreed that the Danish government subsidy paid to the SDC secretariat based on students' activities in Beijing is redistributed to the Danish universities responsible for a SDC Master's programme. The redistribution should be based on the existing government tariffs.

The board asked the SDC secretariat to summarize the decisions in a memo and forward the document to the board members as well as to the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education.

## **7. PhD stipends**

Hans Gregersen informed the board of the recent discussions with UCAS about the unbalanced number of PhD students between the two sides. While the Danish side has registered approximately 50 SDC PhD students at UCAS, the Chinese side has apparently identified a limited number of PhD students but they all still need to get a Danish co-supervisor appointed and register at one of the Danish universities to qualify as SDC PhD students.

The imbalanced number of registered SDC PhD students has resulted in reluctance from the Danish side to launch more Danish SDC PhD projects as this would further affect the imbalance. On the other hand, it is important that we can start new Danish SDC PhD projects on an ongoing basis. As a consequence, UCAS has accepted to register more Danish SDC PhD students this year, as long as they are not officially included in the balance between the two sides.

The board welcomed that PhD students can be registered on a continuous basis and supported the start-up of more Danish SDC PhD project but at the same time stressed the importance of allocating the resources strategically between the themes. The board asked the SDC secretariat to draft a set of criteria and provide more information about the financial aspects.

## **8. Collaboration with CAS-institutes/joint labs**

Hans Gregersen explained the need for SDC to increase its visibility in the CAS-system in general and in some specific institutes (such as CAS' Institute of Biophysics) in particular in order to generate more commitment from the Chinese side, especially with regards to the educational activities.

The board supported the idea of strategic partnerships with key CAS-institutes as presented in the memo attached and asked Hans Gregersen to continue the effort.

#### **9. Danish personnel stationed abroad**

Morten Laugesen informed the board about the difficulties of stationing Danish personnel at SDC in China for longer periods of time. The Danish universities have authority to pay for some documented expenses related to university employees and their family members' travel and relocation costs when being stationed abroad.

The board approved that the Danish SDC secretariat may compensate the universities for expenses related to travel and relocation for university employees' family members in accordance with the current regulations and in case the stay in China exceeds a period of minimum 60 days.

#### **10. Any other business**

Ib Poulsen informed the board that he plans a visit to China in week 42 and would like to visit SDC.

Lauritz B. Holm-Nielsen informed the board that the process of recruiting a new Danish director has begun. Until a new director takes office (expected 1 September), Morten Laugesen has been appointed acting director and will be responsible for the activities in China together with the Chinese Director.

Ib Poulsen suggested using the service of a recruitment agency to help identify potential candidates. The rest of the board members supported the suggestion.

Martin Bendsøe stressed the importance of constantly reflecting upon how to develop the SDC further with regards to both educational and research activities. We must never forget to be visionary and strive for high academic standards.