

Meeting date: 21 Feb 2022
Meeting place: 1540-K32
Meeting subject: PhD programme committee meeting

Attendees:

VIP: K Thomas Nielsen, Mark Bayley, Philip Thomsen, Wolf Eiserhardt; Andreas Schramm
PhD-students: Cecilie Marie Holmboe, Michael Bjerre Pedersen, Aja N. B. Tengsted, Asger Buur Jensen; Candice Power
PhD-programme secretary: Benita Hylgaard
Head of secretariat (guest): Maya Jepsen

Not attending:

PhD-students: Corina Wieber; Clemence Rose, Ann-Sofie Dam; Rhys Taylor Lemoine; Magnus Aaskov

Part 1 (with PhD students) 10:00-11:00:

1. News and information (KTJ) (Information)

1.1 Information from KTJ

GNSN strategy process is running; Hearing statements and suggestions are now being evaluated.

1.2 PhD partner – office hours at Biology (13:00-15:30 Thursdays in even week numbers)

Kathrine Nielsen, our PhD partner at GSNS will have office hours at Biology from March 13:00-15:30 Thursdays in even week numbers in office 1540-016.

N.B.: After this meeting we have been informed, that Kathrine is leaving her job and Biology will therefore get a new PhD partner from April 1

2. Status regarding PhD mentors at Biology and implementation of 1/2 year meetings (KTJ) (Information) (App. 1)

PhD Mentors is now an optional model: The research sections decide whether to offer a PhD mentor to their PhD students or not. (No comments from the committee)

Half year meetings – pilot project: Lively discussion about whether the meetings should be mandatory or voluntary, as the PhD-programme committee approved half-year meetings as a voluntary model at a prior meeting and the model was presented as a mandatory model at this meeting. At Microbiology the meetings are mandatory. Concern from VIPs and PhD-students: Half-year meetings will be more work and more administration and not solve problems with stress. Concern that the meetings will give false hope about solutions regarding stress. Half-year meetings are regarded as an evaluation (which is not intended – the documents will be revised accordingly). VIPs and PhD student ask for reduction in other obligations (e.g. workload).

Input to description of half-year meetings:

- The model is aimed at new PhD students and Part A PhD students



- The VIP in the follow group can be from the Department, but may also be from other departments or Universities (no remuneration).
- The meeting may be hybrid meetings to ease the use of external researchers.
- PhD students may be awarded ECTS points for the onboarding process.
- Hours spent as PhD student in a follow group may count as salaried work.
- The last half-year meeting before the PhD-defense can be omitted or focus on the career after PhD. Part A exam will substitute for a half year meeting.

N.B.: After the meeting it has been decided to have an extraordinary meeting in the PhD-programme committee to discuss a revised description of the half-year meetings and the implementation process based on the discussions at this meeting.

3. Onboarding of PhD students: Welcome meeting (BNH) (Information/Discussion) (App. 2)

The powerpoint slides used at welcome meetings for new PhD students (held by Benita and PhD partner from GSNS) was approved. The slides are sent to PhD students after the welcome meeting and will be circulated to all PhD students to ensure that all get the same information.

To-do (BNH): Include that PhD students should talk to supervisor about PhD courses. Include examples of salaries work.

Other comments: GSNS PhD Newsletter: Add to be newsletter when PhD courses are updated at the GSNS homepage. Supervision of students cannot yield working hours at Biology currently. If supervision at some point will count as salaried work, it is important with a clear definition of supervision tasks.

4. PhD events (KTJ)

4.1 Career workshop in September 2022? (Discussion)

PhD students were positive about the workshops in the Fall.

Conclusion: We will ask for career workshops in September and will discuss the content, to make sure that it will be relevant for new and experienced PhD students.

4.2 Writing sessions (Clemence) (Information)

(Clemence was not attending). PhD students informed that the writing sessions are running successfully, and all agree that they should continue.

To-do (All PhD students and supervisors): All PhD students are asked to consider joining the writing sessions and bring along a PhD colleague. PhD supervisors should encourage their PhD students to join.

4.3 PhD lunch (Clemence) (Information)

(Clemence was not attending). PhD students informed that only few PhD students prioritize participation in PhD lunch. Clemence has afterwards informed Benita, that it has been difficult to engage PhD students in planning the sessions in connection to PhD lunch.

Conclusion: Clemence will give it one last shot. If the support is still low, the initiative will be abolished.

PhD dinner: PhD students would like PhD dinner to be held again. (PhD students need to find somebody to plan it).

5. Any other business (nothing)