

Meeting date: 18 May 2021 13:30-15:00

Meeting place: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/68654029932>

Subject: Research and Business Committee

Attendees: Henrik Balslev (chair, HB), Angela Fago (AF), Peter Grønkjær (vice chair, PG), Michael Møller Hansen (MMH), Tina Santl-Temkiv (TS), Maya Jepsen (MAJ, observer) og Maria Blach Nielsen (MBN, reporter)

1. **Approval of agenda (13:30-13:32)**
2. **Minutes and actions from latest meeting (13:32-13:35)**
3. **Briefing from the chair** - Henrik Balslev (13:35-13:40)
4. **Briefing from the vice chair** - Peter Grønkjær (13:40-13:50)
5. **Nominations for prizes** - Henrik Balslev (13:50-14:00)
6. **Status on review processes and evaluation** - Henrik Balslev (14:00-14:10)
7. **Status on workshop on responsible conduct of research and freedom of research** - Maya Jepsen og Maria Blach Nielsen (14:10-14:25)
8. **High Performance computing** - Henrik Balslev (14:25-14:30)
9. **Briefing about visit from Aage V. Jensen Foundation** - Henrik Balslev (14:30-14:35)
10. **Status on action plan to promote equality and diversity in research**- Maya Jepsen (14:35-14:40)
11. **Input for calls and work programmes** - Peter Grønkjær (14.40-14:50)
12. **Presentation of new web page about Research support** - Maria Blach Nielsen (14:50-14:53)
13. **Briefing about self test for potential applicants for the major calls** - Maria Blach Nielsen (14:53-14:57) - **postponed**
14. **Any other Business** (14:57-15:00)



1. Approval of agenda (13:30-13:32)

Agenda is approved.

2. Minutes and actions from latest meeting (13:32-13:35)

Minutes are found at the staff pages of the department. The committee has received the minutes for approval and MBN has received no comments. The minutes are seen as approved.

3. Briefing from the chair - Henrik Balslev (13:35-13:40)

Briefing from NAT Research Committee: There will be a meeting tomorrow. It is about the review processes, external funding etc.

4. Briefing from the vice chair - Peter Grønkjær (13:40-13:50)

Briefing from NAT Business Committee: No meetings since we decided to split up in two faculties.

The organizing of a shared BioMatch event together with Bioscience is in progress with Bioscience taking the lead.

5. Nominations for prizes - Henrik Balslev (13:50-14:00)

Recent prize nominations: Eliteforsk, Videnskabernes Selskab Sølvmedalje, Grundfos-prize, Villum-Kann Rasmussen, HC Ørsted prize, Carlsberg Research Prize.

Future process for nominations: Research and Business committee plus the department management receives a list of appropriate candidates, including bibliometric data when relevant, but the bibliometric data must never stand alone. The best qualified colleague writes the nomination (not necessarily from the committee or the management).

The appendix containing an annual cycle for prize nominations was commented on. Most of the prizes have deadline in the first half of the year. In the future, we will work more proactively with nominations since prizes can be very prestigious for the department and a visible way to recognize colleagues.

HB asked the committees for qualified candidates for the AUFF Honorary Doctor, and the committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

The appendix with the annual cycle of prize nominations will be attached to all future committee meeting invitations.

6. Status on review processes and evaluation - Henrik Balslev (14:00-14:10)

The committee discussed the low success rate of DFF Research project 1+2.

People feel that proposals are improved because of the review processes. But we did not succeed much in the FP1+2. But it is hard to make any immediate conclusions based on this. We had 4 successful proposals last year. A common mistake is that some time people forget to read the introductory material to the calls. The grants have become highly competitive: FP2 had 8.5% success rate. FP1 had 11% success rate. This means that a rejection doesn't equal a bad application. Rather, it means that the small things matter, and our researchers need to

be much aware of the complete list of evaluation criteria. There is a tendency that these are overseen.

The committee suggested that we collect the rejection causes among the department's researchers in order to decide if any general areas could be strengthened at the department. The committee suggested that Hans Brix sends an email to all applicants and MMH+MBN will make an overview for the next meeting.

It was suggested that the review process could include more information on the evaluation criteria – also for the reviewers.

MBN will make an analysis of previous proposals and present it for the next meeting.

7. Status on workshop on responsible conduct of research and freedom of research - Maya Jepsen og Maria Blach Nielsen (14:10-14:25)

The University Management has decided that we need to have a workshop on Responsible conduct of research and freedom of research.

We will organise 2 workshops with two different themes:

1. Coauthorships
2. Data management

The plan was accepted by the committee.

8. High Performance computing - Henrik Balslev (14:25-14:30)

Digitization and the opportunities to create algorithms and work on extremely large data sets are creating possibilities for major changes. At AU, a forum focus on the research use of supercomputers and High Performance Computing (HPC). The goal is to develop new HPC initiatives that can attract and retain talented researchers and students at Aarhus University. HPC equipment and access to it will form the basis for the establishment of new research areas that combine the classic disciplines with modern high-performance computers. At the same time, it is essential that the existing HPC facilities are operated stably and developed as new opportunities arise and new resources become available. Danish universities are investing large sums and effort in this area and it will be available in the future as tap water and electricity in the socket. HPC is also much more secure and better supported than our normal systems.

At the Department of Biology, we still lack more information on how we concretely can utilize the opportunities that lie in HPC. Right now, the department has an agreement with Genome.au.dk, which is a national HPC facility for bioinformatics and life sciences. The institute pays a 'contingent' (in 2020 approx. DKK 140,000) as one of the stakeholder institutes. This gives us priority access and support, and also lower user fees.

In order to increase awareness of the possibilities in genome.au.dk and HPC in general, it is proposed that we invite an external expert to a staff meeting to start the topic.

More information:

- HPC Forum AU: <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/strategi/ufes/hpc-forum-au/>
- <https://genome.au.dk/>

9. Briefing about visit from Aage V. Jensen Foundation - Henrik Balslev (14:30-14:35)

Hanne Haack Larsen is the new director of Aage V. Jensen's Nature Foundation and the deans of Nat and Tech will jointly send her an invitation to visit Kalø with participation of researchers from Biology and Bioscience. It was suggested that two researchers from each department give a presentation. The dean's office is organizing the meeting.

10. Status on action plan to promote equality and diversity in research- Maya Jepsen (14:35-14:40)

MAJ is heading an administrative group working on how to support the actions of the AU plan to promote equality and diversity in research. Each department will choose their own specific focus areas for the upcoming period of time.

11. Input for calls and work programmes - Peter Grønkjær (14.40-14:50)

PG is part of the reference group for Horizon Europe Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) consisting of 60 researchers and persons from industry and other interested parties, and he presented his experiences with influencing the content of the work programme. He pointed out that our specific finger print was small compared to the work load since all other European countries are doing the exact same thing and all input are collected and prioritized by a working group in Brussels. He suggested that if we really want influence we should have people based in Brussels to do actual lobbying.

He suggested that it might be more beneficial to focus on Danish institutions.

PG made an overview of the Danish foundations and our proposals, and it was discussed how we can engage more with the foundations. We will discuss this more on the next meeting MBN will distribute PG's slides to the committee. PG and MBN will prepare an analysis of this for the next meeting.

12. Presentation of new web page about Research support - Maria Blach Nielsen (14:50-14:53)

<https://bio.staff.au.dk/research-support/>

13. Briefing about self test for potential applicants for the major calls - Maria Blach Nielsen (14:53-14:57) - postponed

Vice Dean for Research at Health, Hans Erik Bøtger has developed a new self-test, where researchers can check individual potential in relation to the ERC and the Innovation Foundation. We have been granted permission to copy and adapt to Biology. See the tests here:

<https://clin.medarbejdere.au.dk/forskerstoette/bedre-fondsansoegninger/test-dig-selv-har-du-potentiale-til-de-store-fonde/>

Read more: <https://newsroom.au.dk/en/news/show/artikel/test-yourself-do-you-have-the-potential-to-succeed-with-the-large-foundations/>

14. Any other Business (14:57-15:00)

Include next meeting in every agenda.

Next meeting: 16 August 2021 13.00-15.30

Actions

Reg. date	Subject	Reponsible	Deadline
01-12-2020	Organising visits Visits from Innovation Fund Denmark and others	MBN/MAJ	When possible to meet in person
01-12-2020	Diversity Find more statistics on reasons for opting out of a career in academia	MAJ	Before next meeting
01-12-2020	Organise initiatives/events relevant to different instruments	MBN/MAJ	When relevant.
01-12-2020	Information about selected calls Is put on web and e-mailed to the committee who forwards it to relevant people in order to avoid spam.	MBN	Always .Stay on the action list
18-03-2021	Evaluation of review processes A draft for questionnaires.	MBN + HB	Before next meeting
18-05-2021	Danish foundations MBN will distribute PG's slides to the committee. PG and MBN will prepare an analysis of this for the next meeting.	MBN + PG	Before next meeting
18-05-2021	Prize nominations Nominations for AUFF Honorary Doctor will be discussed on the next meeting. The appendix with the annual cycle of prize nominations will be attached to all future committee meeting invitations.	MBN+HB	On next meeting