

**Meeting date:** 18 January 2021 10:00-11:30

**Meeting place:** <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/68827308519>

**Meeting subject:** Research and Business Committee

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

1. **Approval of agenda** (10.00-10.02)
2. **Minutes and actions from last meeting** (10.02-10.10)
3. **Information from chair** (10.10-10.20)
4. **Information from vice chair** (Peter Grønkjær) (10.20-10.30)
5. **Update on matchmaking event for Villum Synergy applications** (Maya Jepsen) (10.30-10.35)
6. **Strategy process** (Maya Jepsen) (10.35-10.40)
7. **UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science** (Henrik Balslev) (10.40-10.50)
8. **PhD Course in Research Integrity** (Henrik Balslev) (10.50-11.00)
9. **Procedure for giving input for calls and programmes** (Henrik Balslev) (11.00-11.10)
10. **DG Chair** (Henrik Balslev) (11.10-11.15)
11. **Recruitment plans** (Henrik Balslev) (11.15-11.25)
12. **Any other business** (11.25-11.30)

1. **Approval of agenda** (10.00-10.02)
2. **Minutes and actions from last meeting** (10.02-10.10)

Minutes are found on the department's staff pages. MBN has send out the minutes for approval and has received no comments. <https://bio.staff.au.dk/committees-and-meetings/research-and-business-committee/meetings-2020/>

Actions are found at the last page of this agenda.

Welcome to Tina Santl-Semkiv (TS) from the Section of Microbiology – our new member in the committee.

3. **Information from chair** (10.10-10.20)

- Briefing from the NAT Research Committee

There has been no meetings since the last meeting in this committee. Our



meetings are from now on scheduled to be held before the faculty meetings, so we can bring items to the table of the faculty committee. Points to address at the next meeting in the Research Committee of the Faculty: AUFF-applications and Research Integrity.

- AUFF – are we active enough? Compared to Arts and BSS we are not.  
<https://auff.au.dk/bevillinger/fondens-virkemidler-i-2021/>

It was commented that the selection criteria of AUFF are not clear enough, and this can make people unwilling to spend time applying. Henrik will suggest to the Faculty committee that AUFF work in the content and maybe invite Karl Anker for the Faculty committee meeting. Another suggestion is to make it more visible that the AUFF only wants short project descriptions and simple reporting.

- Briefing about peer review processes and annual overview of calls  
<https://bio.staff.au.dk/research-support/selected-calls/>

The brand is now changed into mentor/review-process to avoid the critical connotations. All applicants are assigned two mentors/reviewers, one from the applicant's section and one from another section. A very common mistake observed in applications is forgotten support letters from international partners. It was discussed that the applicants should be reminded to carefully read the calls including the general criteria, and that it is the applicants responsibility to check the presence of all details and formalities in the application. It is not the responsibility of the mentor/reviewer. The applicants can also get help with the technicalities from the Research Support Office.

- Briefing about webinars: 1) Innovation Fund Denmark and 2) Horizon Europe Kick off. These two webinars will be held this week.
- Briefing from the monthly meetings of the special group overseeing grant opportunities - nothing to report.

#### **4. Information from vice chair (Peter Grønkjær) (10.20-10.30)**

- Briefing from NAT Business Committee. The Business committee will be split into Nat business Committee and Tech Business Committee.
- Draft for the AU Strategy on business collaboration and innovation (Appendix 1). Deadline for comments is 2 February 2021. Any input for the strategy, should be sent to Peter Grønkjær by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

#### **5. Update on matchmaking event for Villum Synergy applications (Maya Jepsen) (10.30-10.35)**

In December we initiated a matchmaking event for researchers from the Departments of Biology, Computer Science and Mathematics. We learned shortly before the meeting, that applicants needed to be at least associate professors. It was difficult to do a matchmaking seminar online, but under the circumstances it went well. MAJ doesn't know if the event has resulted in any specific collaborations. We will try it again when we can meet in person. It was commented that synergy might be one of the upcoming buzzwords – and we need to be timely prepared for this. MAJ will send out information about the Synergy programmes from the

Novo Nordisk Foundation. There was a suggestion about collaborating with the department of Mathematics about projects on the new data science education and get to know each other in that way. Next time we will have a longer planning process, in order to give more researchers the opportunity to join the event.

- 6. Update on the department's strategy process** (Maya Jepsen) (10.35-10.40)  
Draft is ready, including a draft of an action plan. It will be sent for comments at sections and committees soon. It is expected that we are able to communicate it by the end of March.
- 7. UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science** (Henrik Balslev) (10.40-10.50)
  - Appendix 2
  - UNESCO is prestigious in many ways. The text is suggesting a more open landscape in science. How can we share data and facilities. They invite all to contribute to the text. Hope that the committee will have time to look at it and give some comments.
- 8. PhD Course in Research Integrity** (Henrik Balslev) (10.50-11.00)  
There is already a faculty level course on Research Integrity. But it only has a few seats. How do we make attention to research integrity an integrated part of our department? It was suggested to establish a yearly or semesterly 2-hour face-to-face seminar with presentations and discussion. We could invite top qualified external researchers or PhD students to give their perspectives. It was commented that the seminar should give particular attention to the grey areas and not only the obvious rules. The committee underlined that the seminar should not be mandatory but interesting enough to make people participate. MBN and HB will present a draft plan for the next meeting.
- 9. Procedure for giving input for calls and programmes** (Henrik Balslev) (11.00-11.10)  
How do we engage (relevant) people to influence the content of work programmes and calls before they are published?  
Could we engage in more discussion with the foundations?  
PG has together with Anders Barfod and Tenna Riis been part of the national group that gives input to the Horizon-calls. PG mentioned that it is difficult to involve the researchers of the department, because there is a lot to read and very short deadlines. He underlined the importance of being involved and knowing the calls beforehand, but he also estimated that we might get more value for money working with Danish private foundations than with the EU. PG will make a list of suggestions on how to do this. MBN will make a list of the boards that our researchers are member of in order to get an overview and consider if we have any good candidates for other boards and how to promote them.
- 10. DG Chair** (Henrik Balslev) (11.10-11.15) – HB informed about current efforts to head-hunt a person for this opportunity.
- 11. Recruitment plans** (Henrik Balslev) (11.15-11.25)

The draft recruitment plans have been send out to the section heads. Today it will be discussed among the department management, committee chairs and section heads this afternoon. After that, the department will make a list of prioritized recruitments. It was asked if the Research committee will continue to be asked to check CV's etc.

**12. Any other business (11.25-11.30)**

No points to address.

**Actions**

Reg. date	Subject	Re-ponsible	Deadline
01-12-2020	<b>Organising visits</b> Visits from IFD and others	MBN/MAJ	When possible to meet in person
01-12-2020	<b>Knowledge exchange</b> Make an overview of previous and current grant receivers at the department	MBN	Before next meeting
01-12-2020	<b>Course in Pure</b>	MBN/MAJ	Before next meeting
01-12-2020	<b>Diversity</b> Find more statistics on reasons for opting out of a career in academia	MAJ	Before next meeting
01-12-2020	<b>Organise initiatives/events relevant to different instruments</b>	MBN/MAJ	When relevant.
01-12-2020	<b>Information about selected calls</b> 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
18-01-2021	<b>Research Integrity</b> Make a draft for a yearly or semesterly 2-hour face2face seminar on Research Integrity.	MBN/HB	On next meeting
18-01-2021	<b>Input for calls and programmes</b> List of suggestions on how we get more involved with foundations	PG	On next meeting
18-01-2021	Make a list of the boards that our researchers are member of	MBN	Before next meeting