

Meeting date: 07 October 2021 13:00-14:30

Meeting place: 1540-k32

Subject: Research and Business Committee

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

Apologies: Angela Fago (AF)

1. **Approval of agenda** (13:00-13:02)
2. **Minutes and actions from latest meeting** (13:02-13:05)
3. **Briefing from the chair** - Henrik Balslev (13:05-13:15)
4. **Briefing from the vice chair** - Peter Grønkjær (13:15-13:20)
5. **Input for NAT-visit from Novo Nordisk Foundation** - Henrik Balslev (13:20-13:30)
6. **Workshop in research presentation: Update** – Maria Blach Nielsen (13:30-13:35)
7. **Subjects for discussion when David Egholm visits on next committee meeting 22 Nov 2021** – Henrik Balslev (13:35-13:45)
8. **Improvement of fundraising at the department** - Peter Grønkjær (13:45-13:55)
9. **DFF Report on Diversity in Research** – Angela Fago (13:55-14:05) - postponed
10. **Nominations for prizes** - Henrik Balslev (14:05-14:08)
11. **Status on review processes** – Maria Blach Nielsen (14:08-14:20)
12. **Lundbeck grants** – Maria Blach Nielsen (14:20-14:25) - postponed
13. **Any other Business** (14:25-14:30)

1. Approval of agenda (13:00-13:02)

Point 9 about the diversity report postponed.
The agenda was approved.

2. Minutes and actions from latest meeting (13:02-13:05)

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 (13:05-13:15)

- Latest faculty meeting was yesterday. The first half was a joint meeting between Tech and Nat committees. After that the separate faculty committees met. HB gave a briefing about the themes of the meeting, including Innomissions, the new Novo Nordisk CO₂ center, Horizon Europe Pillar 2. Further the faculty committee discussed the idea of a Masterclass for potential coordinators for Horizon Europe grants, the status on DFF applications and the researchers' experience with foundations and application processes.
- HB informed about the new memo about co-funding of externally funded projects including a more uniform structure for external funding.

4. Briefing from the vice chair - Peter Grønkjær (13:15-13:20)

- There have been no meetings at faculty level yet.
- The upcoming BioMatch event in January: We will focus on students and "erhvervsprojekterne" and getting students in contact with companies.
- Horizon Europe: It is now possible to join a "Mirror-group" covering the partnership within the themes "Biodiversity", "Sustainable Blue Economy" and "Water4All". The aim of the "Mirror-group" is to distribute information related to these themes to a broad group of scientists, NGO's, companies and others.

5. Input for NAT-visit from Novo Nordisk Foundation - Henrik Balslev (13.20-13:30)

The Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF) will visit the NAT Faculty on 26 October, and the vice dean asks for input for the meeting. The committee discussed how to make NNF calls more relevant to researchers from Biology.

It was commented that the calls from NNF are typically in the field of biomedicine or clinical and health science. We are not completely excluded, but the more nature-oriented biology is not prominent. It was mentioned that it is probably not intentional from NNF who might think that we are covered, but it appears to us as if NNF's understanding of biology doesn't include ecology, biodiversity, etc.

In general, the content of the calls might reflect the programme officers' background, and the committee discussed that it would be appropriate to suggest that a biologist would be in charge of a program from NNF.

Another suggestion was that the department could make an easy-to-grasp definition of biology to share with NNF.

Further, it was suggested to invite NNF to visit us and learn more about our research, like the recent visit from Aage V. Jensen. Maya will organize a visit.

MMH, HB and vice dean David Egholm will meet briefly and discuss the best strategy before David's meeting with NNF.

6. Workshop in research presentation: Update – Maria Blach Nielsen (13:30-13:35)

All senior VIP are invited for a workshop in research presentation. Thirteen have signed up, and the first workshop will be on Thursday 14 October 2021. Part 2 will be on 16 November 2021.

7. Subjects for discussion when David Egholm visits on next committee meeting 22 Nov 2021 – Henrik Balslev (13:35-13:45)

Vice dean David Egholm and Research advisor Astrid Kligen visit the Research and Business Committee for 1 hour on 22 November 2021. Which topics could be relevant to bring to the table?

The committee suggested the following themes:

- Changing landscapes of normal grants to giga grants and how it affects us. What can we do as biologists? The foundations influence our work a lot. Decisions are made from where the money is.
- Discuss with David the hourglass problem. Few researchers get grants for DKK 1-2 Mio. You can only apply for big grants or starting grants.
- How would David like us to contribute regarding the co-funding.

Maria sends agenda to Astrid.

8. Improvement of fundraising at the department - Peter Grønkjær (13:45-13:55)

On the last committee meeting it was agreed to supplement the list on staff pages with an extended overview of foundations. This can help our colleagues find the smaller funding opportunities on the funding scene and to get an overview of the larger foundations that we are not targeting as much as we might. It was agreed to put it on the staff pages and use it as inspiration for which foundations to invite to visit the department: <https://bio.staff.au.dk/research-support/funding/find-funding-opportunities/small-and-large-foundations/>

9. DFF Report on Diversity in Research – Angela Fago (13:55-14:05) - Postponed.

10. Nominations for prizes - Henrik Balslev (14:05-14:08)

Upcoming nominations for the EMBO Women in Science were discussed.

11. Status on review processes – Maria Blach Nielsen (14:08-14:20)

- The department was very successful and achieved three Villum Experiment grants
- Sapere Aude :. Four researchers are waiting for reply on whether they have moved on to the interview stage.
- Ongoing review processes for Marie Curie PF, DFF Research Project 1+2 and Carlsberg Young Researcher have been accomplished.
- ERC Stg 2022. Pitch session reserved for 4th of November. The committee will function as a panel.

12. Lundbeck grants – Maria Blach Nielsen (14:20-14:25) - postponed

13. Any other Business (14:25-14:30)

- TST briefed the committee about her participation in a workshop about intercultural collaboration. She highlighted that the issues of the workshop are also very relevant to Danish staff. Maria will arrange a meeting with TST and Hans Brix to discuss this.
- HB will leave the position of chair of the Research and Business Committee from 1. January 2022. MMH will take over the role as chair of the committee.
- MAJ gave a short briefing about the online research integrity workshop which will be held before Christmas.

Next meeting: 22 November 2021 13.00-14.30

Actions

Reg. date	Subject	Responsible	Deadline
01-12-2020	Diversity Find more statistics on reasons for opting out of a career in academia	MAJ	Before next meeting
16-08-2021	Make a generalized overview of rejection causes from Sapere Aude 2021 and DFF RP1+2 2020	MBN + MMH	November
16-08-2021	How to make strong connections with the foundations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite Jens-Christian Svenning to speak about 15 Juni Fonden on a committee meeting - Ask other scientific coordinators from the faculty. Maybe some have experiences we can learn from? 	HB + MBN	As soon as possible



07-10-2021	Visit from Novo Nordisk Foundation	MAJ	ASAP
07-10-2021	Meet with David Egholm about NNF visit to the faculty	MMH+HB	Before 26 October 2021
07-10-2021	Send agenda to Astrid before the next meeting	MBN	22 nov 2021
07-10-2021	Arrange a meeting with Hans Brix and TST about workshop in intercultural awareness	MBN	ASAP

IDEAS	
16-08-2021	Improvement of funding success rate <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Make a buddy setup, where a researcher with strong contacts in the foundation introduces you to the foundation or you team up with them in an application.- Ask other scientific coordinators from the faculty. Maybe some have experiences we can learn from?- Invite Aage V. Jensen Foundation to visit the department and include more people from the department. They are already invited for a meeting at Kalø, but this second meeting should have a more detailed focus on the Department of Biology.
16-08-2021	Self test Include in review processes