

**Meeting date:** 27 January 2022 09.30-11.00

**Meeting place:** TEAMS

**Subject:** Research and Business Committee

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

**Guest:** Rikke Märcher Rochat (RMC)

1. **Approval of agenda** (09:30-09:32)
2. **Minutes and actions from latest meeting** (09:32-09:35)
3. **Briefing from the chair** (09:35-09:40) – Michael Møller Hansen
4. **Briefing from the vice chair** – (09:40-09:45) - Peter Grønkjær
5. **Analysis of rejection causes from DFF rejection letters** – (09:45-10:00) - Michael Møller Hansen
6. **Briefing from HB's og MMH's meeting with David Egholm regarding the Novo visit** – (10:00-10:10) - Henrik Balslev/Michael Møller Hansen
7. **Recruitment strategy of the department and the committee's role** – (10:10-10:15) – Henrik Balslev/Michael Møller Hansen
8. **DFF report on diversity** – (10:25-10:35) – Angela Fago
9. **Strengthening the departmental basis for international and interdisciplinary collaborations** - (10:35-10:45)- Maria Blach Nielsen
10. **Intercultural collaboration workshop status** - (10:50-10:53) – Tina Santl-Temkiv
11. **Status on review processes** – (10:40-10:45) – Maria Blach Nielsen
12. **Prize nominations** (10:45-10:50) – Maria Blach Nielsen
13. **Any other Business** (10:55-11:00)

**1. Approval of agenda (09:30-09:32)**

**2. Minutes and actions from latest meeting (09:32-09:35)**

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 (09:35-09:40) – Henrik Balslev**

HB gave a briefing from the Faculty Research Committee meeting on 6 November 2021.

**4. Briefing from the vice chair – (09:40-09:45) - Peter Grønkjær**

There have been no recent meetings in the Faculty Business committee. PG noted that Bio Match will be held on 23 May 2022. Read more at <https://ecos.au.dk/en/business-collaboration/bio-match/bio-match-2022>

**5. Analysis of rejection causes from DFF rejection letters – (09:45-10:00) - Michael Møller Hansen**  
– Appendix 1

MMH presented his analysis of DFF rejection letters. He stressed that the small things matter because of the extended competition. He recommended that all applicants go through a checklist of the evaluation criteria, before submitting the proposal.

AF is a member of the DFF council, and she suggested to give a lecture about the DFF call procedure and how the criteria are satisfactorily answered.

The committee suggested that in relation to the internal review processes, it might be an advantage to have a premeeting with reviewers about evaluation criteria and important focus areas of the feedback. It was also pointed out that it could actually end up being a disservice to our applicants if we send out an email with the evaluation criteria, since all applicants need to read the entire call in details in order to comply with all criteria.

It was agreed that Maria will send out the analysis to the involved applicants before sending it to the whole department.

**6. Briefing from HB's og MMH's meeting with David Egholm regarding the Novo visit – (10:00-10:10) - Henrik Balslev/Michael Møller Hansen**

Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF) visited David Egholm in December 2022. HB and MMH met with him before to discuss why Biology as a research area is not fully represented in the calls from NNF, since our definition of "Biology" isn't always the same as the NNF's. MAJ will organize a visit from NNF to the department in order to strengthen mutual knowledge and relations.

**7. Recruitment strategy of the department and the committee's role** – (10.10-10.15) – Henrik Balslev/Michael Møller Hansen

It was discussed how the committee could engage more proactively in decisions about new employments at the department. It was agreed that we will discuss this more thoroughly at the next committee meeting.

**8. DFF report on diversity** – (10:25-10:35) – Angela Fago  
– Appendix 2

AF presented the DFF report on diversity. Diversity has a positive effect on outcome, creativity, problem solving, etc. There are some recommendations, that might be relevant to the department:

1. Transparency regarding:
  - a. Career plan
  - b. Qualification criteria for obtaining grants
  - c. Recruitment/ promotion criteria.
2. Bias training to keep an open mind when evaluating candidates for positions.

**9. Strengthening the departmental basis for international and interdisciplinary collaborations** - (10:35-10:45)- Maria Blach Nielsen

- Appendix 3

There is an increased focus on interdisciplinarity. We must anticipate that future funding programmes will stress interdisciplinarity even more. The committee discussed how we could strengthen the department's competencies in this area.

Ideas from the committee:

- Inspirational talks from experienced colleagues at staff meetings. (preferable focusing on specific calls)
- Scientific afternoon talks, eg inviting Andreas Roepstorff.

The committee will discuss the subject again on next meeting in order to make specific plans.

**10. Intercultural collaboration workshop status** - (10:50-10:53) – Tina Santl-Temkiv

TST has met with the university International staff and mobility advisor Lisa Topelmann-Weder to discuss the possibilities of hosting a departmental workshop on intercultural collaboration. The International staff Office would like to co-finance the workshop with 50% of the DKK 17.000. Next step is to present the idea to Hans Brix and consider an appropriate time.

**11. Status on review processes** – (10:40-10:45) – Maria Blach Nielsen

MBN gave a summary of current review processes.

**12. Prize nominations** (10:45-10:50) – Maria Blach Nielsen

- Appendix 4

No current calls for prize nominations. It was agreed that MBN will send the overview of prize nominations for section heads.

**13. Any other Business (10:55-11:00)**

- AUFF Board: There is a call for members, both male and female. Tina and Michael are suggested. Henrik will send an email to Astrid.
- Freedom of expression hearing: The committee supports the document.

**Next meeting: 24 February 2022 – visit from David Egholm and Astrid Klingen**

**Actions**

Reg. date	Subject	Reponsible	Deadline
16-08-2021	<b>How to make strong connections with the foundations</b> - Invite Jens-Christian Svenning to speak about 15 Juni Fonden on a committee meeting	HB + MBN	As soon as possible

IDEAS	
16-08-2021	<b>Improvement of funding success rate</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Ask other scientific coordinators from the faculty. Maybe some have experiences we can learn from?</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
16-08-2021	<b>Self test</b> Include in review processes