Minutes from the PhD committee opening meeting

Friday, 10 February 2012, at 10.30 in building 1520, room 732

Present: Jes Madsen, Elise Norberg, Mariann Fagermøes Hansen, Marie Gronbeek, Anders Møller, Andreas Stejner Sand Pedersen, Lars Ransborg, Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Lena Grinsted, Martin Thorsøe, Mathias Andersen (instead of Lis Wollesen de Jonge), Jan Tind Sørensen, Kurt Thomas Jensen, Henrik Stapelfeldt

Apologies for absence: Lis Wollesen de Jonge

GSST secretariat: Lene Kjeldsteen, Rikke J. Ljungmann (for the minutes)

Agenda for the opening meeting:

1. Round of introductions
2. Approval of agenda
3. Information concerning the PhD committee’s tasks
4. Election of chairman
5. Election of vice-chairman
6. Committee meeting dates in 2012
7. Miscellaneous

Re. 1: The meeting began with a quick round of introductions

Re. 2. Approval of agenda
Jes Madsen suggested a different succession of agenda items. New agenda was afterwards approved.

Re. 3. Information concerning the PhD committee’s tasks
New statutes for Aarhus University have not been finally approved yet, so rules of procedures for various bodies are not yet in place. Therefore, Jes Madsen suggested that the PhD committee’s Rules of procedures might be discussed at the next meeting instead.

A new PhD committee structure has been introduced. This means that neither the head of PhD school nor the vice-head of PhD school can be members of the committee or have voting rights, but they will participate in the meetings.
Jes Madsen gave an overview of Section 16 in the Danish University Act relating to a PhD committee’s tasks, and the committee discussed how to deal with the various tasks in an efficient manner, given the large number of students in GSST. It was agreed that the committee should focus on matters of principle and leave as many as possible of the “trivial” day-to-day cases to the school administration and leadership. The committee chairman and vice-chairman will be involved in “non-trivial” decisions, and the committee will receive overviews and be able to discuss all decisions at its meetings. It was also agreed that the committee had an important role to play in relation to GSST’s range of courses, in particular transferable skills courses.

4. Election of chairman
Must be a member of staff. The committee recommended to the Dean that Kurt Thomas Jensen becomes chairman of the PhD committee.

5. Election of vice-chairman
Must be a PhD student. The committee recommended to the Dean that Lars Ransborg becomes vice-chairman of the PhD committee.

6. Committee meeting dates in 2012
As a starting point, the meetings will be held four times a year. If possible they will be held in connection with the meetings with the heads of programme.

7. Miscellaneous
Elise Norberg: Introductory courses for new PhD students – the format of the introductory courses for new PhD students has been very different at the two former PhD schools SAFE and AGSoS. The new PhD school GSST would like to suggest a format, which is relatively close to the old SAFE model. The model suggested: Two overnight stays from Lunch to Lunch at Sandbjerg. The programme from the latest SAFE introduction course was distributed to the committee as background for a discussion at a future meeting. Jes Madsen: Expenses for introductory courses should be paid by GSST, so a decision regarding the format will have to wait until the school budget is in place.
Topic for next meeting: Look at the rules of procedure. GSST will send the rules of procedure for the two former PhD schools to the members of the PhD committee.

The meeting ended at 11.30.