Minutes from the PhD committee meeting

Time: Wednesday, 14 June 2017 at 8.30-10.00
Place: Building 1525, room 626, Ny Munkegade 120, 8000 Aarhus C

Present: Kurt Thomas Jensen, Anders Møller, Henrik Stapelfeldt, Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen (for Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer), Rasmus Kock Flygaard, Daniel Søndergaard Skov, Maria Eskildsen (for Steffen Fredslund Hansen) and Jes Madsen

Videolink: Lis Wollesen de Jonge and Jan Tind Sørensen

Apologies for absence: Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Steffen Fredslund Hansen, Laura Stidsholt, Amanda Andersen and Jibran Khan

GSST secretariat: Lone Urbak and Rikke J. Ljungmann

Agenda:

1. Follow-up from the opening PhD committee meeting – 13 January 2017
2. Approval of agenda
3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 5 November 2016 to 6 June 2017
4. Approval of GSST transferable skills courses in 2018 – incl. statistics and debate concerning new course(s), location and min./max. number of participants
5. Discussion of research environment change
6. Discussion of the Ministerial analysis: ‘Ph.d.-uddannelsens kvalitet og relevans’
7. Misc.

Minutes:

Re 1. Follow-up from the opening PhD committee meeting – 13 January 2017
Action points:
- The GSST website will be updated with info on the new PhD committee and with info about which PhD programmes the committee members represent: Done

Re 2. Approval of agenda
Approved
Re 3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 5 November 2016 to 6 June 2017
Approved

Re 4. Approval of GSST transferable skills courses in 2018 – incl. statistics and debate concerning new course(s), location and min./max. number of participants

The GSST transferable skills course portfolio for 2018 was approved with minor changes/additions as per below.

- Academic English: In the future, the course held in Foulum will be held alternately in Foulum and Flakkebjerg/Roskilde – each course will run every second year. The course in Flakkebjerg/Roskilde will take place over three days instead of four days. Number of participants: Max. 20/min. 10.

- Forskningsformidling: GSST will contact course lecturer to discuss different format, i.e. suggested 3 ECTS instead of 5 ECTS. The course will still be held in Danish, but postdocs and other researchers are free to participate. PhD students will have preference.

- Course on Presentational techniques
Different formats were debated. It was decided to keep it at programme level.
Action: Lis Wollesen de Jonge sends lecturer’s contact details and price to Rikke J. Ljungmann.

- Statistics courses on a basic level
The issue was debated. It was decided to keep it at programme level.

It was debated whether to introduce a minimum number of participants at GSST’s transferable skills courses for the courses to run. It was decided that for courses with no minimum number yet this should be set to minimum 10 people.

For courses held outside Aarhus, participation by non-PhD students is now possible. However, PhD students will have preference.

Action: General follow-up on the quality of the Science teaching course.

Re 5. Discussion of research environment change
Based on data from the PhD planner, a debate concerning the number of PhD students going abroad on either one month’s or three months’ stays took place.

In this connection, Jes Madsen mentioned the new scheme for PhD students who can apply for financial support for stays abroad of minimum 3 months. This may help encourage PhD students further to go abroad.

The importance of continuously encouraging our PhD students to go abroad was emphasised.

Re 6. Discussion of the Ministerial analysis: ‘Ph.d.-uddannelsens kvalitet og relevans’
The Ministerial analysis ‘Ph.d.-uddannelsens kvalitet og relevans’ published earlier this spring was debated. The main conclusions of the analysis were very positive.
At the meeting, it was mentioned that the number of PhD students reporting stress symptoms was relatively high. This was not addressed much in the analysis. Another issue mentioned was that the fraction of time spent on the PhD student’s own research seemed somewhat low compared to the time otherwise spent on the project.

Jes Madsen mentioned that the Heads of PhD schools have discussed the analysis with AUPA a number of times and will go on to discuss certain issues with the Ministry in terms of some of the more technical aspects relating to the PhD studies in general.

**Action:** GSST will check whether it is possible to get AU figures relating more specifically to the flexible scheme (i.e. for PhD students enrolled before their Master’s degree).

**Re 7. Misc.**
Jes Madsen mentioned that a new Law on Scientific Misconduct has recently been adopted. He pointed out that the Order also includes PhD students.

The meeting ended at 9.55.

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<td>GSST</td>
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**To be discussed at the next/future meeting:**
None suggested.