Minutes from the PhD committee meeting

Time: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 14.30-16.00
Place: Building 1520, room 737, Ny Munkegade 120, 8000 Aarhus C

Present: Kurt Thomas Jensen, Lis Wollesen de Jonge, Marianne Hammershøj, Anders Møller, Peter Weber Jensen, Louise Marie Kragh Dalskov and Jes Madsen

Apologies for absence: Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Henrik Stapelfeldt, Lisa Bjerregaard Jørgensen and Frederik Thorning Frederiksen

On videolink: Sundas Rani

GSST secretariat: Mie Meulengracht Christensen and Karen Konradi (under item 4 and 5), Damian Goldberg, Liselotte K. Heller and Rikke J. Ljungmann

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting (opening meeting and ordinary meeting) – 16 January 2019
2. Approval of agenda
3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 1 December 2018 (Defences)/9 January 2019 (Qual exams and Requests) to 11 June 2019 (appendices 2, 3 and 4)
4. GSST transferable skills courses
5. Need for new courses?
6. Future of GSST
7. University elections in November 2019 – election to the PhD committee – discuss how to better include PhD student representation from all fields for the PhD committee
8. Psychological Workplace Assessment (APV)
9. Basic principles for doctoral education at AU – follow-up
10. Misc.

Minutes:

Re 1. Approval of minutes from the PhD committee meeting (opening meeting and ordinary meeting) – 16 January 2019
Approved.

Follow up on action points:
- Draft the consultation response and send: Done.

- Discuss how to better include PhD student representation from all fields for the PhD committee: To be discussed at the present meeting.

- Follow-up on the basic principles when the Basic principles for doctoral education at AU have been finally approved: To be discussed at the present meeting.

Re 2. Approval of agenda
Approved.

Re 3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 1 December 2018 (Defences)/9 January 2019 (Qual exams and Requests) to 11 June 2019
Approved.

Re 4. GSST transferable skills courses
The suggested GSST transferable skills course portfolio was approved.

Action: There were a few comments with regard to individual courses. GSST will look further into it.

The revised course, now entitled English for Academics, was discussed, and it was agreed to move on with it.

Action: In case of further comments on the English for Academics course, send e-mail to Mie Meulengract Christensen before the end of June.

Re 5. Need for new courses?
It was agreed to look into the area of available courses/seminars for PhD students on entrepreneurship.

Action: GSST will look into it.

Re 6. Future of GSST
Jes Madsen informed the PhD committee that the University board has now formally decided to split the faculty into two new faculties. However, there are still undecided issues, among them the future of the graduate school. Jes Madsen mentioned that no matter what the final decision regarding the graduate school will be, i.e. one or two graduate schools, it was still important to maintain as much collaboration as possible, e.g. with regard to PhD courses.

Furthermore, Jes Madsen mentioned that it has been suggested to extend the mandate of the PhD committee into 2020, but this has not yet been finally decided.

A concern was raised with regard to the PhD diplomas, and which school the PhD students would graduate from if it comes to a split of the graduate school. Jes Madsen said that this will be looked further into, if necessary.
Re 7. University elections in November 2019 – election to the PhD committee – discuss how to better include PhD student representation from all fields for the PhD committee
Both student members and heads of programme will be promoting it. However, it was mentioned that in general it is difficult to get PhD students to participate in various boards and committees.

In that connection, a few other matters were debated, and as a consequence the following action points were decided:

**Action:** GSST sends out info on link to PHAUST’s news e-mail in GSST’s news e-mail to PhD students.

**Action:** Rikke J. Ljungmann sends out link to all heads of programme so they can sign up for PHAUST’s news e-mail.

**Action:** In the future, GSST notifies heads of programme about dates for GSST Introduction days, Cake’n’Career and university elections for the PhD committee.

Re 8. Psychological Workplace Assessment (APV)
The Psychological Workplace Assessment (APV) was discussed in relation to PhD student answers. It was mentioned that stress levels among PhD students are still too high.

The departments are in the process of following up on the APV.

Re 9. Basic principles for doctoral education at AU – follow-up
The document has been discussed earlier and is now available in its final form. It was agreed that the document does not require any changes to GSST’s Rules and regulations since we are already complying with the basic principles. However, it is still important to spread the message of independence in the PhD studies to both PhD students and supervisors.

**Action:** The document will be put on GSST’s website and a news item placed in GSST’s news e-mail both to PhD students and supervisors. It will also become part of GSST’s Rules and regulations preface and included at GSST’s supervisor courses.

Re 10. Misc.
It was mentioned that the brush-up course for experienced supervisors had a very good outcome.

**Next heads of programme meeting:** It was decided to invite the lecturer Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen at the next heads of programme meeting to discuss the use of the course.

The meeting ended at 15.30

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<th>Action</th>
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<tr>
<td>Look into specific action points with regard to individual courses in the GSST transferable skills course portfolio for 2020</td>
<td>GSST</td>
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<td>Send e-mail to Mie Meulengracht Christensen in case of Committee members</td>
<td>End of June</td>
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further comments to the course English for Academics

Look into the area of available courses/seminars for PhD students on entrepreneurship  

Send out info on link to PHAUST’s news e-mail in GSST’s news e-mail to PhD students  

Send out link to all heads of programme so they can sign up for PHAUST’s news e-mail  

In the future, notify heads of programme about dates for GSST Introduction days, Cake’n’Career and university elections for the PhD committee  

Put the Basic principles document on GSST’s website and a news item placed in GSST’s news e-mail both to PhD students and supervisors. It will also become part of GSST’s Rules and regulations preface and included at GSST’s supervisor courses  

Rikke J. Ljungmann  

To be discussed at the next heads of programme meeting:
It was decided to invite the lecturer Tove Hedegaard Jørgensen at the next heads of programme meeting to discuss the use of the course Brush-up for experienced supervisors.