Minutes from the PhD committee meeting

Time: Friday, 8 May 2015 at 8.30-10.00
Place: Building 1525, room 626, Ny Munkegade 120, 8000 Aarhus C.

Present: Lis Wollesen de Jonge, Kurt Thomas Jensen, Jan Tind Sørensen, Anders Møller, Claus Oxvig (for Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer), Henrik Stapelfeldt, Rasmus Kock Flygaard, Daniel Søndergaard Skov, Marianne Aarø-Hansen and Jes Madsen

On videolink: Morten Graversgaard

Apologies for absence: Ernst-Martin Füchtbauer, Sigrid Schøler Nielsen, Guilherme de Moura Maciel and Anne Kjær Laustsen

GSST secretariat: Bente Lynge Hansen and Rikke J. Ljungmann (for the minutes)

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from the last PhD committee meeting – 22 January 2015
2. Approval of agenda
3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 16 January 2015 to 28 April 2015
4. International evaluation of GSST
5. Konference om fremtidens ph.d.-uddannelse
6. Generic skills course portfolio and website set-up
7. Discussion of whether grading of PhD theses would be something to consider – e.g. Cum Laude
8. Misc.

Minutes:

Re. 1. Approval of minutes from the last PhD committee meeting – 22 January 2015
The minutes were approved.

Re. action points from last meeting:
- Quick guide concerning procedures from the moment of application to the moment of acceptance as a PhD student is almost ready.
- Generic skills course catalogue will be discussed at the present meeting.
Re. 2. Approval of agenda
Agenda was approved.

Re. 3. Announcements – Overview of assessment committees, exemptions, etc. for the period 16 January 2015 to 28 April 2015
There were no comments to the announcements. They were approved.

Re. 4. International evaluation of GSST
The visit from the international panel and their evaluation report was discussed. Overall, the evaluation was very positive with some suggestions for improvement.

A number of topics were discussed, e.g. ECTS, work obligations, the time aspect in relation to completion of the PhD study, half year evaluations and advisory boards/supervisor teams.

**Action:** Kurt Thomas Jensen, Morten Graversgaard and Jes Madsen will prepare proposal for action points based on the international evaluation report for next meeting.

Re. 5. Konference om fremtidens ph.d.-uddannelse
On 30 April 2015, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science organised a conference on the future PhD education. Issues such as PhDs and the labour market, internationalisation, Industrial PhDs, quality assurance and identity as a PhD student were debated.

Re. 6. Generic skills course portfolio and set-up
The GSST generic skills course portfolio was discussed, including suggestions from the international panel concerning courses/workshops on Career planning, Science and society, and Scientific misconduct.

It was debated whether the course Science Teaching 1 should be made mandatory. Decision postponed till later.

**Action:** Jes Madsen will discuss the option of making the course semi-mandatory with Michael Caspersen, CSE.

**Action:** A committee was set up to discuss and prepare a portfolio proposal for the next meeting. Members: Kurt Thomas Jensen, Morten Graversgaard, Rasmus Kock Flygaard and Karen Konradi (GSST).

Re. 7. Discussion of whether grading of PhD theses would be something to consider – e.g. Cum Laude
It was proposed and discussed whether it would be feasible to introduce grading of PhD theses.

The proposal fell.

Re. 8. Misc.
It was decided that in future the minutes will be a record of decisions.

There was a question concerning references for applicants and whether these could be sent directly to GSST. The answer was yes.

**Action:** GSST checks the application guide, website and application facility for text concerning references.
The meeting ended at 10.00.

**Action**  
Preparation of proposal for action points based on the international Evaluation report  
Who  
Kurt Thomas Jensen, Morten Graversgaard and Jes Madsen

Discuss the option of making the course Science Teaching 1 semi-mandatory with Michael Caspersen, CSE  
Who  
Jes Madsen

Set up a committee to discuss GSST generic skills course portfolio  
Who  
Kurt Thomas Jensen, Morten Graversgaard, Rasmus Kock Flygaard and Karen Konradi

Check the GSST application guide, website and application facility for text concerning references  
Who  
GSST

**To be discussed at the next meeting:**  
- Proposal for action points based on the international evaluation report  
- GSST generic skills course portfolio, incl. option of making Science teaching 1 mandatory