



BUSINESS SCHOOL
AALBORG UNIVERSITY

Agenda

Aalborg University Business School
Fibigerstræde 2
9200 Aalborg Ø

Agenda AAUBS Council

Monday March 4, 2024

09.30-11.30, Fib 2, room 35

Members: Mette Vinther Larsen (formand), Jesper Chrautwald Sort (VIP), Jonas Strømfeldt Eduardsen (VIP), Pernille Gjerløv-Juel (VIP), Michael Simonsen (TAP), Tine Nørgaard (TAP), Robin Katers (ESA), Matthias Glerup Jørgensen (ESA)

Cancellation: Hamid Raza (VIP)

Observers: Mikael Randrup Byrialsen, Holger Roschk, Gunnar Rimmel, Dmitrij Slepnirov, Frederik Lundtofte

Cancellation: Michael Dahl, Christian Østergaard, Jacob Brix

Guests: Jørgen Stamhus & Allan Næs Gjerding (VIP staff managers)

Secretary: Karina Knudsen

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Welcome
4. Introduction to the Council and responsibilities
5. Update from the Head of Business School
6. Follow-up on AAUBS Strategy (årshjul/annual cycle of work)
7. Planning of Business School Seminar (årshjul/annual cycle of work)
8. Update from Student representatives and Research Groups
9. Welcome to Allan and Jørgen
10. Communication from the meeting
11. AOB



1. Approval of Agenda

Explanation: Approval of the agenda for the meeting

Notes: The agenda was approved by the Council.

The missing points from the last meeting will be moved to the next meeting.

- Follow-up on Business School conference / AAUBS day
- PhD programme management

Follow up:

2. Approval of Minutes

Appendix: Minutes from AAUBS Council meeting on November 30th, 2023

Explanation: Approval of minutes from AAUBS Council meeting on November 30th, 2023

Notes: Minutes of meeting on November 30, 2023, was approved by the Council.

Follow up:

3. Welcome

Appendix:

Explanation: Welcome to the newly elected AAUBS Department Council and new members to the council. We will start the meeting with a short introduction of the members and observers present.

Members:

- Mette Vinther Larsen, head of business school (council chairperson)
- Jesper Sort, VIP
- Jonas S. Eduardsen, VIP
- Pernille Gjerløv-Juel, VIP (new)
- Hamid Raza, VIP (new)
- Michael K. Simonsen, TAP
- Tine Nørgaard, TAP (new)
- Robin Katers, student - ESA (Erhvervsøkonomisk Sammenslutning) (new)
- Matthias Glerup Jørgensen, student - ESA (Erhvervsøkonomisk Sammenslutning) (new)

Observers:

- Christian Østergaard, research group leader Innovation, Knowledge, and Economic Dynamics (IKE)
- Dmitrij Slepniov, research group leader International Business (IB)
- Frederik Lundtofte, research group leader Finance
- Gunnar Rimmel, research group leader Accounting
- Holger Roschk, research group leader Marketing and Market Processes
- Michael Dahl / Jacob Brix, Strategy, Organisation, and Management (SOM)
- Mikael Randrup Byrialsen, research group leader Macroeconomic Methodology, Theory and Economic Policy Research Group (MAMTEP)



Notes:

Each member gave a short presentation about themselves and why they chose to be a part of the Department Council.

Follow up:

4. Introduction to the AAUBS Council and responsibilities

Explanation: Mette Vinther Larsen will introduce the work and responsibilities of the Council as well as setup for the meetings going forward.

Notes:

Mette Vinther Larsen informs the new members that she has been the interim Head of Business School since August 2023 and that she has attended 2 meetings so far.

The Department Council is an advisory council, and its main tasks is to advise the head of the department on matters relevant to the department's research, education, knowledge dissemination, and possible regulatory tasks. A special focus for the Department council is to advise the head of the Business School on matters related to the department's strategy and economic situation.

The department council advises the head of the department on matters presented by the head and may also comment on matters of significance to the department's operations as deemed relevant by the council.

This forum is a place where we discuss things and where relevant topics are communicated. It's a special place where we can discuss both the positive and the negative aspects.

The focus going forward includes the following points:

- Inclusion and stress level: Ongoing emphasis on discussing and following up on inclusion and stress levels.
- Student focus: Increased emphasis on student-related topics.
- Breaking down silos: Integration of cross-cutting perspectives in the agenda.
- Involvement of entities such as the Business Advisory Council and other councils.
- Operational issues and work environment: The importance of discussing operational matters and ensuring a good work environment, also for students, to retain them on campus.
- Teaching structure: Planning of lectures and exams, as well as the need to improve the timing of exam periods.
- Language use and communication: Concerns about complex (professor) language use and the importance of clear communication, especially for new students.
- Bottom-Up and Top-down discussions: "Bottom-up": General concerns or thoughts from our colleagues; regarding overall matters. "Top-down": When new ideas come from "above" to be a place to share our honest opinion and impressions/thoughts.
- Visibility of the council's work: The desire to make the council's work more understandable for students, possibly through improved communication on the website.
- Meeting follow-up: The importance of communicating essential points from the meeting to other forums, such as staff meetings (coffee meetings).



Instead of rotating the role of the moderator, we will attempt to send out a draft agenda in advance. This way, participants can contribute with topics for the agenda and prioritize them before the final agenda is distributed.

Information was provided about the annual plan, which outlines the topics to be discussed throughout the year. As we progress, we develop the annual plan together, and everyone is encouraged to submit points that are relevant and interesting for discussion in the Department Council.

Follow up:

5. Update from the head of Business school

Appendix:

Explanation: Mette will give an update on:

- AACSB accreditation
- Research evaluation

Update from the head of Business school will only be discussed in the meeting if members have questions.

Notes:

In the future, Mette Vinther Larsen will list points here and provide a brief text. The points will only be discussed if there are questions. When submitting points, please also indicate whether they are for discussion or information purposes only.

AACSB Accreditation

Mette provided a brief overview of AACSB accreditation for the students present. She gave a short status update on the report and shared thoughts on how to make it a collective effort at AAUBS. It is not the school that is being accredited it is all of us. Thus, there should be strong linkages between the everyday practice at AAUBS and the AACSB accreditation.

In relation to the accreditation, we have the freedom to select the specific areas we want accreditation for. In contrast, when it comes to characterizing our academic staff, there are stricter and more predefined rules and regulations that must be followed.

Responses to the second progress report are expected in May.

Creating awareness among students is crucial for both student attraction and competitiveness, especially against university colleges. Therefore, being accredited will have a significant impact on our competitiveness.

Aarhus and CBS are accredited, and Syddansk is in the accreditation process. The accreditation is specific to business schools.

As we move forward with the AACSB accreditation a visit from our AACSB mentor Peter is in the middle of being planned and Ihsan from AACSB will come and visit us in the Fall. The purpose of both visits is to enable colleagues to be in dialogue with representatives from AACSB and give Peter and Ihsan a sense of AAUBS and how we are working with quality, our mission and strategy. Thus, the focus will be on dialogues among colleagues and AACSB.



Research evaluation

Previously, the evaluation process was a significant task, but this time it will be a smaller assignment, combining elements from the accreditation report 2. The event will last a day and involve a dialogue with the panel.

It is considered to circulate the last evaluation and identifying areas for increased attention. The goal is to demystify the evaluation process.

Mette Vinther Larsen will share these points on a staff meeting and Friday mail to clarify misconceptions.

Some groups view the process as a comparison and competition, but it's emphasized that because our research groups are so diverse they cannot be directly compared.

In the future, efforts will be made to avoid scheduling evaluations in the exam periods.

English Bachelor in Economics and Business Administration

The Dean has decided to open the English Bachelor (EBA) again from September. There are 40 seats. The students have started applying, and efforts are being made to reach out to international students through LinkedIn and the newspapers among other things.

The council expressed concerns about the potential risk of diverting students from the Danish Bachelor (HA) program, which has already experienced a decline in enrollment over the past few years and is not currently filled.

The council expressed readiness to assist if there is a need during the start-up process. A program coordinator for the program is still needed, and module coordinators are also required.

Collaboration with ESA to onboard new international students is wanted regarding introduction and English-speaking tutors. The Head of Studies Kristian Nielsen can reach out for assistance.

Building bridge between the AAUBS-staff and the students

The students present in the council are encouraged to present input and ideas on how to build a bridge between the AAUBS-staff and students and introducing the interim management to the students.

Follow up:

AACSB accreditation – Mette Vinther Larsen will organize two informal information meetings – one aimed at students at AAUBS, and one aimed at colleagues at AAUBS. The purpose is to inform about the process and be in dialogue as to why we are pursuing this accreditation and how it affects our everyday practice.

Research evaluation - Mette Vinther Larsen will share these points on a staff meeting and Friday mail.

English Bachelor – The Head of Studies Kristian Nielsen can reach out to ESA for assistance regarding introduction to the new international students.

6. Follow-up on AAUBS strategy (årshjul/annual cycle of work)

Appendix:

Explanation: Mette Vinther Larsen will provide status on the work on reformulating the AAUBS strategy based on the research groups strategies.



Notes:

The Professor Council had encouraged Mette Vinther Larsen to identify a few qualified colleagues to organise a process, where we jointly developed an AAUBS strategy that our colleagues felt committed to and were proud of.

Poul Houmann, Marita Svane and Jacob Rubæk Holm will lead the process and it will take place throughout 2024.

It will be a participative and dialogic process with prerequisites from AAU and SSH and wishes from AAUBS.

We will focus on what our core and unique value proposition are. What makes people thrive and develop themselves? And how do I belong here and how can my job make sense to me?

We will develop a short, ambitious and realistic vision, mission and strategy that are characterized by a strong academic citizenship, quality, a sense of belonging, "We"-feeling and an ambitious take on how we as AAUBS want to support a positive societal impact through our education and research.

The group is going to meet again 20th March and will then invite both VIP and TAP to a dialogue.

The council inquired whether it wouldn't be a good idea for someone from the administration to also participate in the group.

The council gave the go-ahead to continue the process.

Follow up: Mette Vinthe Larsen will see if she can find a colleagues from the Administration who would want to join the process.

7. Planning of Business School Seminar (årshjul/annual cycle of work)

Appendix:

Explanation: Mette Vinther Larsen will give an update on the planning of the business school/department seminar taking place on April 25th, 2024, at 8.30-17.00 in AAU Innovate.

The theme for the seminar is "Generative AI in teaching, administration, and research at AAUBS" with focus on sharing knowledge and gaining perspectives on how we can use generative AI in solving our core tasks, teaching, administration, and research.

Notes:

Status update on the upcoming institute seminar on AI in our education, administration, and research. On April 25, 2024, we will be hosting the next institute seminar at Innovate with a focus on AI. Mette Vinther, Kristian Nielsen, Jacob Holm, Pernille Gjerløv, Birgitte Egeskov, and Roman Jurowetzki will facilitate a day where we together explore and discuss the benefits, disadvantages, and potential of incorporating generative AI into solving our core tasks related to education, research, and administration.

The day will be a mix of presentations followed by discussions in smaller groups, providing colleagues with the opportunity to engage in dialogues on how we can work with generative AI in a constructive and responsible manner. Generative AI, both in a general context and in relation to our education, will be a common thread, followed by a split into an administrative track and a research track. The day will conclude with a collective summary and discussion.

Shared AAUBS guidelines related to studies and administration, but not research will be the preliminary outcome.

Follow up:



8. Update from Student representatives and Research Groups

Explanation: Short round table update

Notes: Not addressed in the meeting.

Follow up:

9. Welcome to Allan and Jørgen

Explanation: Welcome to Allan and Jørgen. Common dialogue about their role as Staff Managers.

Notes:

The council had a dialogue about the staff managers role.

It is mentioned that staff managers among other things, can assist with prioritizing tasks and achieving success. They can bring up matters to the Head of Business School that concerns everyone, and they want to focus on the importance on the wellbeing.

There has been a change of culture and that is important in this process. Top-down decisions are necessary, and it is okay when there is a transparency.

The staff managers have an open-door policy and people in the organization welcome their positions and bring up big and small issues.

The council brings attention to that it's good to have someone to turn to, but it's challenging to know whom to approach for what. A form of hierarchy and decision-making is needed so that one can see whom to contact. It's uncertain who can make decisions on various matters, including finances. This is a relationship that needs development to build trust and confidentiality and it's important that either the staff managers get talking time at the staff meeting or show some of their work to illustrate their "victories" and why people can/should come to them.

Follow up:

Mette Vinther Larsen will work on developing an overview of the different kinds of leaders and identify who decides what.

10. Communication from the meeting

Explanation: What do we need to communicate from the meeting?

Notes: The Council decided on the following communication from the meeting:

- Mette Vinther Larsen is tasked with planning two information meetings regarding accreditation. One for the staff and one for the students.
- Research evaluation – Mette Vinther Larsen will share these points on a staff meeting and Friday mail.
- The Head of Studies Kristian Nielsen can reach out to ESA for assistance regarding introduction to the new international students.
- The meeting invitations will be canceled from the business email, and instead, you will be invited directly from Karina's email.



Follow up:

11. AOB

Explanation:

Notes:

Not addressed in the meeting.

Follow up: