

**Meeting date:** Wednesday 28 August 2024 09:00-11:00 (meeting ended at 10:58)

**Meeting place:** 1872-547

**Meeting subject:** MBG Management Team

**Attendees:** Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Birgitta R. Knudsen (BRK), Charlotte Rohde Knudsen (CRK), Christian Kroun Damgaard (CKD), Christian Storm Pedersen (CSP), Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen (DEB), Erik Østergaard Jensen (EØJ), Esben Lorentzen (EL), Esben Skipper Sørensen (ESS), Inge Danielsen (ID), Magnus Kjærsgaard (MK), Simona Radutoiu (SR), Torben Heick Jensen (THJ), Yuya Hayashi (YH)

Rikke Mie Rahbek (minutes)

**Absent:** -

Agenda		Follow-up
1.	<p><b>Approval of agenda</b></p> <p>The agenda was approved</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of minutes of previous meeting (29052024)</b></p> <p>The minutes were approved</p>	
3.	<p><b>Status on recruitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timing of new recruitment processes</b></li> </ul> <p>EØJ gave an update on the currently advertised positions and related the following; Two positions as Associate Professor or Tenure-Track Assistant Professor are currently up for evaluation and out of more than 140 candidates, 10 have been invited for and accepted interviews and announcements are getting closer. In continuation of the hiring process, 10 Focus Talks will be conducted over the next two months.</p> <p>In relation to BiRC; Juraj Bergman has been employed in a Tenure-Track Assistant Professorship starting 1 September 2024. Thomas Bataillon has been employed in a Professorship starting 1 September 2024. Bjarni Vilhjalmsson has been employed in a Professorship (shared between BiRC and BSS) starting 1 October 2024.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Status - economy</b></p> <p>EØJ informed that ØR3 (the budget based on the year so far) is in process and that the numbers are looking good. ØR3 is expected to be ready medio October. External funding is thriving and postponement of some recruitments has also brought money to the budget.</p> <p>From 2025 the departments are allowed to move potential surplus/equity under certain restrictions up to 2,5 % of the revenue from one financial year to the next. This will make it easier to benefit from potential savings.</p>	



	Even though the department's economy is fine as it is today, the possible consequences in the longer term of the master's degree reform and the new education at MBG are difficult to predict.	
5.	<p><b>Project supplement</b></p> <p>At the end of 2023, six major Danish private foundations (NNF, Lundbeck, Velux, Villum, Carlsberg, LEO), and the Danish universities announced a new agreement for research funding. The main point in the agreement is that the foundations will pay a project supplement per researcher in the lab to cover a larger fraction of the indirect costs associated with hosting a research project. The first calls to use the new funding agreement have started to appear from August 2024. The project supplement covers various indirect project-related costs for the university, such as administrative research support, basis research infrastructure and basic IT infrastructure and replaces overhead, administrative contributions and bench fees. The project supplement is calculated on the basis of the number of project-funded postdocs, PhD-students and research assistants. AFN outlined the background for the project supplement, what to be aware of when writing applications and how the project supplement affects the department budget. On the upside, the private foundations will more directly cover the expenses associated with hosting externally funded research projects at the universities and on the downside, only some job categories trigger project supplements. In addition, new restrictions have been introduced on which salaries can be covered by the private foundations, especially salaries for assistant and associate professors.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Status - Life Science Hub</b></p> <p>EØJ gave an update on Life Science Hub, the renting out of the third floor of building 1872 to spin-out companies, which is planned to launch 1 October 2024. The plans for labs, including a cell lab, are ready and the project is taking form. The rent will be paid to MBG and includes administrative help and access to core facilities. EØJ reported that there are already companies lined up, but if MBG fails to rent out the whole floor, the university will cover the remaining rent, which means no expenses for the department.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Research evaluation at Faculty of Natural Sciences 2024-25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Protocol for the evaluation process</b></li></ul> <p>The Research evaluation at Faculty of Natural Sciences is coming up and the department will be visited by a panel in June 2025. A self-evaluation report needs to be written and handed in by 1 May 2025 and it was</p>	Research Committee



	decided that the responsibility for coordinating the process and writing said report should be given to the Research Committee.	
8.	<b>Update on the new education</b>  CRK gave an update on the new education. Discussions have been taking place with Faculty of Health Sciences on how to collaborate on the new education. The plan is to structure the programme, get course descriptions written down and then to ask the relevant head of departments for teaching resources.  The process is ongoing. The next step will be taken in the Education Committee in the beginning of September and proceed to the Study Board at the Faculty at the end of September.	
9.	<b>Feedback on the MBG Annual Meeting 2024</b>  EØJ informed that after the annual meeting, a complaint about the hired entertainment was received and taken into consideration. It was decided to expand the organising committee of next year's annual meeting to get more input to the programme. EØJ stressed that the complaint had been taken very seriously, as would any future complaints.	
10.	<b>Well-being for students and staff from at-risk countries</b>  Guidelines sent out by AU in June state new safety requirements regarding recruitments or collaborations with at-risk countries. These guidelines can seem very unwelcoming and hurtful on the individual level and EØJ stressed the importance of communicating clearly that the restrictions are not aimed at individuals of these countries but the countries themselves and that the department is forced to fulfil the criteria set out by AU.	
11.	<b>AOB</b>  The process of hiring a new head of department is coming along and an announcement is getting closer. EØJ added that it has been decided by the Dean that the management structure of the department should be altered so that the head of the Research Committee and the head of the Education Committee should both be turned in to Vice Head of Department – this organisational structure is to be installed at all departments at AU.	