



**Meeting date:** Wednesday 27 November 2024 10:30-12:30 (meeting ended at 12:24)

**Meeting place:** 1872-647

**Meeting subject:** MBG Management Team

**Attendees:** Anne Færch Nielsen (AFN), Charlotte Rohde Knudsen (CRK), Christian Kroun Damgaard (CKD), Christian Storm Pedersen (CSP), Claus Oxvig (CO), Ditlev Egeskov Brodersen (DEB), 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:** Birgitta R. Knudsen (BRK)

Agenda		Follow-up
1.	<p><b>Approval of agenda</b> The agenda was approved</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of minutes of previous meeting (28102024)</b> The minutes were approved</p>	
3.	<p><b>Orientation on the Master's reform</b> CO provided an update on the upcoming Master's reform, which sparked a discussion about the potential consequences for the programmes locally at MBG. The reform and the changes are not yet fully finalised, but the link below offers insight into the process:</p> <p><a href="https://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/news-articles/news/artikel/kandidatudvalget-fortsat-knaster-i-kandidatreformen">https://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/news-articles/news/artikel/kandidatudvalget-fortsat-knaster-i-kandidatreformen</a></p>	
4.	<p><b>Research Evaluation at MBG and strategy meeting with the Dean's Office</b> CO announced that planning for the evaluation has commenced, and a working group has been established. The group consists of Mikkel Schierup, Tinna V. Stevnsner, MK, Stig U. Andersen, EL, Rune Hartmann, THJ, AFN and CO, and their first meeting is scheduled for 27 November 2024. The evaluation is scheduled for spring 2025 and will be based on discussions about the strengths and visions of the individual research environments. All research environments will have an opportunity to take a step back and talk about their strengths and weaknesses, where they are heading, and whether they are adequately prepared for their journey. This is part of the upcoming research evaluation, and it is compulsory for all faculties at Aarhus University. THJ mentioned that messages will be sent out to encourage the sections to organise SWOT meetings.</p>	



	<p>CO further informed that a strategy meeting with the Dean will take place on 19 December 2024.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Recruitments</b></p> <p>CO informed that, regarding the two advertised tenure-track (associate professor) positions, offers have been extended to four candidates. One candidate has accepted, while the responses from the other three are still pending.</p> <p>MK informed that DANDRITE has invited two candidates for interviews as part of the search for a candidate to fill the position of group leader.</p> <p>CO concluded by announcing that the position of Academic Employee in the Secretariat has been filled, with the candidate scheduled to start on 1 January 2025. The primary responsibilities of the position include supporting onboarding processes, managing scientific employment matters, and overseeing the running of The Life Science Hub.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Restart of the room allocation process</b></p> <p>CO shared his perspective on room allocation, emphasising the importance of the shared use of standard laboratory spaces. With changing times and a significant shift towards computer-based work, there is now an opportunity for more individuals to utilise the same laboratory areas efficiently. CO acknowledged that the transition to an increased number of shared laboratories will not happen overnight, however, recent success stories, where new group leaders have been invited to share existing labs with other groups, may help demonstrate the benefits of such arrangements and encourage a more collaborative approach to space usage.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Principles for allocating subsidies for computers and phones</b></p> <p>From 2025, the department will gradually take responsibility for purchasing standard computers, phones, and common laboratory items, as these expenses are now included in the project supplements allocated in future grants. This change aligns with funding bodies' policies, which no longer cover such items. A general discussion was held regarding subsidies for work phones, including which staff positions should qualify, and how to manage situations where more expensive equipment, such as a Mac, is chosen over a more affordable PC. In such cases, research groups will be required to cover the additional cost.</p> <p>CO also sought input on which items should be classified as common lab items, such as gloves, plasticware, and standard chemicals. To assist with this, the secretariat, supported by lab technicians, will prepare a comprehensive overview</p>	



8.	<p><b>Meeting with the Research Committee and follow-up on the new agreement for research funding</b></p> <p>As of January 2024, AU's central research support office will focus exclusively on assisting grant applications for ERC/EU programs, Innovation Fund Denmark, and the Danish National Research Foundation. Support for all other funding opportunities will be managed by the individual departments. To evaluate the effectiveness of this new system, AFN and THJ will participate in a meeting with NAT's research committee. They are particularly interested in feedback from MBG researchers regarding any changes in the level of support received or potential confusion about who to contact. The MBG management team has not observed a reduction in the quality of support provided. However, there is a suggestion to organize more internal information meetings within MBG to clarify the division of responsibilities between applicants and the scientific coordinator</p>	
9.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>THJ expressed concern regarding the AU-negotiated prices on laboratory equipment and stated that expenses in the THJ group have increased by about 25 % over the last six months. It was decided to present an example to Mogens Toft (Procurement Manager at AU) in the hopes of highlighting the need for better prices to be negotiated.</p>	ID