

Health PhD Committee (Health PhD Committee
meeting)

08-05-2023 15:00 - 17:00

Jens Baggesens Vej 53, bld. 5220, room 014 (basement level -
lunch room)

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Punkt 1: Meeting information

Attending online: Fernando Valentim Bitencourt

Absence (additional): Loni Kraus Ledderer

Punkt 2: Scientific PhD programmes

Helene Nørrelund gave an introduction to the background of the work with the scientific programmes (the International Evaluation 2021, Action Plan/Strategy of GSH 2022-2024).

Anja Einholm presented the work. Comments (and answers):

- The programmes will be implemented as of 2024
- The programmes run as a pilot project for 1 year and will be evaluated based on the experiences from the pilot period.
- A minimum of 20 PhD students per programme is required.
- It is expected to form a total of 5 programmes (during 4 years).
- The programmes are not formally linked to the Health Research Networks, but the networks have been taken into consideration in the planning process. A concern was raised about the opportunities for specialization for those scientific environments that are not naturally a part of a research network.
- The elements of the programme seems "fluffy" and difficult to relate to (lack of clear purpose/what to expect)
- The programmes do not come with extra requirements for the PhD defence
- The diploma supplement can be used e.g. in relation to funding applications or applications for positions in (specialized) companies. It was agreed that the scientific programmes will be less advantageous for MD's compared to non-MD's.
- It is yet to be decided what will happen if a scientific programme go out of effect before a PhD student, who is affiliated with the programme, has obtained the PhD degree.

The slides from the meeting will be distributed to the group after the meeting.

Punkt 3: Well-being initiatives for PhD students at Health

Mojdeh Mansoori briefed about the last meeting in the Well-being committee, where she attended for the first time. The meetings are now held in English to be able to include both national and international staff.

Different themes will be discussed at the meeting for the coming year. At the next meeting, the theme "off-boarding" will be discussed.

Helene Nørrelund briefed about the theme "SDD" ([Staff Development Dialogue](#)). All PhD students are expected to have a SDD with their employer, but it remains unclear whether this is actually happening. The employer (which in some cases are not AU) holds the responsibility. GSH has implemented questions in the mid-term evaluation to ensure that all PhD students get the opportunity (if relevant) to discuss items that are normally discussed at a SDD. However, not all PhD students find that these items can be discussed with their supervisor. Also, not all PhD students find the need for a SDD with their employer as "SDD-related" items is considered a natural part of their talks with the supervisor.

In the coming SDD period, a new question concerning whether the PhD student wants a SDD – and if yes, do they want to take the dialogue with their supervisor – will be added to the SDD-template.

“Universities Denmark” has made an inspirational catalogue regarding well-being initiatives for PhD students in Denmark. The catalogue will be included in the next PhD Committee meeting.

Punkt 4: Briefing: The AU Health/AUH strategy for health-scientific research

It was discussed how to follow up on the process, as we do not have a PhD representative in the implementing group. Prof. Thomas Vorup-Jensen, Head of GP Biomedicine, is part of the implementing group and will be invited to give a status at the upcoming PhD Committee meetings (next up: Sept).

The meetings in the implementing groups are held in Danish for the sake of the hospital where the official language is Danish.

Punkt 5: Briefing from the chair

N/A

Punkt 6: Briefing from the PhD Association

The PhD Association briefed about the bi-annual meeting held with GSH in April 2023. Items on the agenda includes:

- Teaching (difficulties in getting teaching activities for all PhD students, especially the nonDanish speaking students),
- ECTS (the calculation model will be changed as of August 2023, and will be based on teaching hours **and** other mandatory teachingrelated activities and with a preparation factor of 1,5 per hour)
- Research stays abroad/change of scientific environment (the financial issue related to stays abroad and the individual student having to pay in advance and subsequently get reimbursed. GSH is currently exploring the possibility of offering either a graduate school of department credit card with a fixed amount – which means that the department/graduate school, and not the PhD student personally, will be reimbursed. It was mentioned that both Dept. of PH and Dept. of BIO can offer PhD students access to credit cards).

The theme "research stay abroad" will be discussed at the next PhD Committee meeting (Sept.).

Punkt 7: Briefing from the advisory committees

Briefings from the advisory committees:

- Course Committee: N/A
- Committee for Credit Transfer and Dispensation: 1 orientation meeting, 2 cases for assessment (1 positive, 1 negative).

Punkt 8: Briefing from Head of Graduate School

Helene Nørrelund informed about the ORPHEUS conference held in Leuven, Belgium in April 2023. The committee discussed the need for a course regarding “how to get the most out of conference participation”, and it was agreed that a course on this theme would be relevant for PhD students as supervisors are not all focused on preparing their PhD students for participating in a conference, more specifically how to get the most out of networking.

It was suggested not to include too many “soft” courses in the course portfolio. Further, it was suggested to include the topic “conference participation” at PhD Day.

It was mentioned that chairs/examiners at conferences can perform aggressively to PhD students (a concrete case with a PhD student that was brought into tears was presented), which lead to a discussion of whether this should be accepted or the supervisor/member of academic staff should do more to prepare the PhD students for what to expect from conferences. It was suggested e.g. to make a guide for PhD students’ conference participation or to include the theme at the PhD supervisor course.

Punkt 9: Any other business

N/A