Date and Time: 23 09 2026, 12:30 - 14:00
Place: 1520-737 (Sky Lounge)
Subject: Research Committee Meeting

Attendees: Lars Bojer Madsen (LBM) , Steen Brøndsted Nielsen, Karsten Riisager, Michael Drewsen, Jan Arlt, Bjørk Hammer, Philip Hofmann, Jeffrey Hangst, Rikke Frydenberg (minutes). *Guests:* Poul Nissen (PN), Tove Østergaard Le.

Apologies: Hans Kjeldsen, Georg Bruun / **Absent:** Yong Chen

Minutes

1. **Briefing by Lars - Updates from the NAT Research and Business Committee**
    - *Status on innovation positions*

LBM provided an update on the recruitment of innovation positions and the university's increased focus on innovation. Candidates will be expected to combine research excellence with a stronger innovation profile. Recruitment is ongoing, and departments will establish evaluation committees that will nominate candidates to the faculty.

The committee was also informed about the Science Bridge initiative, which aims to strengthen links between research and innovation activities.

Researchers are encouraged to consider the innovation potential of their activities as part of an ongoing cultural development.

- *Broad job postings*
    - Challenges in attracting highly qualified candidates
    - Composition of assessment and appointment committees

The Dean has decided that academic positions will generally be advertised broadly, following a model similar to that used by, e.g, Harvard and NBI. The composition of assessment committees will therefore become increasingly important.

PN noted that broad advertisements may still indicate an interest in strengthening a specific research area, thereby providing some strategic direction.

Action: *RC members to consider possible models for assessment and appointment committees under the broad-call framework.*

2. AI in Research: Priorities and Responsibilities - Follow-up from the previous meeting

Purpose: To discuss whether the Research Committee should take any further role in relation to the responsible use of AI in research.

Questions for discussion:

What is the current status regarding AI use and relevant guidance/policies?
Are there any issues that require further attention?
Should the Research Committee take any further action at this stage?

The committee discussed the increasing use of AI in research and the need to maintain research integrity, meaningful researcher engagement, and appropriate publication practices.
AI in research and teaching will be discussed further at the upcoming VIP seminar in January.

Conclusion: *The committee acknowledged that AI remains an evolving topic that requires ongoing discussion and monitoring.*

3. Visit by the Vice-Dean for Research Poul Nissen

Tove Østergaard Le, the new research advisor, was introduced to the RC. Poul Nissen presented key elements of the latest strategy from the NNF.
The strategy emphasizes innovation and knowledge exchange alongside fundamental research and encourages engagement with European collaborations and missions (including cardiometabolic research, stem cells, AgriFood, biomanufacturing, and quantum technologies).

The strategy also includes a focus on infrastructure and innovation.

PN encourages researchers to consider whether their research may have innovation potential, without changing the fundamental nature of their activities.
Researchers were encouraged to think broadly, including opportunities related to European missions and collaborations.

Discussion topics:

- **IFA and the pipeline process**
  Deadline: 15 October
  2025_04_10_pipeline-proces_-_til_distribution.pdf

  Members were encouraged to submit proposals for major strategic initiatives that could be presented to external funders, particularly the NNF. Proposed

initiatives should align with one of the foundation's mission areas, involve strong leadership (new expertise), and ideally have national significance.

PN also requested that the faculty be informed when applications are submitted through NORMA unsolicited inquiries to ensure institutional awareness and coordination.

- **IFA and Innovation Fund Denmark**
  The committee discussed opportunities to increase funding from Innovation Fund Denmark, including industry-led applications and defence-related collaborations.
  It was highlighted that company-led applications may be an effective approach in some cases. Opportunities related to defence research funding were also discussed, with encouragement for researchers to strengthen dialogue with colleagues at DTU.

Action: *Relevant researchers to explore collaboration opportunities with DTU colleagues where appropriate.*

- **Interdisciplinary Research Networks (IRN)**
  Deadline: 15 October
  Interdisciplinary Research Networks (IRN) at AU Natural Sciences

  The IRN initiative was presented. The programme supports interdisciplinary research networks across departments and provides modest funding. Applications are assessed by the Research and Business Committee for Natural Sciences. Networks are expected to be broad, involving multiple departments. Funding is awarded for three-year periods with limited reporting requirements.

Researchers are encouraged to contact Poul Nissen or Tove Østergaard Le to discuss potential ideas or funding opportunities.

4. AOB

No additional items were raised.

5. Summary of key takeaways and decisions.

Decisions

- No formal decisions were made.
- The committee will continue monitoring developments related to AI in research.

Actions

- RC members to consider models for assessment committees under broad job advertisements.
- Researchers to submit relevant pipeline proposals.
- Applicants using NORMA unsolicited inquiries to inform the faculty.
- Relevant researchers to explore DTU collaborations (in connection with IFD Defence calls)
- Interested researchers to consider IRN applications before 15 October.