



Minutes from meeting in "Institutforum" at Department of Physics and Astronomy

Date: Tuesday the 16th of November 2021, at 10:00-11:00

Meeting room: 1525-511

Participants: Ulrik Ingerslev Uggerhøj, Michael Drewsen, Nikolaj Zinner, Mie Andersen, Simon Panyella Pedersen, Morten Teglggaard Strøe, Gabi Wenzel, Katrine Vasegaard (Minutes)

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Welcome to new members (Ulrik)

Ulrik welcomed new members to Institutforum:

- Michael Drewsen (member of NAT's Academic Council and replacing Peter Balling)
- Mie Andersen (replacing Frank Grundahl)
- Simon Panyella Pedersen (representing Ph.d. students and substitute for Esben Rohan Christensen who is abroad)
- Gabi Wenzel (representing postdocs and replacing Thomas Winkler)

3. Budget/finances (Ulrik)

Ulrik informed Institutforum about the status of IFA's finances. In October 2019, IFA's finances looked very good all years ahead in the budget, and there was full savings (green light). In the year after, in October 2020, a budget announcement with significant costs over three years were placed at IFA, and the economy looked very challenged (red light). This is due, among other things, to the fact that AU's costs have increased because of expenses for Campus 2.0, a merger of the educational centres, the creation of the Enterprise and Innovation unit at AU, focus on digitalization and more costs for HPC due to membership of DeIC. Ulrik has pointed out upwards in the system that this could have serious consequences for IFA, and he has not been able to find out whether IFA could have done something different managing the economy. Paradoxically, a cause has also been that IFA and AU have been successful in attracting external funding, as external foundations have not covered the full costs.

The economy is challenged now, but it is under control with precise and rigorous management in the coming years (yellow light). Currently, we do not foresee further reductions, and the reason for this is that IFA has already done a lot since October 2020 to rectify the issue. For example, the position as scientific coordinator and a part-time secretary position have not been filled after the former employees left their positions. We have cut back on the use of student assistants, and the ex-



ternal teaching staff are not extended. The operating budget has also been cut and the savings have been used. Natural withdrawals due to retirement are included in the budget. In other words, there is no intent to lay off personnel, and as things are now, this will not happen.

There is still a slight deficit in the budget in the coming years. For this reason, IFA is raising the prices in the workshops, and here we expect to be able to collect approximately DKK 1 million a year, which will make the economy balance. The employees have generally received the news about the increased hourly rates well. The hourly rate is DKK 350/h internally (where it has previously been DKK 150/h). It is still significantly lower than the real price of DKK 500-1000/h. The hourly rate for other users at AU is DKK 700/h (compared to DKK 500/h today). This takes effect from April 1, 2022 for existing projects and from November 12, 2021 for new projects. However, there will be a triviality limit in relation to settlement of 1 day per month for small repairs, small projects and advice.

The private foundations would like to pay the bill if it is included in the application, because then the foundation knows what they are paying for. Grants from public foundations have significantly greater overhead, so the intention is to exempt them. The pricing of EU projects is currently being clarified.

In relation to relocation and the closing of student places, it has been announced that NAT will close 85 student places. A large proportion of these are dimensioning of the degree programs where it has already been announced, and where no more people may be admitted due to a high graduate unemployment. NAT's criteria for relocation and closing of student places are, among other things, graduate unemployment and focus areas. For IFA, the result is largely status quo, but retention of students may be important. However, this has an impact on the economy at NAT and, therefore, indirectly on the economy at IFA, but this has not yet been calculated. The phasing-in is up to 2030, and it will start next year.

4. Status for positions (Ulrik)

Ulrik informed Institutforum about the status of current hirings. Due to the financial situation, upcoming new positions are only already planned embedment positions, which we are contractually obliged to advertise. Richard Schmidt starts as associate professor in theoretical quantum phenomena in November 2021 in Thomas Pohl's Niels Bohr professorship, and Mie Andersen has started as associate professor in theoretical materials physics in Philip Hoffman's Villum Center in September 2021. The two Centers of Excellence CCQ and InterCat both have an embedment position along the way. There will also be a TAP/AC-TAP embedment position as electronics and laser technician. A position in the synthesis of nanostructure has been cancelled because it has been difficult to fill, it has not been an embedment position, and the economy forces IFA's management to find areas for savings.



5. Information from Academic Council (Michael)

All faculties have an academic council that can give advice and opinions to the dean and rector. Academic Council meets every 3 month and last year the following topics have been discussed:

- Research practice, integrity, and freedom
- Protection of personal data (GDPR)
- Diversity and gender equality policies
- A promotional program from associate professor to full professor
- Sustainability

Next time Academic Council meets, the main point of discussion will be relocation and closing of student places.

6. AOB

The students have taken notice of the new profile pictures in the entrance and they like them. Other things concerning the decoration of the department has also been noticed, for example the sculpture of Leda and the Swan in the library and the plate with the founder of IFA's name on it previously located near the hallway leading to the Physics Auditorium. The students have wondered why they have been removed. Ulrik and Katrine answered that they intent to make IFA look more modern and therefore, the sculpture has been moved to the attic because it was old-fashioned and in the way, and the plate with the founder's name have been moved to the meeting room "Tidslommen" where historical artifacts are displayed. The student representative agreed to consult the IFA Student Representation (ISR) and get back to the department management if there is a majority among students wishing to get back the sculpture. In general, if students or staff have suggestions for interior decoration to make IFA look nice and contribute to a good working and study environment, IFA's management is open to such suggestions.