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Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Main joint consultation Committee on 15 May 2025

Participants: Per Michael Johansen (PMJ), Anne Marie Kanstrup (AMK), Søren Lind Christiansen (SLC), Lars Hvilsted Rasmussen (LHR), Rasmus Antoft (RA), Thomas Bak (TB), Jesper Wengel (JW), Frederik Hertel (FH), Jesper Lindgaard Christensen (JLC), Thomas Lykke Andersen (TLA), Lotte Brunø (LB), Rikke Dorothea Huulgaard (RDH), Klaus Kjær (KK), Louiza Bohn Thomsen (LBT) and Palle Steen Hansen (PSH).

Unable to attend Jakob Skovrup Stampe

Other participants: Lisa Krogh Christensen, Helle Thomsen, Linda Ibsen, Stine Vestergaard Holmstrøm (ref.)

Item 1. Discussion of AAU's institutional plan

Appendix 1: Overview of new types of Master's degree programmes in 2028 and 2030-2032 respectively

Appendix 2: Overview of 75 ECTS programmes in 2028 and 2030-2032 respectively

Appendix 3 Overview of EKA in 2028 and 2030-2032 respectively

Appendix 4: Overview of BA and MA programmes that close for admission (closure and on hold)

Appendix 5: Proposal for a communication plan

Recommendation: HSU discusses the Executive Board's proposal for an institutional plan and a proposal for a communication plan.

AMK presented the submitted material and then gave HSU the opportunity to submit their comments on the institutional plan and the communication plan.

The staff representative wanted to hear more about the financial consequences. The staff representative understood that it can be difficult to say anything concrete at this time but wanted to hear about the management's feeling of the financial impact.

The overall educational economy at the university is largely neutral, but there may be different consequences in the individual main academic areas.

At SSH, a lot of things have to be reorganized, which causes financial nervousness. The specific calculations are not known, but it may have consequences and the feeling is that it will all in all result in a smaller economy. There have been many strategic considerations, including the implementation of the new models in the large programmes with the largest finances, as well as in programmes where there is a short distance to the labour market and a large number of applications for the programme. Some of the negative impact can therefore be compensated for by creating attractive programmes and filling them up.

At TECH, the expectation is also that the economy in the field of education will be more challenged than it is today. Even though extra study places have been added in Copenhagen. However, the feeling is not that it is of a critical nature. The long duration of the process allows for continuous adjustment.

At SUND, the financial consequences are relatively modest. Closures in some areas are compensated by upward revisions and savings in other areas.

At ENG, limited consequences are also expected. For many years, work has been done to make the education offer and portfolio more robust, reduce drop-out rates and ensure admissions. That work continues. Overall, there is no expectation of major economic consequences.

Overall, the plan means that the education economy at university level will stabilize more or less at the current level in the years to come. We will therefore not see a growth in the education economy in the coming years.

JLC asked about the annual updates to the plan and the timing of it. If, for example, it is found that a Master's degree is not popular and thus needs to be converted into a Master's degree programme of 75 ECTS, will it be possible in practice with the time lag and the lengthy process it will be to find the 75 ECTS? AMK replied that not all internships are yet under control, but that the risk on the business graduates is spread out well. In addition, they will become dynamic with the ability to move around. The management believes in the set-up that has been made, but if we continuously become wiser, we must adjust as best we can. It is an exercise we already do every year with the education portfolio, so it is not new and something we will continue to do.

JLC asked whether it has been determined who will find the EKAs - is it the university or the students? AMK replied that the implementation will be kick-started in June. It is not 100% in place yet, but we have a common task to make it succeed, as it is in everyone's interest. The implementation will start jointly, but it will be more area-specific when the work starts, as there may be differences within the different areas.

FH finally asked about the year group we will be taking in 2025. AMK commented that a decision has been made that the students admitted this year have a legal claim to 120 ECTS. If we get many, we have to find a way to deal with it, and if it has an economic consequence, we have to take it with us. Next year, there will hopefully be a final decision in place regarding legal claims.

HSU's comments will be included in the Executive Board's 2nd reading of the institutional plan on 19 May 2025. The final institutional plan will be submitted to UMERK on 23 May 2025.