



**Meeting Date:** 17 February 2026 at 12.30 – 14.00

**Meeting Place:** 1115-151B

**Meeting Subject:** Department Forum

**Attendees:** Hande Login, Lasse Sommer, David Oलगnier, Lone Tjener, Kathrin Weyer, Søren Degn, Sune Keidser-Nilsson, Jens Leipziger, Younglun Luo (Alun), Lei Cheng, Julie Feld Madsen, Kim Henningsen, Susie Mogensen, Pilar Stella, Morten Pless, Thomas G. Jensen, Annemarie Lai.

**Visit from:** Liv Felter Jensen, Jeannette Madsen

**Absent:** Klaus Eyer, Sebastian Frische, Jean Farup

## 1. Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda
2. New staff portal (internal homepage). Visit from Liv Felter Jensen
3. Discussion of draft on strategy elements: Aims, values and core narrative.  
Visit from Jeannette Madsen
4. Discussion of space allocation with a focus on office space.  
Visit from Jeannette Madsen
5. AOB

1. Short round of presentations. The agenda was approved.

2. Liv presented the new staff portal and asked for feedback.

Alun suggested that it should be easy to look up researchers in case you don't know which group they belong to.

Thomas asked if it's possible to find out how many users there are. Morten replied that it's possible to get Google statics to track the traffic on the portal.

Hande asked for "in case of emergency" information to be added.

Kathrin suggested that information from the info screen also get published on the staff portal.

Thomas suggested adding further information about what it means to be teaching as an Assistant Professor.

3. Thomas started the presentation by pointing out the importance of using the right words: For example, use of the words: strategy, mission and vision can be complicated. Some of the background for the document was the recommendations after the research evaluation: You should be better at telling what kind of place the department is, and what you want.

The management group has been discussing how to improve and has written the framework. For example: more focus on quality and not quantity and focus on the values: Freedom, excellence, trust, collaboration.

Søren pointed out that education should be emphasized and that international collaboration is valued.

Thomas spoke about the financial aspects that are still up for discussion. Some groups might benefit from teaming up. It's still a work in progress and discussions are encouraged.

Hande asked about how research and teaching should be prioritized and Thomas answered that each teaching function is relatively independent.

Søren asked if every Ph.D. student must attend 4 seminars each year. Thomas pointed out that it should be a positive opportunity and that each seminar isn't a full day and therefore less time-consuming.

Jens would like a concept where it would be possible to get "in-house" money for a period if you don't get outside funding.

Thomas hopes that more free resources in research groups could foster creativity.

Thomas told about more external communication. We're going to have a LinkedIn profile for the department. Input is welcome and can be sent to Jeannette.

David pointed out the importance of making the LinkedIn profile active by using it and contributing to it.

Lasse suggested mentioning the LinkedIn profile in the newsletter.

4. Jeannette told about office space, that was also mentioned in the APV and briefly spoke about different ways to distribute the office spaces.

Sune mentioned that many lab technicians don't want a permanent office spot. However, there are still some who find it's crucial to have a permanent office spot

in order for them to conduct their job. Thomas suggested conducting a survey among lab technicians.

Alun stressed the importance of the students being close to the group.

Pilar talked about the benefits of being with other Ph.D.'s and postdocs and having the lab and PI close to the office. This is vital for day-to-day research. Pilar suggested investigating how often the meeting rooms are used to find out if some of them can be used as office instead.

Søren questioned if it would make any difference going from 10 to 8 in the offices. Søren stressed out the importance of students being able to work at AU and being part of the group.

Kathrin mentioned that the Ph.D. students and postdocs at her floor wish to have an office spot and suggested the booking system to be flexible and not "one size fits all".

Lasse has been speaking with people in Bartholin and most of them would rather be 5 people in the room than being far away from their group. Still, many people find 5 people in an office crowded if you're there all day.

Søren asked where to go if you need to have a quick chat. Jeannette mentioned that there are rooms for that in both Skou and Bartholin. Pilar suggested informing about the possibility of using available spaces for short meetings and chat and mentioned that the rooms should be better equipped.

Jens appeals to the different groups to talk and organize office spaces locally.

Lei suggested that the number of office desks should be less with the possibility of using touchdown spots.

5. Next meeting: 22 May at 11.00 – 13.00