

Nat-Tech Research Committee

Meeting date: 27 August 2020, 13.00-15.00

Meeting place: Virtual meeting – link in invitation

Meeting subject: Introduction to vice-dean for Tech members

Attendees: Brian Vinter, Vice-Dean (chair), Toke Thomas Høye (BIOS), Derek V. Byrne (FOOD), Knud Erik Bach Knudsen (ANIS), Anders Bentien (ENG), Kasper Lynge (ASE), John Jacobsen (substitute, ENVS), Kia Sofie Abildtrup, Dean's Office (minute taker)

Apologies: Clive Eric Sabel (ENVS), Per Kudsk (AGRO)

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Round of introduction

The new Vice-Dean for research at the Tech, Brian Vinter, and the committee members introduced themselves and their departments.

3. Introduction by Vice-Dean Brian Vinter

Brian Vinter gave an overview of his ambitions for research at Tech. He would like the research committee to function as an advisory committee that can support development at Tech. Meetings should focus on specific themes. All departments at Tech are good at external funding, but focus on too few funding sources. Brian Vinter plans to visit the departments at Tech in the coming months and are focused on getting a better understanding of the scientific coordinator system before considering new steps. A strategy process has been initiated at Tech. The strategy will align with AU Strategy 2025.

4. News from local Research Committees and Vice-Dean

The following was mentioned:

- BIOS has had good experiences with organising a thematic day for researchers at the department in collaboration with the business committee.
- Several departments work with internal and external peer review processes on applications for major foundations. Exchange of experiences across departments about how to organise it, will be useful.
- At some departments, it is a challenge to motivate researchers to apply.
- Involvement of external consultants on large applications can be useful, but it takes planning.
- Tech needs improve on funding from Innovation Fund Denmark, including attracting more industrial ph.d.'s. Cross-sectional cooperation and higher involvement of engineers in relation to applied element and industrial contacts can be one element.

- Young researchers tend to go for the funding, where you can write your own application. Senior researchers could find ways of supporting them in building the networks needed for larger consortia applications and work with an apprenticeship approach.
- Be aware of the opportunities in AIAS for getting researchers to Aarhus for a shorter period of time.

5. Topics for next meeting and AOB

Next meeting in the Nat-Tech Research Committee is 26 November 2020. The following topics were suggested for future meetings: Innovation Fund Denmark; industrial collaboration, including issues in communication between business and academia; and attraction of talent.