

REFERAT PhD Committee for the Doctoral School of Social Sciences and Business d. 11-05-2026

Mødedato Mandag d. 11. maj 2026 kl. 13:00

Mødested 25.1-003

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Punkt 1: Approval of agenda and minutes from last meeting by Peter T

- Attendees:
 - Acting Head of Doctoral School: Peter Triantafillou
 - VIP members: Olivier Rubin, Mathias Thuen Jørgensen, Louise Wiuff Moe, Catharina Juul Christensen
 - PhD Fellow members: Kristian-Alexander Janisch, Alexander Wallis, Liudmyla Krasnytska
 - PhD Admin + minutes-keeper: Hanne Vang Hansen
- Cancellations: Kristoffer Kropp, Alexander Bruggisser, Signe Rønnow Mouritzen, Bjørk Tørnqvist, Ingrid Soldal Eriksen

- Current members and alternates of the committee:
 - VIP: Peter T, Olivier Rubin, Mathias Thuen Jørgensen, Louise Wiuff Moe, Catharina Juul Christensen
 - Alternates: Jette Ernst, Jacob Rasmussen
 - PhD Fellows: Ingrid Soldal Eriksen, Alexander Bruggisser, Kristian-Alexander Janisch, Signe Rønnow Mouritzen, Bjørk Tørnqvist
 - Alternates: Alexander Wallis, Sally Andersson, Liudmyla Krasnytska

- Approval of minutes from last meeting (Feb 26)

MINUTES:

- Peter asked for confirmation that we are all on the same page with the above overview of current members and alternates, which it appears that we are. Catharina confirmed that she is covering permanently for Kristoffer Kropp (now updated in the above list).
- The minutes from the last meeting were sent out and approved by email already.

Punkt 2: Update from the Head of the Doctoral School

- New programme leader: Lone Riisgaard 1/8 (replacing Tine)

MINUTES:

Lone will replace Tine after a 4-year period. Tine and Lena will hand over in the coming months.

Punkt 3: Update from the PhD Administration

- **Reorganization of the phd administration at RUC**
 - Division of tasks (roughly): The PhD fellow as employee vs student
 - Same point of contact
 - New office spot in HR (building 3)
 - Reorganization of tasks by this Fall 2026
- **Defenses since last meeting:**
 - Wladimir S Fernandes
 - Karen Lønne Ring
 - Ivan Foberg
 - Kristian Haug
- **Upcoming submissions/defenses:**
 - Jordi Vegas
 - Emilia Lewartowska
 - Marie Axt
 - Lykke C Mose
 - Jeppe Bay Lynggaard
 - Maggie Müller
 - Sandra Frost Campos
- **New PhD Fellows:**
 - Christine Fast Lisby (1/4) - International
- **New PhD Fellows in the coming months:**
 - Carolina Cornejo (1/8) - SustainCare
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- **Upcoming events**
 - WIPs (May 12)
 - Phd Day May 18

Punkt 4: Update from sub-committee for dispensations

Peter + Bjørk: How many dispensations have you handled since last meeting?
What were the subjects and decisions made?

Svante: 2 ECTS for presentation at DPSA i 2025 (approved)

Samuel: 1 ECTS for poster-presentation at FEANTSA (approved)

Mette: sought dispensation from taking a 2 ECTS course in quantitative methods (not approved)

MINUTES:

Peter summarized the three cases and the reasoning for their approval/non-approval in each case.

Punkt 5: New sub-committees

Dispensations: Head of the Doctoral School (Vip) + X (Stud rep): **Peter + Bjørk**

PhD Assessment Committee (BU) approval: X (Vip) + X (Stud rep) – Head of the Doctoral School final approval: **Olivier + Signe + Peter**

MINUTES:

After the last meeting in February, the new sub-committees have been appointed and have started taking on the duties of respectively assessing applications for dispensation and proposed assessment committees.

Punkt 6: Upgrading of the mentoring scheme - proposed by Alexander Brugisser

- New description on intra + new guidelines for mentors (attached)

MINUTES:

Peter summarized the proposed idea of the upgrading of the mentoring scheme and the outcome of some discussions regarding this over email: a new description of the scheme for intra and a new set of guidelines for new mentors (to be shared by Hanne when she recruits new mentors). The aim is to assure a continuity of the upgraded setup of the scheme.

We talked about how mentors are recruited: Hanne sends email to the whole group when a new PhD starts and there's usually someone who volunteers for this task.

It was proposed to evaluate the mentoring scheme by either making an anonymous survey (or a 1:1 meeting) for the mentees to ask how they've experienced the support from their mentor. What has been good and what has been missing? To get some feedback from those whom this is about and to offer a more subtle and useful setup.

It would be important to time the evaluation well though - if too early after their onboarding, they would likely still be rather confused about a lot and perhaps hesitant to give a bad review of their mentor. Perhaps a survey or meeting 6 months after their start date could work well?

It was also suggested to consider the less formal term "buddy" instead of "mentor".

ACTION POINTS:

Hanne will make sure the new description is added to intra and to share the new guidelines with future mentors.

Bilag

PhD mentorordning 2026 - 8 April version.docx

Punkt 9: Research ethics

The programme leaders raised some concerns about whether the current obligatory EAE course on research ethics (*Ethics and responsible conduct of research*) cover this area sufficiently? More specifically, they pointed to areas such as handling of vulnerability and confidentiality in research. Are the PhD fellows equipped for this? Is more guidance needed here?

MINUTES:

We discussed whether the PhD fellows are sufficiently equipped for certain situations related to collecting data in an ethical way, treatment of sensitive data and working with vulnerable subjects. Note that the programme leaders referred to very few cases in which this had been a concern - not a wide-ranging issue.

Catharina teaches the EAE course (*Ethics and responsible conduct of research*) with Thomas S Pedersen and shared her experience. The course is offered at all departments, but the students are divided into groups per department. They cover the basics of research ethics. Topics include conflicts of interest, vulnerability on an individual level (researcher and interviewee) etc. One of the challenges is the size of the group (her group ranges from 10-25 students), which is just too big. Another big problem is that the PhD fellows participate too early in the course (many take it during their first semester). It has also been an issue that they don't read the recommended reading.

Alexander had the same experience taking it: it was a box to check - he wasn't ready for the content.

It was suggested to consider having smaller groups instead (if possible)? Case work?

Catharina commented that it has been decided that it could only be a 1-day course, which means it's very compressed.

Liuda commented that the topic of research ethics also comes up in the course "Research data management and the FAIR principles".

We discussed that a problem here is also a lack of engagement from supervisors' side - they should cover these topics better when supervising PhD fellows.

It was suggested that the PhD fellows should pick a relevant case from their project (related to research ethics) and go back to their supervisor after the EAE course and apply what they've learned.

Note that it's important that supervisors don't confuse research ethics with GDPR issues - this seems to happen often.

It was proposed to recommend that PhD fellows take this course later, i.e. on their 2nd semester at the earliest. There's been some earlier guidelines (RDS? central EAE coordinators?) suggesting that they take it within the first 3 months - but this doesn't make sense at all.

To sum up, we have a timing issue and an issue with supervisor involvement.

ACTION POINTS:

- Hanne will guide PhD fellows (in Welcome info materials) to take this course on their 2nd semester (or later).
- Peter will encourage supervisors to have more focus on this topic.
- Course teachers (Catharina) will ask the students in the course to talk to their supervisor after the course about how to apply learning to concrete cases.

Punkt 7: New planning process for courses

- New deadline setup has been criticized by VIP's: not possible for PhD's to sign up so far in advance - it won't work
- The Doctoral School suggests:
 - Early signup-deadline two months before the semester begins (1/7 and 1/12)
 - Effort to 1) still urge PhD's to sign up as early as possible (a more regular flow of communication about this), and 2) make a survey to check signup plans prior to each semester
 - Ask course coordinators on the courses/PDS with very few signups / low interest / frequent cancellation to promote them more

MINUTES:

We discussed the issues at hand:

- very hard for the PhD fellows to sign up for courses half a year in advance
- confusing with two deadlines (when there's two, the students will use the second one, which disqualifies the whole setup)
- we cannot accommodate the allocation issues (hours allocated for courses that potentially will be cancelled due to not enough signups) with a later deadline. We agreed though, that we cannot adjust our deadline setup based on the unfortunate complexities of the allocation system.

We decided to try out with a 2 months deadline (only one) prior to each semester (July 1st and December 1st). We will see how it goes and if enough students sign up in time and evaluate this setup after one or two semesters.

ACTION POINTS:

- Hanne will coordinate with Alberte and make sure we update the course deadlines in the system and inform the PhD fellows asap.
- Hanne will assure we communicate several times before the deadlines to urge for more signups
- Hanne will assure we send out a survey to gauge planned signups once per semester
- All course/PDS lecturers should also make a better effort to promote their courses in- and outside ISE and RUC

Punkt 8: Planning of existing PDS and courses Fall 2026

Discussion of the current offerings of courses and PDS based on 1) a survey asking the PhDs to indicate which courses they plan to take in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 + 2) the numbers of signups of the given courses the past three semesters.

Attachment 1: survey of planned signups for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 + the signup numbers from recent semesters. Or find the online version here:

[ISE PhD courses and PDS - gauge of interest & planned signups Fall 26 and Spring 27.xlsx](#)

Note: only 13 respondents to the survey!

Are there any courses/PDS that should be taken off the list as of now?

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS:

PDS: Teaching tips and tricks of the trade: Peter will talk to Martin about the lack of signups for this (and various cancellations the last semesters). Perhaps this should only be offered one semester/year? Or cancelled altogether? Perhaps there's a need for a change of content? It was also suggested that perhaps a more serious/professional title would attract more students to sign up?

Intro to Research Design should be removed from the list in the Fall 2026 semester (since Research Design is also offered in the Fall).

Peter explained that Reserach Design used to be offered 2 semesters, then 1, and then we were back at 2 semesters (but with the Intro to RD on one semester and RD on the next). But this didn't work either, so now we've moved back to offering RD every semester and no Intro to RD. In short: Hanne will remove Intro to RD from the Fall semester.

Liuda suggested that we recommend the library workshops to all PhD fellows as these are very relevant. Some of them give ECTS if you turn in a paper. Hanne will look into this and perhaps recommend them in info materialsd to new PhD's (and perhaps also regularly mention them to the whole group).

Bilag

ISE PhD courses and PDS - survey of planned signups Fall 26 and Spring 27 + numbers in recent semesters.xlsx

Punkt 10: Misc.