

June 2007

Newsletter from the Rector's Office

This edition of "News from the Rector's Office" sums up the final result of the Annual Report, and an update of the strategic action plan for AAU will briefly be mentioned. The implementation of the Globalization Pool has taken place, and the means have been distributed to the institutions this year. The newsletter includes a very brief insight into a new international bachelor's educational programme at AAU.

Annual Report

The Annual Report for 2006 shows that the university's financial situation seems far more sensible than last year at this same time. There is an overall balance in the primary operation at the university with a small surplus of approx. DKK 500,000. A very modest surplus compared to the university's total financial situation, but, nevertheless, a surplus. In order to keep the promising figures in future, financial control must still be in focus. See the Annual Report 2006 here: <http://budgetplan.aau.dk/publikationer+aktuelle>

Strategic Action Plan for AAU

We have made an update of the university's strategic action plan. The update gives a brief insight into the overall strategic initiatives which the management has initiated since 2005 to support the implementation of AAU's strategic management basis.

The update note gives an overview of the sub-strategies, etc. which have been established at the institutional level. The intention is to have a current further development of the strategic action plan concurrently with the establishment of new sub-strategies.

The strategic action plan is available here: <http://www.aau.dk/Om+AAU/Officielle+dokumenter>

Means from the Globalization Pool

In March, the Danish University and Property Board informed of the implementation of means from the Globalization Pool. A total of DKK 330 million has been allocated to the universities from the Budget. Aalborg University's share amounts to DKK 33.5 million corresponding to 10.2%. The means have been allocated as follows:

- DKK 3.8 million for more Ph.D. scholarships
- DKK 12.4 million for ordinary basic means
- DKK 4.0 million for Post Doctoral positions
- DKK 5.0 million for participation in international research cooperation
- DKK 8.3 million in quality means (changes in the teaching forms, strengthened study counselling, and continuing education)

We expect that the implementation of the Globalization Pool for 2008 will mean DKK 86 million more to AAU whereas in 2009, the amount is expected to be DKK 109 million extra.

Utzon

At the moment, efforts are being made to establish a multidisciplinary international bachelor educational programme in Scandinavian Studies for foreign students. The educational programme will a.o. contain culture, welfare, architecture, design and technology. The intention is that the students are to live in a residential facility in one of the Utzon tower block houses planned on the waterfront.

Working Environment

The management and the board have focused on the attendance record, a retention policy, and discussed the psychic working environment at Aalborg University. At the moment, the Staff Political Committee of the Principal Joint Consultation Committee is working on a draft for an attendance and retention policy which is to apply to the entire AAU. The Staff Department is working on developing new tools for workplace assessment, job appraisal interviews, etc. We expect that during the autumn we can come up with an overall strategy to promote the working environment at AAU.

Problem Based Learning

At present, we are making efforts to strengthen PBL internally at the university. The area has been put under pressure among other things after the abolition of group exams. It is our intention to work towards an international certification of PBL containing international criteria for the area. PBL is quite unique for Aalborg University. It is our brand, and it is very important for us to strengthen this area. At the same time, we are very proud that UNESCO has just appointed Aalborg University as the head office for their PBL work for the years to come. In that connection, AAU Professor Anette Kolmos has been appointed to the 'UNESCO chair in Problem Based Learning in Engineering Education'.

Business School at AAU

At the moment, efforts are being made to strengthen and unify the business school area at Aalborg University. We held an internal employee meeting for relevant parties within Business Studies, Languages and Culture, Industrial Production, and Education, Learning and Philosophy. We presented ideas about unifying the business school area at Aalborg University with the purpose to be in a better position to promote, coordinate, and represent the activities as a joint area. The response was positive, and on that basis a work group has now been set up with Dean Allen Næs Gjerding as chairman.

Internal Centre for Professional Bachelor's Programmes and the North Jutland Centre for Professional Bachelor's Programmes

Today, Aalborg University is regarded as North Jutland's University College within technical, social and mercantile areas (Bachelors of Science in Engineering, social workers and Diplomas in Economics). To strengthen the organization behind the educational programmes and to create opportunities to develop new professional bachelor's programmes, AAU has chosen to establish an Internal Centre for Professional Bachelor's Programmes. The organization consists of a steering committee with the vice-rector as the chairman, an educational committee with participation of four external members and a study board for each of the individual professional bachelor's programmes.

In addition, Aalborg University is at present in dialogue with the North Jutland university colleges about the plans for a North Jutland Centre for Professional Bachelor's Programmes. The idea is to establish a Centre where all North Jutland's Professional Bachelor's Programmes are gathered. This comprises the University College of North Jutland, the University College of Health - North Jutland, the North Jutland Academy of Professional Higher Education (NOEA), and Aalborg University.

Staff Meeting

All employees are invited to a staff meeting Wednesday, September 5, 14.00 hrs. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the draft for the development contract to be concluded with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation January 1, 2008. The meeting will take place in Auditorium B, Fib 15.

Debate Forum

Once again, we encourage all employees to participate in or to start a debate on our internal debate forum for all employees. <http://debat-doc.aau.dk/>

We wish you all a pleasant summer.

Best regards

Finn Kjærdsdam and Hanne Kathrine Krogstrup