



New Faculty at AAU

Tuesday 4 May we received the final approval from the ministry to include the medical programme in our portfolio of study programmes. The ministry has accepted that AAU offers 50 places on the bachelor programme as of 1 September 2010. At the same time, the AAU board has decided to separate Health Science as an independent faculty in which Health Science and Technology is placed. The School for Medicine and Health will include Medicine, Industrial Medicine, Sports Science, Health Technology, Health Informatics, Clinical Science and Technology. Egon Toft has been appointed temporarily as dean of the faculty of Health Science while the position is being advertised.

The government's savings plan

The savings plan recently presented by the government outlines how in the coming years the universities will need to cut expenditure in a number of areas, e.g. in the areas of administration and support facilities. In 2012 the universities will need to reduce expenditure by DKK 125 million, and in 2013 by DKK 250 million. How these cuts will be distributed between the universities has not yet been determined.

In addition, the state sector in general will need to cut 0.5% in 2011, 1 % in 2012, and 1.5% in 2013 of its financial framework. Research funding will continue to constitute 1% of GDP, but the temporary decrease in GDP will result in a reduction in total research funds. All in all, university funding is expected to decrease as illustrated in the table below.

Compared to	2011	2012	2013
2010 state budget	- 100	- 528	-2,312
2010 funding	- 42	- 105	-865

AAU accounts for 8-9% of Danish university funding.

The university does not expect the financial cuts to result in staff cuts, but of course there will be a reduction in job opportunities in the future, and measures to restructure and to improve efficiency will be taken.

Annual results 2009 and status of the development contract

The annual results for 2009 show a profit at Aalborg University of close to DKK 118 million. This is primarily due to general conservatism in budgeting and a larger increase in earnings than expected.

All faculties display positive annual results for 2009. The profit at the Faculty of Humanities (HUM) was DKK 13.2 million, at the Faculty of Social Sciences (SAMF) it was DKK 11.6 million, the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Medicine (INS) accounted for a profit of DKK 69.4 million, whereas the AAU Joint Administration (the library, administration and premises areas) showed a profit of DKK 23.4 million.

In 2008 Aalborg University entered into a development contract with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation covering the period 2008-2010. Every year a status description of the goals in the development contract is prepared. The status for 2009 is that the university has met 27 of its 30 goals, 2 goals have been met in part, and one single goal is critical. The critical goal is the imbalance in numbers between AAU students spending semesters at universities abroad and international students studying at AAU.

A significant result for 2009 is that AAU has succeeded in achieving its goal of PhD student uptake. With 264 newly admitted PhD students, the university has seen a growth rate of 40% since 2008. Follow up on the development contract is included in the university's annual report, which you will find [here](#).

Inspection of universities by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation

During the autumn of 2009, the Danish University and Property Agency (UBST) embarked on a series of dialogue meetings with each university. The purpose of the meetings is to conduct efficient, visible and transparent inspection procedures, creating the best possible framework for dialogue with the universities. On 22 January 2010 AAU and UBST held a meeting, resulting in an inspection report about AAU, which is available [here](#).

Status on workplace evaluation report (APV)

At a historical first joint meeting between the Joint Consultative Committee and the Joint Work Environment Committee members discussed the preparation of central action plans, which resulted in a number of centralised focus areas related to both the physical and the psychological working environments. At present, work is in progress to translate the focus areas described in the action plans into concrete action, but these main focus areas have been established: 1) The physical working environment, 2) More of what we like best: job satisfaction, participation in decision processes, good health, 3) Stress, bullying and harassment are problems which affect staff as individuals – but which need to be solved jointly, 4) Quality in university management and staff competences, 5) Organisation of work – the balance between tasks and resources. For each focus area, a number of extensive efforts are being prepared. Work with the workplace evaluation report has also helped provide a focus for the future organisation of work environment activities at Aalborg University.

Web strategy

In May the management approved the “Web strategy 2010-2015 for Aalborg University”. In this strategy emphasis is on user-friendly web communication in the entire organisation. The complete web strategy is available [here](#).

Applications for new study programmes

In June every year it is possible to submit an application to the Accreditation Council for the establishment of new study programmes. On 1 June 2010 Aalborg University applied for the following programmes:

The Faculty of Humanities: Bachelor and master programmes in applied philosophy (BSc and MSc).

The Faculties of Engineering, Science and Medicine: Bachelor programme (BSc) in chemical engineering, bachelor programme (BSc) in environmental technology, bachelor programme (BSc) in sustainable biotechnology, bachelor and master programmes (BSc and MSc) in techno-anthropology, master programme (MSc) in foodscapes, master programme in mathematics.

Application replies from the Accreditation Council are expected towards the end of the year at the earliest.

New rules for offering courses abroad

The Danish parliament has passed new rules for offering university courses abroad. The effect of this change is that universities will be free to offer accredited and approved study programmes abroad. Therefore, it will now be possible for a Danish University to issue a Danish examination diploma and award a Danish degree to students who have completed studies offered abroad. It has also become much easier to create double and joint degrees and to offer Erasmus Mundus programmes. The university is expected to start a bachelor programme at the Athens Institute of Technology within wireless communication as of 1 September 2010.

Educational environment evaluation 2010

In 2011 at the latest AAU must carry out a UMV (educational environment evaluation), which will map out and contribute to the development of the physical, psychological and aesthetic educational environment of our students. A committee has been formed which has conducted an inspiration seminar and held an introductory meeting on Friday 4 June. HR manager Kjeld Lanng chairs the committee, which was established by the Joint Work Environment Committee (HAMiU) and represents the faculties and other interested parties of relevance to the student environment. Key words for the UMV work is a forward-looking and action oriented approach, with a focus on the core areas of the committee – with coordination in relation to activities related to the physical expansion of campus facilities and the current education and teaching evaluation procedures. The core areas are selected on the basis of the strategy for AAU in 2010-15, input from the educational environments, and student expectations for a good student environment. The students are included in the committee work and are expected to be active participants in the actual UMV process.

AAU certified for North Jutland Elite Sports

North Jutland Elite Sports is a collaboration project between Aalborg University, Elite Sports Aalborg, AaB (Aalborg ball game club) and University College Northern Denmark. North Jutland Elite Sports has more than 80 active elite athletes attached and must be characterised as a success.

Through the educational project Study4player, the players' association has certified AAU for our counseling project North Jutland Elite Sports. This certificate is awarded to educational institutions which have developed a high quality scheme for elite athletes who wish to combine sports and education. Pro-rector Inger Askehave received the certificate from the chairman of the players' association Thomas Lindrup during the intermission in the SAS Liga match between AAB and FC Midtjylland (FC Mid-Jutland) at the Energi Nord Arena on Sunday 2 May.

The best personnel manager in the state sector

AAU has the opportunity to recommend one manager for the prize awarded by the State Employer's Authority to 'the best personnel manager in the state sector'. The joint consultative committee (HSU) has decided to let all staff submit their suggestions as to who should be recommended as a candidate for the prize. If you wish to recommend your/a manager, please forward your substantiated recommendation to HR manager Kjeld Lanng before the next HSU meeting which is scheduled for 8 September 2010. At this meeting the HSU will then decide which candidate to recommend. More information is available [here](#).

New TAP (technical and administrative staff) network for conference secretaries

As a consequence of the university management's wish to attract more conferences to AAU a TAP network has been established for all TAP staff who are engaged in the organising of conferences, seminars, workshops and large meetings. The purpose of the network is to exchange knowledge and experience on the organising of conferences. The TAP network held its first seminar

hosted by VisitAalborg on 2 June at an event in the old customs building on the Aalborg waterfront. In future, the TAP network will hold meetings and seminars with presentations of relevance for the conference organisers as well as opportunities for plenary discussions. More information is available [here](#).