



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Rector's Office

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Terms of Reference for the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation

The objective of the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation (hereinafter the Council) is to establish the overall strategic framework for activities to promote and develop the university's standing in research and innovation. The Council supports efforts and activities to strengthen research, increase the impact of research and address the major challenges of society. The Council is responsible for monitoring AAU's strategic development in research and innovation and for ensuring that there is a solid basis for developing common practices and joining partnerships with international research and innovation environments in central EU countries and strong international universities. In addition, the Council is also tasked with developing knowledge collaboration at the intersection of innovation and research and for defining the objectives of knowledge collaboration.

The Council serves the interests of Aalborg University as a whole in this area and strives towards joint efforts and commitments to create value for the university across its organisational units. This goal includes ensuring increased external funding and prioritising how the university profiles activities externally and represents interests in relation to both the private and public sector. The Council must seek to establish a stronger basis for gaining influence and for creating visibility for the university's research and innovation strengths.

Members of the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation

- Rector (Chair)
- Pro-deans for research from all faculties
- Pro-dean for external cooperation for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Innovation Director
- Deputy Director for Research Services

No alternates are appointed. Members of the Council who are unable to attend a meeting may submit their comments in writing to any items on the agenda.

The Strategic Council for Research and Innovation is tasked with:

- Strategic discussions of the focus areas and initiatives of the AAU strategy, including the coordination of cross-cutting activities and policies
- Initiate and coordinate dialogue with national and international strategic partners and alliances
- Strengthen and target the university's external relations in the context of its strategic focus areas
- Launch specific research and innovation efforts in accordance with the Council's annual calendar

Members' mandate and obligation

The Council is an advisory body to the rector who by virtue of their authority (cf. University Act § 14), and based on input and consultation with the Council, makes final decisions in cases handled by the Council.

The other members of the Council are obligated to provide informed and strategic advice so that the chair of the Council can make decisions within the framework of these Terms of Reference. Members and their managers must ensure, by means of letters of delegation, descriptions of functions or otherwise, that members have clear mandates, and the agenda and tasks of the Council should be discussed by the entities that the members represent. Members are also obliged to contribute to the implementation of the Council's decisions in the organisation.

Relation to the Executive Management and other university bodies

The chair is responsible for informing the Executive Management of the activities of the Council.

At any time, the chair may put forward a case to the Executive Management before making a decision.

Furthermore, the chair is obligated to be attentive to whether topics discussed in the council are also discussed or relate to topics discussed in other bodies.

Ad hoc research and innovation policy forums

When required, the Council may establish interdisciplinary research and innovation forums on an ad hoc basis to support specific initiatives and activities.

Meetings and minutes

The Strategic Council for Research and Innovation conducts its business in meetings. The chair of the Council leads the meetings. The Council meets eight times a year and meetings run two hours.

When necessary, the chair may arrange extraordinary meetings.

Ten days before meetings, the secretariat in the Rector's Office will announce the meeting and send out the meeting agenda. In special circumstances, the chair may convene meetings with shorter notice.

Minutes of the meetings are sent no later than five working days after the meeting and approved by mail no later than five working days after receipt. The approved minutes are archived in WorkZone and made available on AAU Update.

Secretariat

Administrative support for the Strategic Council for Research and Innovation is provided by the Rector's Office.