Future-proofing of AAU:
A unique university with impact
The Challenge

- Major and complex global challenges require collaboration across disciplines, research environments and areas of expertise to solve them.

- We cannot save the world with technical and natural science alone. Humanistic and social science disciplines must be at least as agenda-setting.

- Our distinctive features are beginning to be "taken over" by other universities.
The Solution

- Aalborg University with a unique and differentiated profile with high impact
- An even more significant position as the leading PBL university
- Humanities and social sciences insights and values are markedly present in the AAU solutions to global challenges
- Graduates who are the best problem solvers by mastering holistic thinking in addition to high academic competence in their own discipline
- More focus on combination of proper research skills to bring in research funding in mission-driven research
- In other words: Future-proofing of AAU and preparation for Knowledge for the World II.
The Actions

- Establishment of a special research and teaching unit for PBL: Institute of Advanced Studies in PBL.
- Merger of the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Social Sciences: Det Humanistiske og Samfundsvidenskabelige Fakultet/Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).
- Integration of SSH and STEM in study programmes.
Institute of Advanced Studies in PBL

- More synergy and coherence in the development of PBL across the university-pedagogy landscape at AAU
- Better knowledge sharing and experience exchange between researchers and administrative staff working with PBL
- Better support for breakthroughs in PBL, such as mega-projects or digitalisation
Examples of activities in the Institute of Advanced Studies in PBL

- PBL research across the entire university
- Programme for international visiting researchers
- PBL Lab for didactic experiments
- Support for breakthroughs in PBL, e.g. Interdisciplinary megaprojects, Digitalisation of PBL, Link SSH with STEM
- Pedagogical upskilling and continuous competence development
- Front Office to support teaching staff
- Executive Management advisory body for research-based development of PBL across the university
Placement and management of the Institute of Advanced Studies in PBL

- Organisational placement: Pro-rector for education
- Management: Recruiting of head Manager
- Project steering committee: Dean Henrik Halkier (HUM) (Chairman), Dean Henrik Pedersen (TECH), Dean Rasmus Antoft (SAMF).
- Expected implementation after staff member involvement: by 1/1 2022
New SSH Faculty

- A more robust SSH organisation with better opportunities for developing research areas and study programmes of the future - and thus insights and solutions to the major global challenges

- An SSH faculty that will match STEM faculties in terms of research and finances

- A more clear partner for researchers in STEM fields
By integrating SSH and STEM in the study programmes, we can achieve:

- Distinct educational profile
- Graduates who work across SSH and STEM and can influence and quickly adapt to societal development
- Strengthen students' ability to solve global problems in cooperation with private companies and public institutions
- Increase students' ability to look beyond their own cross-disciplinary domain and collaborate in a cross-cutting manner
SSH faculty and integration of SSH and STEM competencies

Steering committee
- Per Michael Johansen, Rector (chair)
- Inger Askehave, Pro-rector
- Søren Lund Christiansen, University Director
- Rasmus Antoft, Dean, SAMF
- Henrik Halkier, Dean, HUM
- Mogens Rysholt Poulsen, Dean, ENG
Process plan

- SSH faculty and integration of SSH and STEM competencies

1/1 2021

- Establish project organisation
- Staffing of dean’s office (SSH)
- Temporary Faculty Consultation Committee and Occupational Safety and Health Organisation (SSH)

1/7 2021

- Search of SSH activities throughout university
- Description of education and research portfolio for SSH
- Description of structures for SSH
- Analysis and model for integration of SSH and STEM competences in study programmes
- Preparation of admin. implementation
- Decision on education and research portfolio and structures at SSH (summer 2021)

Implementation

- Admin. implementation, incl. finances, study admin., HR, IT and buildings
- Description of implementation plan for integration of SSH and STEM competences in the study programmes
- Clarification of personnel impacts
- New elections to the Academic Council, Faculty Consultation Committee and other affected bodies of SSH faculty

Execution

1/1 2022

- New SSH faculty as of 1/1/2022