

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

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Israeli universities to be boycotted?



One RU representative on the non-ethnic Danish youth council

Career prospects

To get an impression of what careers an RU degree can lead to, RUglobal has corresponded with former RU students.



One RU representative on the non-ethnic Danish youth council

This may not be something you often give much thought. Or maybe you do. Be that as it may, the voice of ethnic minorities is not as penetrating as it could be. The Danish Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs and the Danish Youth Council are trying to make up for that through the setting up of Ny-Dansk Ungdomsråd (the non-ethnic Danish youth council). Ali Sufi, who is a master's programme student at RU, has just been elected deputy chairman of the council.

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Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation

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Best regards
RUGlobal

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11	19/4	22/4	3/5
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By Anne Frida Christiansen, RUGlobal

We caught Ali Sufi on his mobile at a time when he was clearly in a busy traffic area as the noise from cars and people was flowing through the mobile phone as background music to Ali's voice. We are left with the impression that he is a busy young man with many irons in the fire. Ali is 28 years old, and he is studying Public Administration. Ali came to Denmark when he was nine years old. He is Iranian, but came from Iraq. Before Ali's father came to Denmark, Ali lived with a foster family in Aarhus. His voice and accent also give away that he is from that area. Ali went to primary school and upper secondary school – one feels tempted to say, like everybody else. After having spent some time studying economics at Aarhus University, Ali Sufi headed to Copenhagen where he enrolled in RU's Basic Studies in the Social Sciences (SAMBAS) in 2002. The shift from Aarhus University to RU is something Ali attaches great importance to. At RU, he met those devoted students that he had long been

looking for, and he emphasises the culture at RU as something very special.

Ali's interest in integration issues was not seriously kick-started until he commenced the master's programme at RU. At that time, he got a job as a student assistant at the Ballerup Business School where he worked for about two years. Ali's primary duties were to deal with integration issues, which he also began focusing on in his project work. He has, however, always been actively involved in politics and has had a need to voice his opinions. In Aarhus, he was a member of a political party, and he has also been a candidate for an integration council. When he came to Copenhagen, he didn't feel that the party shared his commitment to opposing the war in Iraq, and that kept him from joining again. Instead, he chose to commit to politics through rap music, which helped him channel his opinions and spread his messages, and slowly his work with integration issues started to shine through his rap music.



Ali and the non-ethnic Danish youth council

When Ali heard of the non-ethnic Danish youth council, he really liked the initiative. The council's upper membership age limit is 28 years, so Ali knew right away that if he were ever to have an influence on the council, he would have to make a move now, and that was what he did. The lower age limit is 16 years, and there are 14 members on the council plus five deputy members, one of which is an ethnic Dane.

When RUGlobal talked to Ali, he had just been elected deputy chairman of the non-ethnic Danish youth council as the oldest member on the council. Ali admitted that he does not yet have many ideas of what his membership should lead to. It is, however, clear to him that he would like to contribute by voicing critical opinions in the council, which was exactly why he stood as a candidate. Ali said about the tasks of the council: "Our task is twofold. Firstly, it is our duty to provide advice to politicians, and secondly we have to establish contact to young people who feel excluded. Through activities, we must attempt to make them speak their minds and establish a dia-

logue", said Ali. Ali has been elected deputy chairman for a term of two years, and he is looking forward to exploiting that position. "For me, it is about gaining as much influence as possible; to leave some traces that cannot be ignored", Ali said in a confident voice.

The work of the non-ethnic Danish youth council

Recognition, inclusion and influence are words that are very close to Ali's heart. What is also close to Ali's heart is to see to it that marginalised young people are taken into consideration so that their opinions are heard too. This is to be done through activities, and the non-ethnic Danish youth council has already organised one event to be launched on Constitution Day. "We are planning an alternative way to celebrate Constitution Day. We will do it in a non-ethnic Danish way", Ali said in a hopeful voice. The activist part of the job is about having talks with young people. How to actually go about it is still uncertain, but, obviously, they have the will to do it. "It is about helping them communicate their wishes. There is no denying that we who are members of the non-ethnic Danish youth council are

resource-rich people. However, there are many other people than us, and we must ensure that their opinions are being heard."

The other duty related to the work of the non-ethnic Danish youth council is to provide advice to politicians and other decision-makers. "So much knowledge is produced in the integration field, but much of that knowledge is not used, because politicians are not aware of its existence. The way I see it, we are capable of qualifying the information basis when decisions are to be made", Ali said about the other council work duty. "In addition, we can contribute to making "a new Danish identity" an item on the agenda at different levels, and I am looking forward to that", Ali said in conclusion.



Christian Ege

Career prospects

To get an impression of what careers an RU degree can lead to, RUGlobal has corresponded with former RU students.

By Thomas Humle and Anne Frida Christiansen, RUGlobal

Christian Ege – The Ecological Council

What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?

I studied Natural Sciences (NAT-BAS) and Technological and Socio-Economic Planning (TEK-SAM) and graduated in 1979.

What is your job now?

I am chairman of The Ecological Council, i.e. executive chairman, on a full-time and a bit basis! We work with information services, including preparation of educational material, and seek to influence politicians and the public sphere to achieve more sustainable development. Our principal focus areas are energy and climate, traffic, agriculture and chemicals.

How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?

I have benefited greatly from having worked in interdisciplinary teams and participated in relevant socio-projects that we sought to promote to the target groups. For example, based on our dissertation, we wrote a book

on polluting industries that were once based in the Holmbladsgade quarter in Copenhagen.

Christian Hansen – ALT for damerne

What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?

I studied the Humanities (HUMBAS, Basic Studies in the Humanities) and then Communication and combined these programmes with Art History from the University of Copenhagen. Having completed my bachelor degree, I took one semester of a separate degree, and then worked in a work placement at a press office in London in the autumn of 2004. After that, one thing led to another and after a couple of years as an inactive student, I left RU without having completed my Masters degree.

What is your job now?

I am working as an assistant fashion editor at the Danish women's magazine, Alt for damerne, with Egmont Magasiner.

How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?

I use very little of my concrete knowledge acquired during my time as a student at RU even though it is possible to draw on some of

the specific tools I learned such as journalistic writing and communication in general. To a much higher degree, it is the work processes and problem-oriented approach to a specific field that I draw on on a day-to-day basis. I learned a lot from the different group dynamics I experienced at RU, and I feel that today I am much more capable of handling and understanding different work processes. Also, my approach to solving and understanding problems has developed radically merely because I have practised it several times at RU under competent supervision by some very skilled teachers.

Martin Lidegaard – CONCITO

What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?

Martin Lidegaard, 43 years, MA in Communication Studies and History, graduated from RU in 1993 after having studied Basic Studies in the Social Sciences (SAMBAS).

What is your job now?

I am chairman of Denmark's green think tank CONCITO that works to develop and communicate climate solutions to politicians, the business sector and citizens. The think tank consists of 30 enterprises, 30 researchers and 30 representatives of civil society, includ-



Christian Hansen



Martin Lidegaard



Bitten Plesner

ing all the leading NGOs within this field.

How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?

In many ways, my programme at RU has formed the perfect background for my work with CONCITO. Our work is project-oriented – we work in professional reference groups where different people with completely different interests and professional backgrounds are to provide joint solutions. We deliberately work on an interdisciplinary basis to achieve synergy in the different climate solutions. Furthermore, effective communication is one of CONCITO's crucial criteria for success. In all these areas, RU has a particularly strong profile, and I draw on my experiences from Marbjerg Mark on a daily basis.

That said I am not particularly proud of the complacency that also characterises RU graduates. I would find it very unfortunate if everybody studied the way it is done at RU. At the same time, CONCITO, as well as many others, completely depends on strongly specialised researchers, providing sense and profile to team work and interdisciplinarity. I am still a big fan of RU's methods, but over time I have also gained a lot of respect for other universities and their special characteristics. In my experience, particularly the combination of

methods and disciplines brings strength to RU's profile. Skilled RU graduates are good at identifying, respecting and utilising the disciplinary strengths of others – and that is a major talent. However, this is naturally not the same as being competent in all fields oneself.

Bitten Plesner – Novo Nordisk

What did you study at RU and when did you complete your programme?

I enrolled at NATBAS (Natural Sciences) in 2000, and at the time I was certain that I wanted to study Environmental Biology and Chemistry and therefore chose NATBAS and RU because there I was given the opportunity to combine these two disciplines with team work. As a student at NATBAS, I realised over the years that I am more of a physicist than a biologist. As I had to choose projects and courses, I was forced to reconsider my own disciplines, and I ended up choosing Physics and Chemistry, a combination I certainly haven't regretted. My courses and projects with a biological focus have definitely not been wasted. A lot of the knowledge acquired there, I have utilised to achieve a better understanding of part of the biophysical and biochemical issues that I have later worked with. I earned an MSc in Physics and Chemistry from RU in April 2007.

What is your job now?

Today, I am working for Novo Nordisk A/S where I have been doing a Business PhD programme in collaboration with RU since 2007. At Novo Nordisk, I continue to work with biophysics. I primarily focus on biophysical characterisation of pharmaceutical proteins with a view to identifying how to increase the stability of pharmaceutical protein therapeutics in aqueous solutions.

How do you make use of your RU degree in your present job?

The best things about NATBAS and the Chemistry/Physics combination were that particularly early on you were given the opportunity to 'shop around' to get a feel of the different disciplines, prepare projects with different natural science aspects and with different people. This has all prepared me very well – not just for the current Business PhD programme, but definitely also for work across different disciplines and professions. On the RU programmes, you learn how to utilise the benefits from not just having different professional and personal strengths and weaknesses. That is one of the best competences you can acquire when looking at a future in the labour market.

The occupation of Palestine by the Israeli government is supported technically, ideologically and politically by the universities of Israel. For this reason, a debate was held on Tuesday 16 March in the RU canteen where participants discussed whether RU should participate in an academic boycott of Israel, and if so, what the terms of such boycott should be.

Israeli universities to be boycotted?

By Thomas Humle, *RUGlobal*

The sound of Said Nimer's voice is loud and clear. It booms through large loudspeakers down towards the 30 members of the audience in RU's half-filled canteen. On a flat-screen installed, a somewhat more scratched image of the Palestinian is trying to keep up. Said Nimer is participating via Skype, and from Ramallah he is sharing his views on a possible Danish boycott of Israeli universities.

"I think you should make the bold decision to boycott Israeli universities in Denmark", he says and continues:

"Boycotting the universities would mean that Israeli academics become aware of the criticism of the occupation of Palestine and will hopefully think twice."

The audience applauds, and Said Nimer passes the floor to Yahav Zohar, who is sitting at the podium in the canteen. Yahav Zohar is a member of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions – an Israeli peace and human rights organisation opposing the settlements and the Israeli occupation and advocating a just peace agreement between Israel and Palestine. Yahav Zohar is a young man with a full black beard. He chooses to speak directly to the audience and therefore does not turn on the microphone in front of him.

"An academic boycott of Israeli universities is necessary because the universities support the Israeli government policy, and because the government shows no signs of changing this policy", he states in a firm voice.

However, Yahav Zohar adds that an academic boycott is not enough, and that it is probably

not the most obvious or the most effective means either.

"When I arrived at the station today (Trekroner, ed.), I walked all the way up to the university. On my way, I noticed that all the buildings have stickers on the windows that read G4S – which is a company manufacturing surveillance and securities systems. G4S is a large international company which also manufactures cameras and surveillance systems for the Israeli checkpoints in the illegally occupied territories of Palestine. I believe that this company and all other companies supporting the occupation of Palestine should be boycotted", he says.

Losing contact to critical voices

Morten Thing, who is a research librarian at RU, is sitting next to Yahav Zohar. Morten



Thing turns on his microphone and states that he agrees that people in Denmark should show disapproval of the Israeli occupation. He does not, however, agree that this should be done through an academic boycott.

"If we boycott Israeli universities, we also boycott the critical voices in the academic environment in Israel. Instead, the critical voices must be supported and invited e.g. to debates in Europe", Morten Thing says, who also finds it important that Danish students can continue to go to Israel as exchange students.

"It is difficult for Danes to understand Israel, the history of the country and the conflict with Palestine if you haven't been there," he says and points out that it is important for Israeli students to be able to come to Denmark to study.

One of the audience members agrees and asks Yahav if it would not be better if Danish students went to Israel to discuss the issue with Israelis at the universities. Yahav Zohar responds that he would like to see Danes talking to Israelis, but that it is unlikely to change anything.

"When foreigners come to Israel to tell us that what we are doing is wrong, Israelis think: 'The conflict is so complicated, and foreigners do not know our history and country as well as we do'. That is why it is more important that Danes concentrate on lobbying the Danish government. Economic and political sanctions are required for the conflict between Israel and Palestine to be relieved. If the EU changes its attitude to Israel and boycotts all trade with the country as long as illegal settlements in Palestine exist and the occupation continues,

the Israeli government will be forced to listen and act differently", Yahav Zohar concludes. The audience attending today's debate are very passionate about the subject. Several members express that they support an academic boycott of Israel, whereas others go even further and demand a complete boycott of all trade with this young country which declared its independence in 1948.



RU MGP 2010



By Thomas Loddegaard-Knudsen, RUGlobal

It was Friday 19 March, and I arrived at RU feeling slightly stressed. On my way there, I managed to run out of petrol, and for a short while, I feared I would never get here. However, I succeeded, and I came just in time to see the first band go on stage – phew!

For the evening's event more than 800 wristbands had been distributed.

Masses of people in party outfits were waiting by the entrance with or without lit cigarettes in their hands; apparently they had already had a few drinks. Party decorations were beautiful, and the coloured lighting and the thin veil of smoke from the smoke generator together made a good atmosphere.

Spirits were high, and when the first band came on stage, people were flocking in to see

the musicians perform; there were all sorts of entertainment, not least because quite a few of the artists had dressed up creatively. Generally, the outfits were very varied. One of the members of Weltkansler was wearing a leather jacket, the other a shirt and boxer shorts. The bass player of Stodders Inc. was dressed up as a classic Lucky Luke villain, whereas the dreadlocked bass player of Angular Momentum had chosen not to wear any clothes from the hips and upwards and the lead singer of Kijafa wore a beautiful red dress which could hardly escape attention. It was all part of the live show, and the audience loved it. There were of course also artists who had chosen to wear completely "normal" clothes, thus letting the instrument be the primary means of expression.

No matter what appealed to you, there was a style for every taste, and each one of the visual creations contributed to the atmosphere.

On such evenings, the music is of course the main attraction, and as the first band on stage, Strap-on Unicorn set the ball rolling. The five-man band delivered heavy distortion rock at full blast. Unfortunately, the sound quality was mediocre – if not bad, as is often the case with opening acts at live music events, since it often takes time for the sound engineer to hit the right sound on the mixing console. I walked about in the hall to find a spot with both good sound and unobstructed view, but I quickly gave up this attempt and instead chose to stand by the edge of the stage, in the left hand side. There, the view was excellent. What you gain on the swings, you lose on the roundabouts!

However, the sound did not seem to displease the audience or the judges, as the band was given a good round of applause. This year, the panel of judges consisted of celebrities such as Hannibal Hildorf, Sara Otte and Fa-

dime Turan whose job it was to comment on each individual band after their performance. Unfortunately, there were quite a few of the members of the audience who did not seem to take an interest in what the judges had to say and therefore spoke and yelled out loudly in a way that completely drowned the judges' opinions. Seemingly, the audience's votes were rather unaffected by the judges' evaluation, as, unfortunately, many of them spoke simultaneously with the three judges of the evening, who, however, were sure to leave their mark on the event anyway. The three bands given the most votes by the audience would go to the finals, and it was then up to the judges to choose the winner of the contest amongst these finalists.

One band was quickly followed by another up on stage, as each band, in traditional MGP style, only had one song to sing. The next band delivered relaxing, seventies-inspired groovy disc-pop/rock music with a pleasant laid-back attitude. The song – well it was about cherry wine, and was opened with a joint toast in the very same drink. Or – there was probably only cherry wine on stage, but people backed the song celebrating the otherwise hated drink,



and the number ended in the exact same way as it opened: Cheers! After that Stodders Inc. delivered tuneful rock music. I may be wrong, but it seemed as if the lead singer forgot the words along the way, which he covered up quite neatly by shifting to a stage show with dance, shirt destruction and other cunning acts. It actually worked quite well. Well saved!

After the Stodders came MaHKLØ. However, the poor band's otherwise excellent performance was tainted by bad acoustics, which they could not in any way be blamed for. Their song was simply accompanied by acoustic guitar and percussion and when the guitar microphone failed to work (or which was at least not audible), it proved catastrophic to the delicate balance. The number ended up consisting of percussion and voice, which the audience didn't treat gently. People started talking and went to the bar. I, too, went to the bar, however, with my eyes and ears on the stage of course. I bought a draught beer, which felt like a treat after having waited in a very long line, which doubled in length. Poor MaHKLØ worked really hard to gain the favour of the audience (a struggle that gave them the opportunity to perform a second time at the end of the contest).

Any atmosphere lost because of the sound engineering problems was recovered when last year's winners, Weltkansler, came on stage (wearing the previously described outfits) and got the crowd roaring again. The refrain was ground out by the electronic backing track, and people loved it. Suddenly, the band had the attention even from the people who had hardly looked at the stage all evening. The performance given by Weltkansler was indeed great fun. It was ...special in a slightly perverted way, but performed tongue in cheek. The industrial, march-like characteristics of the music obviously caused one of the judges to associate it with Nazi Germany with this special comment: "Hitler did definitely not live in vain". Well, perhaps that is one way of looking at it.

Then it was Angular Momentum's turn. The five-man band and their well-groomed and very enthusiastic lead singer came on stage to perform, and for the first time that evening, the sound was good. I couldn't help thinking of both Søren Kragh-Jacobsen and Malk de Koijn, when I heard him sing the lyrics, however strange that may sound. The refrain also sounded like something invented by Magtens Korridorer – and then maybe not quite. Again we saw a disguised band member, the guitarist, who had made a balaclava out of a pixie hat.

It was a relieving moment when the sound engineer managed to fix the sound, which resulted in a much more professional overall performance by the band.

It is a shame that some of the first performers had to suffer from bad sound, but, on the other hand, somebody had to make the sacrifice. I do talk a lot about sound, but it is crucial when listening to live music that the sound is good, despite it being a concept that can be discussed incessantly. Including this statement in the article is also to indirectly sneak in a personal remark. Quite frankly, a band's performance is a lot better on stage when playing under the best circumstances and the sound is definitely a key factor. On this note, I just want to say that several of the evening's early bands performed on unfair conditions (and MaHKLØ is a very good example of this). This should, however, not take anything away from the performance by the Momentum boys, which was brilliant.

As the evening passed, more and more people turned up. I got the impression that many took the opportunity to bring friends to the venue; at least there were many people who, at first glance, seemed to be non-RU students. As more people turned up, the cloakroom was filled to its limits and even a bit more than that. Toilet facilities could not keep up either, and what was from the outset a combined men's/

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women's toilet had turned into a women's toilet. The men/boys had obviously found other places to urinate to avoid standing in line, and the girls did not seem unhappy about the prospect of spending less time queuing.

I went to the bar to buy a beer, but drank only half of it, since I had to drive home.

Various aspects of the rock genre left their marks on the evening's programme, and seemingly people were pleased with that. Smuld rounded the party off with a performance in this category; a heavy-rock number in Danish. There is no doubt in my mind that these boys have listened to Rage Against the Machine, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Like last year, they sang about their own educational institution: "RUC, det liv, der sover" (RU, the life that sleeps); the refrain sung by a front performer who pulled out all the stops and who was in an extraordinarily good form. Compared with last year, this band had an extra man doing the vocals, a mixture of rap and song. What was, on the other hand, similar to last year's performance, was the length of the number; it felt like a 10-minute number. However, I am not quite sure it lasted that long. The very long ending was possibly a bit too long, but this seems to be a specific Smuld style that, I reckon, should not go unnoticed.

Then the much loved Bikstok boys went on stage. Bikstok Soundsystem is the DJ duo consisting of Pharfar and Eaggerman, and with their combination of a joint toasting and reggae, they managed to fill the dance floor. As

is so often seen before, the girls occupied the dance floor first, but soon both genders could be identified amongst the wealth of arm and leg movements, and many of the people mentioned previously, who had taken little interest in what had taken place on stage, suddenly raised their game and joined in the dancing. After half an hour on stage, the Bikstok boys passed the microphone on to the cheeky guys from the Spektors, a new Danish-speaking rap group which recently published its debut album "Shanksville". They started by donating a bottle of vodka to the audience who gratefully accepted it. "We need something to toast with!" said one of the guys on stage wearing baggy pants. He then handed the cap-less bottle to those poor thirsty people sitting in the first row. "That is damn good style", the man standing next to me uttered with a big smile. The entire set was performed at 110 km per hour. That's the way to do it!

While Bikstok Soundsystem and Spektors were performing, the panel of judges had done the voting in a remote place and found a winner among the three finalists. In the finals were Angelo Momentum, Weltkansler and Strap-on Unicorn, and Angelo Momentum took home the victory and a gift voucher of DKK 1,000. In addition, they were given the honour of performing the winning tune once more, in traditional MGP style, which they did quite well. Not even with their large support banners, did the large group of Stodders Inc. fans manage to help their favourite band into the finals, and last year's winners, Weltkansler, who were also backed solidly by the audience, also had to face their defeat.

At 23.30, after thirty minutes of hardcore hip-hop music, I felt satiated with rhymes, and it therefore suited me perfectly to see Pharfar and Eaggerman back on stage after the announcement of the winners, bringing the pace down to a level that made us rock gently to the rythm. It was time for dancing friendly beats and a joint toast from Pharfar.

The venue was crowded, and there were no signs of the party coming to a close, although I must admit that in my case it was time for the party to end. I struggled with the cloakroom, which, disrespectfully, seemed to have swallowed-up my jacket and my hat. There were so many clothes, that it would have suited the cloakroom well had it been twice as big; I was a little annoyed with myself that I hadn't left my belongings in the car now that I had chosen to bring it anyway.

The atmosphere was good; it had been good all evening. I had not seen the slightest indications of fights or other unpleasant situations, and the music had been maintained at a decent level all evening. I felt exhausted, satiated by music and experiences, put on my coat and headed for home. It was a quarter past midnight, and unfortunately, I didn't manage to see the last performance by Kjørbo who was to play the final tracks to round off the party before people went home. It was an evening that exceeded all expectations, and it is certainly my intention to come back next year!



Three good pieces of advice to the Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation

A new Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, new focus areas and opportunities? From employees and students at Roskilde University (RU), RUGlobal has assembled a number of recommendations to Charlotte Sahl Madsen.

By: Camilla Buchardt, the Information Office

RUGlobal asked five students at RU to give three good pieces of advice to the new Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation Charlotte Sahl-Madsen (Conservative Party (K)). Hoping for the best working relationship, they have each presented different suggestions for what and how she should prioritise in the years to come. These are the recommendations:

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Peter Lauritzen university director, RU

1) Give universities a reasonable planning horizon

Universities are large organisations with large budgets and many employees and with both research projects and educational programmes that extend over many years. Having in mind the students alone, we need to be able to plan five years ahead every time we admit a new batch of students. For this reason we need a reasonably long planning horizon at the universities. A colleague of mine has suggested a four-year agreement corresponding to the defence agreements. What I really want is a five-year agreement corresponding to the

duration of the master's programmes. We need to know our basic conditions such as basic grants and political objectives in specific areas on a four to five year time scale. Right now, all universities are looking at uncertain times from 1 January 2013 when the globalisation agreement will expire. To be able to make reasonable plans, we should already now start making budget cuts for 2011. Surely, that is not what the government wants?

2) Give universities freedom to act and make them accountable for their actions

Give us the freedom we need to operate independent institutions for the benefit of society. We can assume responsibility for spending the money benefiting society in the best possible way. Have faith in us.

3) Ask before pointing your finger at us

As new minister you will often be asked critical questions about what is going on at the universities. My advice is that you do not point your finger at us but ask us if there is anything to the criticism.

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Steffen Haurum academic officer, RUCinnovation, RU

1) More arrangements and targeted collaboration between companies and universities

The Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation administers the knowledge coupon arrangement which is a collaboration between SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) and universities. RUCinnovation would like to see more of such arrangements to speed

up knowledge sharing between the business sector and universities. That will help promote development of universities' third leg.

2) Focus on popular science communication

Today, researchers are measured in terms of articles in scientific magazines. A just as important parameter should be communicating research to 'the people' so that research is also extended to the broad population and is hence not only circulated in academic circles.

3) Maintain focus on independence in educational programmes

It is important to maintain focus on the significance of encouraging independence in the educational programmes. This means that there must be continued focus on innovation, creativity and independence in order to create a good framework for students who will be able to work with their business ideas.



Anne Birgitte Brus PhD Fellow, Educational Theory, RU

1) Give higher priority to employment of more assistant professors

That way, we ensure better working conditions for PhD graduates and at the same time you will be able to retain in the system more of the 'curly brains' that you want to use actively. Additionally, more permanent employments will strengthen the quality (research-based teaching) of universities' bachelor- and master's programme – you cannot provide world-class educational programmes if you have low-quality employment.

2) Have faith in the researchers

Focus on free research. Skip detailed regulations and fund applications. It is a waste of time.

3) Learn from 'the good stories'

Take for example the Graduate School of Lifelong Learning which I am part of myself. Here, they try to take work environment and culture seriously; they focus on community and social interaction. Our cooperation and the mutual obligations we have towards each other's projects contribute to PhD Fellows not being left isolated with their own projects.



Allan Westerling assistant professor at Department of Psychology and Educational Studies (PAES), RU

1) Revoke the prohibition against group examinations

There is no good argument for prohibiting group examinations. Group examinations are a meaningful and logical final evaluation

of group work. Obviously, the evaluation of the students' individual viewpoints should be based on the cases that the viewpoints are related to. When the study activity takes the form of problem-oriented project work in groups, it is obvious that the level of qualification and knowledge should be tested in relation to the project work in groups. Anything else would be illogical and unwise.

2) Create employment conditions for scientists

Too many good, dedicated and hard-working scientists are employed on time limited contracts and uncertain employment terms. There are conditions that are not only unreasonable and undignified – they are also unproductive. And the problem grows. The condition it causes is burdensome for the employees' life. Besides this, it is also undermining to the quality of

the research work and these people's teaching. Research and teaching is best developed in an environment with the possibility of in-depth study and criticism. This hardly happens in an organisation where everyone is constantly afraid of being dismissed.

3) Become Minister of Freedom

Strengthen freedom and diversity. Stop the surveillance and micro-control. Show people at the university (students and employees) trust. Commitment and initiative does not daunt easily, but it has really been put to the test in recent years. Let others export democracy to faraway places of the planet. Instead, try to implement democracy at the university. You will not regret it.



“We must uphold Danish democratic traditions and I believe it is crucial that genuine and honest involvement of both employees and students is assured. That is why I look forward to the debate that follows the university evaluation. And I can guarantee that I will look at ideas and suggestions for change with an open mind,” said the new Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation on 10 March 2010.



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**1) Let universities decide for
themselves when group examinations
are most appropriate**

In two hours it is possible, with a group of five students, to make a more in-depth progress examination from elementary to more advanced topics. Students experience advanced questions as academically challenging. During such examinations, the students witness the differences in the performances and the examiners have a basis for individual assessments, which is at least as good as that applied in the “assembly line” type of individual examination.

**2) Remove heavy administrative
licence prerequisites and barriers**

Tuition fees and lack of state educational grant (SU) for students who, when transfer from medium-term further education to master’s programmes need brief introductory programmes is an example of an unsuitable barrier. It can make sense to enrol in a master’s programme that is not necessarily an acade-

mic extension of the professional bachelor’s degree. However, as the system is today, doing that becomes a financial burden for the student and will not increase flexibility between parallel degrees in Denmark.

**3) Create a better balance between
basic research funds and pooled funds**

The universities must provide research-driven teaching in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. It requires more stable basic research funds to form the basis on which good project applications can be formulated. Not all basic research areas can be directly turned into profit. Many politically designed pooled funds involve superficial and time-consuming work processing applications. High quality research comes from commitment, dialogue and trust, not from bureaucracy and control.