

Universitetspladsen

RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

Number 08 · 23. January – 20. February 2012



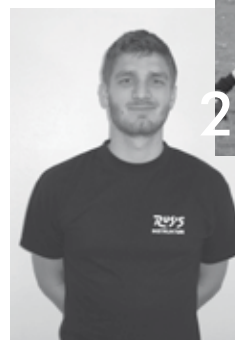
► **DEBATE:**
The student growth centre SHEIK –
a vision disappearing out the window?

► The dream of Utopia

Contents

UNlverse

- 30 The student growth centre SHEIK – a vision disappearing out the window
- 28 RESPONSE: Roskilde University will continue to give priority to student entrepreneurship
- 27 The dream of Utopia



Publishing information

RUCnyt/RUGlobal is Roskilde University's official magazine for information and debate about the organization of the university. RUGlobal is open to all employees and students at Roskilde University to debate the educational and research organizations at the university, including questioning of common interest for research and education.

Editorial staff:

Hans Christian Nielsen (Responsible)
Camilla Buchardt (Editor)
Andreas Wraae (Editor)
Emil Ryttergaard (Editor)
Eva Lykke Jørgensen (Editor)
Mikkel Wendelboe (Editor)

Cover photo:

Tuala Hjarnø

Layout, print and edition:

PrinfoParitas Digital Service, 1700 copies

Paper:

Cover: 4CC 250g.
Contents: Image Business 80g.

Address: RUCnyt, Postboks 260, DK - 4000 Roskilde, Telephone 4674 2013 eller 4674 2612, e-mail: RUCnyt@ruc.dk, www.ruc.dk/ruc/RUCnyt
Notifications: rucnyt-meddelelser@ruc.dk

Opening hours: RUCnyt/RUGlobal does not have any regular office hours. To get in contact with the editorial staff please e-mail us or contact the information office, which is located in building 04.1.

Articles: need to be handed in by e-mail. Please enclose suggestions for illustrations. Discs and other material are normally not returned. The editorial staff is allowed to shorten articles and to reject articles which are not of common interest. Articles of more than 8000 characters (about 2 pages) can normally not be expected to be published un-shortened. There is no minimum length for an article to be published. Anonymous articles are not accepted.

Upcoming deadlines:

Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
9	2/2	7/2	20/2
10	1/3	6/3	19/3

- at 12 noon on the assigned date

The student growth centre SHEIK – a vision disappearing out the window

In an open letter to the RU board of directors, the rectorship and the RUInnovation management, Nilas Bay-Foged criticises the fact that it has been decided to shut down RU's student growth centre



By: Nilas Bay-Foged, MSc (Public Administration), project manager of the student growth centre SHEIK and Head of Section at RUInnovation until 31 December 2011

On 9 December I had to accept that unfortunately my position at RUInnovation would not be extended in 2012, which also means that the student growth centre SHEIK (the student house for entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity) de facto will be put to death. The RU Innovation management based its decision on the grounds that not enough funds were available to extend my project employment or offer me permanent employment at RU. This is partly due to the fact that RUInnovation is co-financed by Region Zealand with an amount of DKK 2.5 million per year and that in the future these funds will be targeting a specific Region Zealand project. The real reason is, however, that – for reasons not known to me – RU has chosen year after year to give low priority to practice-oriented activities such as entrepreneurship and innovation at RU.

As I understand RU's newly adopted strategy, we are to be the attractive alternative where focus is on RU's critical and exploratory types of learning, problem-oriented project work, an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary

approach and solid educational standards. In addition, RU is to be innovative and experimental and to focus on strengthened study programmes, among other things, in the form of continuing education programmes, partnerships and alternative forms of teaching.

Cutting costs in a time of crisis

Therefore, I also fail to understand why RU decides to shut down the student growth centre, and even less do I understand the process having led to this decision. The fact that Denmark's alternative university is short of money is clear to everyone. However, the

”In respect of entrepreneurship and innovation, the main problem is that RU's management – despite a beautifully crafted strategy – has not yet taken ownership of this important area.”

way I see it, a cost-cutting round could just as well give higher priority to key offers to students, thus supporting RU across subjects and strengthening coordinated communication, for example around the beginning of a semester, which we have sought to do in the newly printed leaflet ”Building a bridge to the future” (see ruc.dk/bygbro).

I am sorry that I am not given the possibility to introduce the opportunities inherent in the student growth centre to all students at RU. The fact that it has been decided to drop the entire idea without as much as consulting me, the project manager, and without querying into the visions, plans or results of SHEIK, is completely beyond my comprehension. I also find it frustrating that the project I was employed to launch has not been taken seriously.

Lack of prioritisation

Status, January 2012: RU is the only Danish university that no longer has a student growth centre. The lack of prioritisation is emphasised by the fact that RU is also the only Danish university that does not out of its own pockets pay for its membership of the entrepreneurship competition Venture Cup – we have applied for funds for that from the region. Admittedly, there are many excellent things in the melting pot such as the coming educational reform and the many related work groups, but when it comes to areas such as practice-oriented entrepreneurship and innovation, it is crucial that both departments and subjects become involved in the development and anchoring of new initiatives across the university. I do not find, however, that the subjects neither can nor should be responsible for that function themselves.

continues

continued

A dream scenario (from the student growth centre perspective) would be that courses in entrepreneurship and innovation tailored to their academic field were linked to all subjects. But even so, students would be without a place where they could further develop their project and business ideas and where focus would primarily be on supporting and developing students' ability to act within these areas. The new examination forms (which are also on

"I am sorry that I am not given the possibility to introduce the potential inherent in the student growth centre to all students at RU. The fact that it has been decided to drop the entire idea without as much as consulting me, the project manager, and without querying into the visions, plans or results of SHEIK, is completely beyond my comprehension."

the agenda) are also a unique opportunity to support the entrepreneurial thinking amongst even more students. However, they cannot work on their own either.

Big potential

The purpose of SHEIK was to graft and strengthen the innovation and entrepreneurship potential amongst students: To give students the opportunity to acquire knowledge about and skills in converting ideas and knowledge into sustainable activities. With the establishment of SHEIK, students were given a chance to gain experience in practical entrepreneurship during their time as students.

I still see a great potential in RU qualifying its students, using relatively sparse resources, and at the same time strengthening its identity. Having acquired experiences from interdisciplinary project work, RU students have in fact unique opportunities to become successful initiators, entrepreneurs and innovators.

When at the same time we take a look at the labour market for newly graduated academics, it ought to be crystal-clear that RU should invest in significantly improving students' ability to apply all the various skills they hold

as a result of their experience and education. We have good initiatives and fantastic ideas, but with no overall joint efforts, RU will waste a great opportunity.

Insufficient management

Dear rectorship – where are we heading? Continuing to launch one project after the other, and then shut it down shortly after, is sheer madness. When it comes to entrepreneurship and innovation, the main problem is that RU's management – despite a beautifully crafted strategy – has not yet taken ownership of this important area. On the contrary, RUInnovation has been left to its own devices with no visions, which is reflecting on the working environment.

And why do I mention this? Because I belong to the group of innovative employees who are in favour of change, and in my view, RU is not in any way capable of applying the innovative force that I have brought into play. And my intention is not to get free reins and lots of money, but rather to become proactively involved in relevant strategic projects together with all the other brilliant employees at RU.

RU has a great potential, and I would like to urge that it is not sacrificed as a result of cutting costs....

Thank you – that was all for now!

Do you know enough about printing, copying and scanning?

For example, do you know that all students have 700 prints per semester? Or that you can scan something and have it sent as a PDF-file directly to your RU-mail? Learn more her:

www.ruc.dk/en/print-copy-scan

The screenshot shows the website interface for RU Roskilde University. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Frontpage', 'About the University', 'Organisation', 'Administration', 'Campus-it', and 'Guides'. Below the menu is a search bar with the text 'Search' and a dropdown menu showing 'AAA Print RUCA-Z'. The main content area is titled 'Guide to print, copy og scan' and includes a section for 'Print' with instructions on how to use university printers and scanners. The 'Print' section states that students and employees have access to printers and multi-function machines, and provides details on how to use them. The 'Copy and scan' section explains that there are different types of multi-function machines for copying and scanning, and provides instructions on how to use them. The page also includes a section for 'Questions regarding print, copy and scan' and a section for 'All students will receive 700 CLICKS for copying and printing each semester'.

Tips og tricks fra Campus-it

RESPONSE:

Roskilde University will continue to give priority to student entrepreneurship



By: Hanne Leth Andersen, pro-rector

Throughout the past three years, RU has sought to update what was previously known as the Science Shop.

The model we have chosen has, however, not completely lived up to our expectations, for which reason we are now working to redraft our efforts which we consider very important to RU.

Within this area, many good initiatives have been launched, and quite a few students have warmed to the idea and have completed innovation projects. Several students have also set up their own businesses or projects after graduation. We should continue to encourage RU students to do that. At the moment, we are looking to see how to adjust the current model and develop it. We want RU students' action-oriented skills to stand out even more in society and would like all RU students to have the opportunity to use entrepreneurship in their programmes. Entrepreneurship is an important skill which fits particularly well into project work.

The aim is to promote entrepreneurship activities in the academic study environments

and have them integrated as an option in all programmes. New methods and work forms must be clearly linked to the subjects and anchored in academic thinking. Entrepreneurship should become a natural part of the individual studies and an integral part of lectures and project activities. In addition, there will still be innovation competitions such as Venture Cup at RU.

While investigating how to proceed with entrepreneurship, we want to draw on all environments, individual lecturers and enthusiasts on the individual subjects.

At the same time, RU is upgrading the academic environments supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. There are for example research environments working with entrepreneurship methods, both within business administration, social innovation and public sector innovation. These environments have been active in creating student entrepreneurship activities and must be increasingly active in the future. RU has just advertised an associate professorship in entrepreneurship and accountancy, which, among other things, will focus on research-based upgrading of student entrepreneurship activities also in relation to business economics and business plans.

This shows that RU is upgrading its student entrepreneurship. The vision of RU's strategy 2015 is still for RU to be a socially committed university with a critical, problem-oriented, creative and innovative approach to research, education and communication within and across RU's main areas. Student entrepreneurship is a key activity in the implementation of this vision.

The dream of Utopia

part 1



Mikkell Wendelboe



Jacob Byskov is Vice Chairman of RUSIS, and together with Kristel Pent he has helped dream up the ideas described in this article.

Progress! The dust-spotted motto of science still appears bright and shiny on the flag hovering proudly above the main entrance of RU. The whole life and blood of the university is progress, discovery and improvement. Every day, proud pioneers carrying shabby shoulder bags fight wholeheartedly to best help contribute to the continued welfare of humanity ... but alas! With all the noble causes vying for the spotlight, the one thing the sports enthusiast really feels passionate about simply disappears. The number of students participating in sporting activities on campus is – to put it mildly – modest, the facilities need extending, and we clearly remember how this writer embarrassingly had to Google the mere location of the training facility when writing his first article.... Dystopia is not unthinkable, which is why the writer yet again decides to act – however, not alone....

Text and photo: Mikkel Wendelboe, RUGlobal

“What do we do to raise the sports level at RU?”

The question weighs heavily on the narrow shoulders of the sports enthusiast tearing his hair out in despair. Drops of perspiration are already appearing on his forehead, as he apathetically bites his quill pen worn thin. The

”Enthusiasts are already the backbone of sporting associations all over the country, so why not of the facilities out on the field at Trekroner?”

ink bottle is tipped over, not a word is written on the vellum and all good intentions have left the mind with such a loud noise that the chandelier is still swinging in step with the sound. A storm is brewing, and in the distance dark clouds of pessimism are drawing closer. Suddenly, however, the sun breaks through the clouds, shining with renewed energy.

“I’m afraid I need help! Help to express in words what needs to be done to promote sports on campus; what is required to secure its future.” My bluish grey eyes light up. “But there it is! So obvious!” Sensing the eagerness pulsating in his finger tips, and while practically foaming at the mouth, the writer immediately rushes to the keyboard and starts writing. Help is on its way, and who would be better at coming up with bright ideas for improvements than those actually holding the purse strings?

Jacob Byskov and Kristel Pent are both RU students and also members of the executive committee of RUSIS. I gave them a hypothetical task asking them to come up with good ideas for what RUSIS requires in order to make RU a better place to do sports. They both took the challenge with such great enthusiasm that it immediately softened the heart of an old sports enthusiast.

“RUSIS’ success depends on getting people involved who love all types of sports and who will work to attract more RU students to the sporting activities on campus. The SIB Sports Committee 21.2 is an initiative that we welcomed with open arms. It would be so cool, if each house at RU had its own sports committee.”

Word for word, this is how Kristel starts, and the writer nods in agreement. Enthusiasts are already the backbone of sporting associations



How could RU be made into a sporting Utopia?

all over the country, so why not of the facilities out on the field at Trekroner?

Trekroner – which in actual fact is the next problem on the road to Equilibrium; something that the determined RUSIS advocates also comment on when going through their wish list.

”Jacob willingly lists the shortcomings of the facilities that RUSIS already has at its disposal, and the writer clearly takes his point. (Do recall again the sports enthusiast’s failing sense of locality in connection with the training facility!).”

“An obvious challenge is the physical distance between the student residences and the facilities that RU can offer. Therefore, I consider it one of the major criteria of success for team sports that more students settle in Trekroner/

Roskilde! Spending 45 minutes on transportation to and from the sporting venue is simply too much,” says Jacob, thus explaining the shrinking number of participants, especially in team sports, and Kristel agrees with him.

“Yes, the distance definitely is a problem. The opportunities we currently have of doing team sports are not particularly user friendly for those who do not live in Trekroner. In other words, we can only use the sports centre late at night or during weekends. The deprived students thus deselect sports on campus because useless time schedules and empty pockets do not allow them to come all the way from Copenhagen.” Offended, the writer squeezes his ink-drenched weapon even harder. Nevertheless – there is a solution! Activities are organised so that they fit in with the lectures in the best possible way, but if team sports were to become a serious attraction at RU, it is going to take more than that: better access to the sports centre, and maybe – God willing – an increased number of students settling in Trekroner.

continues

continued

“Are you listening, you local decision makers calling yourselves politicians?”

However, we speedily move on to the next problem, which – cunningly – originates from this. Because doing sports requires that your kit is in order. Who prepares well, works well! as the motor mechanic said when repairing the car using cup grease and gaffa tape.

“The current facilities are very small and not very attractive. The fitness centre, I think, is quite well equipped. However, the room is anything but appealing, since it is very stuffy and has an isolated location at the university. The football pitch at P10 is an excellent turf, but the lack of maintenance makes it not particularly suitable for playing football. The missing hall of mirrors, however, is what is needed the most! The only room that at the moment can only just be used for dancing, martial arts etc. is a lousy room where a person of normal height can hardly do any stretching exercises without getting stuck between ceiling and floor.”

Jacob willingly lists the shortcomings of the facilities that RUSIS already has at its disposal, and the writer clearly takes his point. (Do recall again the sports enthusiast’s failing sense of locality in connection with the training facility!). A difficult problem to which Kristel heroically finds a solution.

“Now that we are looking at the location problem that RU is facing, it is particularly important that training times are flexible. Flexibility is only possible, however, if RUSIS has at its disposal suitable premises and does not have to compete for centre hours with associations offering sporting activities to children, which in my view rank higher on the municipality’s list of priorities than university sports” (who went on about equality? Ed.).

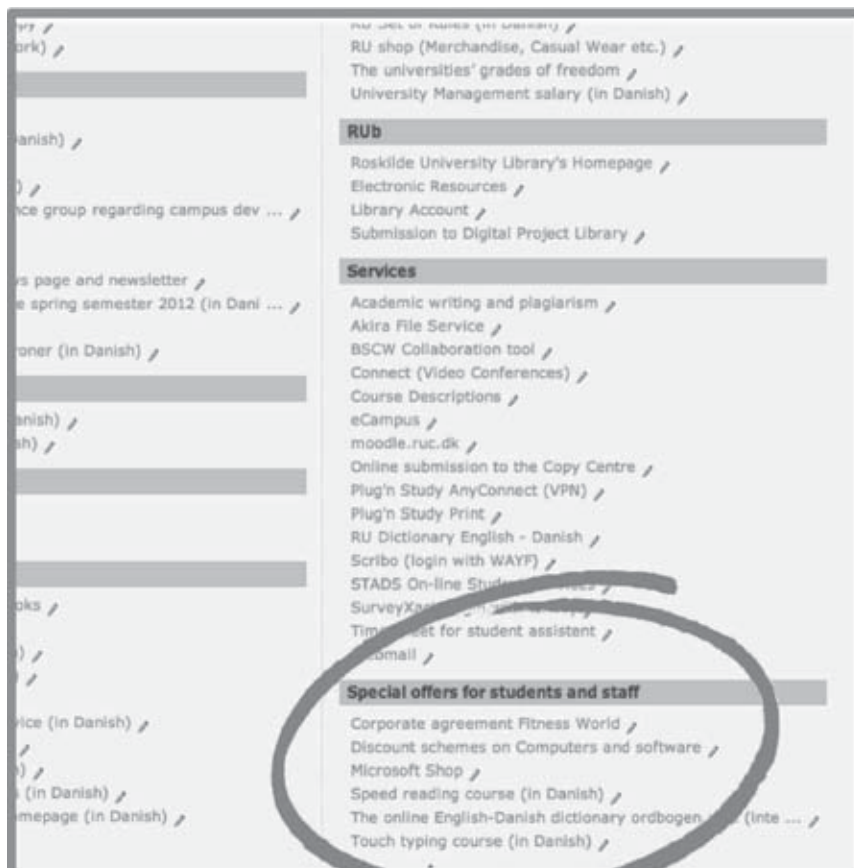
“I am positive that if the idea of building our own sports centre was introduced to RU management, the typical answer would be ‘sorry, we don’t have the funds.’ However, if other universities or educational institutions such as CBS can motivate companies to sponsor their buildings – why can’t we? Personally, I wouldn’t care at all if we were to paint a giant Nike logo on the roof of the sports centre if only they agreed to sponsor it!”

Amen to that, Kristel! The writer more than agrees! And this is where our game of dreaming stops for now. We will, however, continue in the next issue of RUGlobal (exciting, don’t you think?).

Special offers for students and staff

The special offers for students and staff at RU have been put together in a special group on the portalino. Among other things you can find links to discount schemes, where you can get percentages when buying computers and software, fitness memberships at a lower price and free access to the online dictionary ordbogen.com

Go to portalino.ruc.dk



Tips and tricks from Campus-it