

November 2024

Dear all at DTU

In the coming months we can look forward to many good initiatives and exciting plans at DTU, including the election of members to DTU's occupational health and safety (OHS) organization. In addition, we are focusing on developing frameworks and initiatives for a healthy and safe working and study environment, and this info letter contains information about and inspiration from the Universities' Occupational Health and Safety Conference 2024, learning and development following the visit by the Danish Working Environment Authority, and training of new ergonomics ambassadors at DTU.

- DTU Working Environment Secretariat

The Universities' Occupational Health and Safety Conference 2024

- DTU Working Environment Secretariat and Nina Fog, Corporate HR

The Universities' Occupational Health and Safety Conference was held on 9 and 10 October at Nyborg Strand, where more than 350 participants (including 85 from DTU) gathered to share knowledge and discuss new trends within occupational health and safety.

In a time characterized by political reforms, a flexible working life, and new ambitions within research, education, and digitalization, a healthy and safe working environment is more relevant than ever, and it is increasingly important how we actually thrive as employees in the university world.

We often feel the significance of the psychological working environment on our own bodies, and there is more and more focus on the working environment in the world around us. This focus changes the premise for how we, as work environment and management representatives, best help our leaders create a healthy and safe working environment for everyone.

The conference programme featured many interesting and highly relevant presentations, where the focus was on building strong OHS networks across the universities and on the many changes that are part of modern OHS work.

On the first day, Susie Lynge opened the conference with an inspiring presentation on how strong OHS networks can make a difference. Later, Liv Starheim told us about 'time environments', and Helle Winther provided insights into body language.

Day two of the conference was kicked off by Søren Viemose, with insightful observations about how the OHS organization can be a resource during periods of change - and how to strengthen collaboration between employee representatives and managers. Søren also made a thought-provoking

OHS elections

- by Leif Leon Warner, CAS AB

The current election period for DTU's OHS organization expires on 28 February 2025. Therefore, an election will be held at the end of November 2024, and in this connection, materials will be distributed to ensure that the election runs smoothly. Representatives are elected for a period of three years.

The deadline for the final elections to the local work environmental committees is 31 January 2025, and 7 February 2025 for the Corporate Work Environmental Committee.

The university units are each responsible for holding elections for their own OHS organization. The results are reported to CAS AB at AMOvalg@dtu.dk before 31 January 2025.

Please note that at the beginning of January a banner will be posted on DTU Inside providing information about the election with details about the OHS coordinators as contacts.



contribution when he reviewed OHS work in a historical perspective. He was very effective at showing everyone that change today is a constant premise - and how different it was just 10 years ago. A difference which means that, in our OHS work, we must constantly strive to ensure that changes make sense and help our colleagues by creating space for what Liv Starheim referred to as 'slow time'. When we work with slow time, we help our colleagues with the relational aspects of being part of a change process.

The day ended with an inspiring presentation by Svend Brinkmann on how to create meaningful working lives, and that dialogue in itself has an inherent value.



In between the exciting plenary presentations at the conference, various workshops and poster sessions were held, where skilled speakers shared their knowledge and experience, which in turn provided inspiration for discussions in smaller groups. All in all, a couple of intense days filled with knowledge, exchanging experience, and concrete tools for creating better working environments throughout the university sector.

Visit from the Danish Working Environment Authority at DTU in autumn 2024

- by Lars Villadsen, CAS AB, and Anders Jacobsen, Corporate HR

The Danish Working Environment Authority conducted an inspection of DTU's working environment in autumn 2024 and visited three university units.

The Danish Working Environment Authority largely refrained from issuing notices to DTU and expressed its confidence that DTU itself has the ability and desire to handle working environment challenges. However, DTU received the following responses:

- An immediate improvement notice in relation to preventing any risk of fallen glass in dishwashing and waste rooms, so that the work can be carried out in a safe manner.
- An immediate improvement notice in relation to ensuring the use of suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of safety glasses when working with hazard-labelled substances and materials at the beginning and throughout the duration of the work.
- An investigation notice in relation to examining and safeguarding the psychological working environment.

Moreover, a number of issues were identified where no notices were issued. The Danish Working Environment Authority will follow up on these issues in connection with a return visit in mid-November 2024.

To ensure organizational learning and lawfulness, the Danish Working Environment Authority's requests and responses are communicated to the Corporate Work Environmental Committee and OHS coordinator network so that the OHS coordinators can pass on knowledge and learning to the local work environmental committees in the university units.

Eight new ergonomics ambassadors at DTU

- by Ann-Rose Bøttcher, CAS AB

Every year, a course for ergonomics ambassadors is held at DTU, and on 25 September, eight new employees received their course certificates. They can now call themselves ergonomics ambassadors for offices and laboratories, and provide their colleagues with guidance on ergonomic workplace design and arrangement and thereby help their colleagues cope with work-related strains and challenges.

DTU currently has 78 ergonomics ambassadors for offices, laboratories, and workshops. If you want to see whether an ergonomics ambassador is attached to your university unit, you can find the overview in the fact box on DTU Inside [here](#). If you are interested in knowing more about what ergonomics ambassadors do and the role they play, you can read more on DTU Inside [here](#).

