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Aspects of Quality Assurance and Quality Development at the CSH

With this document, the CSH gives a brief overview of its quality assurance procedures.

The CSH develops its quality assurance within the framework of the performance mandate given to it by the university directorate. The CSH uses its quality assurance and development management (QAD) to achieve the goals for the period of each consecutive performance mandate and to monitor its achievements. It annually reports to the university directorate on the progress made towards achieving the goals, and, every four years, it presents a self-evaluation report in preparation of the next performance mandate.

Currently, priorities in quality assurance lies on governance procedures, the participation of all members of the CSH in developing research and teaching, and on communication. Sustainability, the monitoring of the career paths of students and young researchers of the CSH, and outreach are also foci of attention.

The five members of the steering committee, all professors at Berne University and all affiliated with the CSH, regularly discuss strategies with the director. The aim is to find out where the CSH can act profitably. The director sees to it that the different status groups also have a voice when strategies for research, teaching, development of personnel and communication are an issue, hereby advocating a bottom-up approach. At the same time, it is considered essential that the fellows have time to pursue their scientific activities and that administrative duties do not become a burden for them.

On all levels, exchange mechanisms exist to create an environment that allows the fellows to establish collaborations. This helps to bring expertise to Berne.

Concerning the introduction of new communication formats, the management of the CSH takes into account the ideas of young researchers and students. To promote communication about research among the students and to develop new projects, especially interdisciplinary ones, there are lunch seminars with guest speakers, coffee table discussions, and journal clubs. These events are organised by the CSH Fellows.

Since interdisciplinary research and teaching are essential in the University strategy 2021 and should be a strength of each center, the CSH makes an effort to bring people from various disciplines together to talk and develop common projects. The CSH Fellows and students are aware of the strategy further to promote interdisciplinary activities. Next steps consist in establishing a summer school and create formats to invite researchers to the CSH. An annual symposium is already in place.

One of the priorities of the CSH is to attract young researchers. The CSH therefore publishes its positions internationally. The young researchers who work at the CSH are involved in the selection and decision-making processes and thereby drive the research activities of the CSH.