

Meeting: 18-11-2020 15.15-17.00

Online meeting – Zoom

Uddannelsesnævnsmøde Engelsk

Participants:

UN members:

Mark Eaton, Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen, Tabish Khair, Sandro Nielsen, Anne Schjoldager, Sten Vikner, Tenna Blindbæk, Amalie Kathrine Kjærulff, Emma Hundahl Kærsgaard, Sofie Lavall Nøjsen, Henriette Feldborg Olesen, Emilie Bak Sand.

Observers:

Simon Skaarup Axelsen (studievejledning), Louise Bjerregaard, Ann Carroll-Bøgh, Trine Susanne Johansen, Dominic Rainsford, Joseph William Sterrett, Mejse Voss.

Apologies:

Emily Virginia Hus

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes

See document *UN-Engl-2*, also found in O:\ARTS_CC-ENG-UN\Archive\Referater.

The minutes were approved.

3. Newsletter from Arts Studies

See document *UN-Engl-3*.

Louise Bjerregaard (LB) informed the UN about the most recent newsletter from Arts Studier, and explained that *Udvalget for Uddannelse* are discussing the framework for the winter exams 2020/2021 to ensure that students are able to carry out exams in a healthy and academically sound manner. The UNs and the Boards of Studies at the Faculty of Arts have drawn up descriptions of how campus exams can be carried out, *if* there is no access to campus – i.e. what the plan B should be in such a case. The Dean's Office has commented on and approved this, and almost all oral exams at the Faculty will be converted to Zoom exams, while written on-site examinations will be converted into short, set take-home assignments. As soon as the overall framework for AU is known and specified, it will be communicated on the teaching portal and the study portal.

Universitetsledelsen has discussed the university's study progress rules and decided to abolish the rule on active enrolment starting from the summer 2021. This means that students from the summer 2021 will no longer be required to earn 45 ECTS credits per year in order to maintain their student places. The argument for removing the rule has been to provide students with more flexibility in the planning of their course of study. However,

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students must continue to ensure that they are not delayed by more than 30 ECTS credits in order to retain their SU.

24 Summer University 2021 courses have now been set up in the systems with 15 enrolled courses from IKK. The courses can be found through the course catalogue.

Timetælling at AU for autumn 2020 has now been completed, and all degree programmes at the Faculty of Arts meet the minimum requirements.

Again, teachers are encouraged to underline the importance of students participating in the *Studiemiljøundersøgelse 2020*, published in Week 43, which examines topics such as the students' well-being, contact with teachers, stress, loneliness and harassment. The survey runs until the December 15, and the results will be published in spring 2021.

4. The next UN: Members and meeting dates in 2021 (and Jan. 2022)

See document *UN-Engl-4a-b*.

Chairman Sten Vikner (SV) informed the UN about the UN meeting schedule for 2021 in document 4a. The UN-meeting schedule follows the meeting schedule for the Board of Studies. UN-meetings in 2021 will be entered in the calendar afterwards. SV pointed out that the meeting March 24 will be moved to March 17, since the SN meeting in document 4a in March had erroneously been placed in the Easter week.

Furthermore, SV informed the UN about the lists of members for the UN in 2021, both for VIP and students, in document 4b. VIP number 11 and 12 in the document were not mentioned on the webpages, since there presumably was a maximum of 10 people, even though the system allowed the submission of 12 VIP candidates. The two VIPs are welcome to attend the UN-meetings to gain more insight into the work at the Department, IKK and the Faculty of Arts and to observe whether being in the UN will be something that they can see themselves doing at a later date.

5. Mid-term evaluations and (lack of) anonymity

A student raised the general issue of anonymity in mid-term evaluations. The mid-term evaluations have often not been anonymous which makes it difficult for the students to freely evaluate the course with constructive and critical comments. Students feel that it is difficult to say what they actually think, as they are afraid that the teacher may hold their comments against them. The result is that either the students do not make any comments or they only give positive answers. This means that the course does not get as much constructive feedback as it could have. Students think that anonymity in mid-term evaluations is important and suggested that UN find a way to hold mid-term evaluations in an anonymous way in the future.

On the basis of this, the UN discussed the different ways that the mid-term evaluations are held at the moment, for example in the form of an oral mid-term evaluation with the possibility of giving an anonymous comment afterwards or in the form of anonymous answers in a Google doc questionnaire and a subsequent oral discussion.

The UN chair will raise the students' concern at a staff meeting. SV will therefore at the next staff meeting inform VIP about the issue with anonymity in mid-term evaluations and suggest that teachers should take it into consideration and think of a way to let students make anonymous comments in their mid-term evaluation.

Furthermore, Head of Department Dominic Rainsford (DR) pointed out that if there should be problems with a particular teacher, students can always talk to him. This information should perhaps be made clearer to students, even if the *studievejledning* and the academic advisors at SLK already mention to students that they can talk to DR about such issues.

6. Teaching evaluation questions for spring 2021

See document *UN-Engl-6*.

SV informed the UN that in their October meeting, the Board of Studies had approved the same questions for spring 2021 as the ones used in both spring and autumn 2020, and so the UN should decide whether also to repeat the recommendations for those semesters, which could be found in the minutes from the UN meeting in June 2020, re-posted as document *UN-Engl-6*. Subsequent to the UN meeting, the chair of the German/Romance UN has confirmed that as expected, the German/Romance UN agreed to continue the arrangements (concerning joint courses) that apply in the current semester.

At the last meeting, the UN had decided to recommend to the teachers for the end-of term teaching evaluation autumn 2020 that they add not just the usual question about the academic level but also a Corona-specific question "Would you like to comment on the mix between online sessions and on campus sessions or on any other corona-specific aspects of the course?" with an added encouragement to adapt this question so that it was directly relevant to the course in question. SV had informed all VIP about this November 3.

Decision: The UN decided for spring 2021 to repeat the recommendations from the UN teaching evaluation questions from autumn 2020. Department Consultant Mejse Voss will implement the UNs decision together with IKK Training Consultant Trine Kaalby Bjerre.

7. Developments in the numbers of new students

See documents *UN-Engl-7a-d*.

DR informed the UN that the data concerning the numbers of new students were positive, the numbers were normal despite the Corona-pandemic. The Department of English therefore continues to be the IKK department with the largest student intake. CLM were improving the numbers of new students compared to last year even though DR had hoped for more students this year. However, it seems that the new version of the degree programme have paid off. ICS was back to its normal numbers of new students compared to last year, which DR pointed out was reassuring given that the normally high proportion of non-Danish students taking ICS seemed to place the degree programme in a risky position during the Corona-pandemic.

8. Number and grades of MA theses at the IKK, Oct 2019-Sept 2020

See document *UN-Engl-8*.

UN discussed the numbers of MA theses at the Department of English. DR found the figures to be reasonable in general but noticed that the grading was higher compared with other Departments at IKK. DR believed that there was a good reason for this and the grading was more balanced than figures from earlier years. A VIP pointed out that the MA theses have external examiners and therefore the figure could not be biased.

9. Short announcement of plans to start the revision of the BA English SLK academic regulations in spring 2021, so that they can take effect from Sept. 2022

SV informed the UN that in the spring 2021 a revision of the BA English SLK will start and therefore encouraged the UN to start thinking about things that could be improved in a new BA that can take effect from September 2022.

Furthermore, the UN was informed that VIPs from IVK would like to think about whether or not to make a revision of the BA IVK English as well. The *uddannelsesevaluering* will overlap but it was not viewed as a problem. This was a good possibility to synchronise and coordinate the two bachelor degree programmes at IVK and SLK.

A VIP wished to make a change to a course in the current BA IVK English academic regulation. LB will send a template but pointed out that the changes first can take effect September 2022.

10. Briefing concerning a change to an elective course in *Advanced Research Topic* for KA English SLK, spring 2021

SV and DR informed the UN that the elective course *Thomas Pynchon: Literary Style, Content and Context* (Inger Hunnerup Dalsgaard) has been replaced by the elective course named *Ball-Breaking Bipoc Babes, BLM, and MeToo: Fourth-Wave Feminism, Intersectionality, and Woke Culture on Screen & Online* (Susan Yi Sencindiver) as an elective course in *Advanced Research Topic* for KA English SLK, spring 2021. Link to the

course: <https://kursuskatalog.au.dk/en/course/105035/Advanced-research-topic-Ball-Breaking-Bipoc-Babes-BLM-and-MeToo-Fourth-Wave-Feminism-Intersectionality-and-Woke-Culture-on-Screen-Online>

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DR pointed out that it had not been possible to inform or show the UN the new elective course since it had had to be changed immediately before the students' registration deadline, and DR had therefore approved it on behalf of the UN.

11. IV-fag plans for the academic year 2021-2022

Deadline for submission of *IV-fag* for 2021-2022 is November 20, 2020. At the last UN-meeting, the UN recommended that DR first asked the teachers of present *IV-fag* if they want to carry on at least one more year. DR informed the UN about the three *IV-fag* where there one course would change to a new course. DR will look at courses proposed two years ago that were not implemented at the time. A VIP pointed out that there was a need for more communication with the *IV-fag* teachers between the UN meetings, and DR would follow up on that after the meeting.

12. Briefing concerning meetings with German/Romance about BA IVK, *Philosophy of science and scientific methods*

See the minutes from the UN meeting on October 21, 2020 in document *UN-Engl-2*.

The UN was oriented about the information and outcome from the meeting with the Head of Department for the Department of German and Romance Languages after the last UN-meeting. The course seems to work and the English staff have been involved in the progress. This information made it possible to approve the proposed changes, but even so, in connection with the approval the UN still wanted to underline the issues behind the changes. After the UN meeting, LB will inform the UN-secretary at German-Romance about the approval of the proposed changes to the course.

13. Items from the Agenda of the School of Communication and Culture Board of Studies (*IKK Studienævn*)

None of the following points was discussed by the UN:

- Item §4. *Studieordninger (beslutningspunkt)*
- Item §5. *Behandling af forslåede studieordningsændringer (beslutningspunkt)*
- Item §6. *Coronasituationen (drøftelsespunkt)*
- Item §7. *Evaluering af studiestarten 2020 og orientering om AU's planer i forhold til nystartede studerende (drøftelses- og orienteringspunkt)*
- Item §8. *Mulige emner til drøftelse (beslutningspunkt)*

14. Any other business

None.