

Meeting: 31 October 2022, 15:15-16:15

Online via Zoom

Ekstraordinært uddannelsesnævnsmøde Engelsk

Participants:

UN members:

Mark Eaton, Trine Susanne Johansen, Sandro Nielsen, Anne Schjoldager, Sten Vikner, Majbritt Kastberg Grønbæk, Rikke Oddershede Laursen, Christina Maria Møller, Claire Isabel Hendrick.

Observers:

Theresa Cecilie Møller (*studievejledning*), Dominic Rainsford, Matthias Stephan, Joseph William Sterrett, Mejse Voss, Louise Wennemoes Hansen.

Apologies:

Emma Hove Petersen, Maria Hvidkær Christensen, Lærke Orup.

Minutes (referat)

Uddannelsesnævn Engelsk

Date: 8 November 2022

Ref: Louise Wennemoes Hansen

Side 1/4

1. Approval of the agenda

See document:

- *UN-Engl-1-Agenda English UN meeting 12 October 2022_Version 26.10.2022*

The following agenda was approved. As seen in the document *Agenda English UN meeting 12 October 2022_Version 26.10.2022*, item 8 was postponed from the ordinary UN meeting 12 October to this extraordinary meeting on 31 October 2022 on Zoom.

2. Decision: Approval of new academic regulations (Item 8 at the UN meeting on 12 October 2022)

See documents:

- *UN-Engl-8a-Revised academic regulations for BA English*
- *UN-Engl-8b-Revised academic regulations for BA TV English*
- *UN-Engl-8c-Revised academic regulations for BA IVK English*
- *UN-Engl-8d-Revised academic regulations for BATV IVK English*
- *UN-Engl-8e-Revised academic regulations for MA ICS English*

The UN was to discuss and approve of revised academic regulations for BA English, BATV English, BA IVK English, BATV IVK English and MA ICS (English):

BA / BATV English:

Dominic Rainsford gave an introduction to the revision work with BA/BATV English: The changes that have been made to the academic regulations were relatively minor, in the sense that no courses have been dropped or moved to a different semester, and no new courses have been introduced and there is only one significant change to the exams. This reflects the fact that the academic regulations from 2018 (the current versions) were in most respects efficient, well organised, and fit for purpose. However, there are some changes to profiles and course descriptions, which are designed to increase the coherence of the BA English and to distinguish it more clearly from the BATV English. The BA and

BATV have been revised to reflect that students obtain a more comprehensive competence profile from the BA than from the BATV.

The course descriptions of the obligatory BA 4th semester courses *Literature in English 3: Voices, Conflicts and Identities* (LE3) and *English Linguistics 3: English in Its Social and Regional Settings* (EL3) (neither of which is part of the BATV) have been revised to reflect the fact that an element of literary content and teaching will be added to the linguistics course and vice-versa. The aim is to mitigate the tendency of students to define themselves as interested in either linguistics or literature, and then show them that each discipline can support their understanding of the other. The hope was that this will lead to more interdisciplinary teaching at the KA level, and to a more even distribution of students between literary and linguistics options.

The separate examination in Oral proficiency has been removed from the academic regulations for both BA and BATV English. It was an anomaly, counting for 0 ECTS, and caused time-consuming administrative issues. The grade for oral proficiency will now be subsumed into *Literature in English 2: Literature in Time* at the 2nd semester, where it will be tested in the oral exam via an academic objective described in the academic regulations.

In most respects the working group feels that they have produced improved versions of good BA and BATV regulations, but the group regret not being able to reintroduce an elective in the BA 4th semester. In the past this elective played a role in the progression of teaching of English linguistics in particular, as well as providing an opportunity for specialised research-based teaching in all sub-disciplines, but it was relatively costly and did not fit with the current drive to simplify and reduce the number of courses. The changes to LE3 and EL3, described above, are partly an attempt to compensate for this loss.

The UN pointed out that it should be mentioned in the *indstillingsskema* for BA English (and BA IVK English) which courses are part of the first-year exam (*førsteårsprøve*). This will be added before the Board of Studies (SN) is to give its approval.

Furthermore, the UN noticed that the exam for *English linguistics 1: Levels of language* in the BA English had changed from an on-site exam to a set take-home assignment since the UN was given the draft version of the academic regulations. It was pointed out that the change was made both in connection with the removal of prerequisites and as a way to accommodate the current economic situation. One important advantage of the exam is that students can receive sound files for the transcription task, which is possible with a set take-home assignment, but more difficult with an on-site exam.

The UN also discussed the following sentence in the purpose of the course description for the Bachelor's project in the BA English:

“If deemed appropriate by the supervisor, the student may focus on a topic within the scope of supervisor's research that is suitable to a company or an organisation, which the student contacts and with which the student collaborates. “

The UN worried if the wording “If deemed appropriate by the supervisor” could be seen as a formal prerequisite. However, the working group pointed out that students should just consult with the supervisor before taking contact to a company or an organisation to get the best conditions for the supervision. After the discussion, the UN accepted that there is no need for changing the wording.

There was no comments for the BATV English.

BA / BATV IVK English:

Sandro Nielsen gave an introduction to the revision work with BA/BATV IVK English: Opposite the BA/BATV English, the academic regulations for BA/BATV IVK English had several changes. For BA IVK English, two new obligatory courses were added: *Communication Theory and Practice* and *Marketing Communications*. The former replaces *Global Englishes* on the 2nd semester, which is moved to the 4th semester as an obligatory course and replaces an elective. The second new course replaces an elective in the 3rd semester (an elective in which students had to choose two out three courses). Both new courses increase the BA IVK English degree programme's focus on international business communication. Furthermore, a former elective was converted into an obligatory course: *Web-based Communication*. This course is moved from the 4th to the 3rd semester. The reduction in electives reduces structural complexity and thus may have a positive impact on student retention. The course *Introduction to the Business Environment* is discontinued in the new academic regulations from the current version to allow for some of the above changes. Part of the course content is included in the new course *Marketing Communications*. The structure of the BA semesters have therefore changed, as some existing courses have moved semesters – as mentioned with *Global Englishes* and for the course *English Language in Use: Theory and Practice*. By placing the latter course in the 2nd semester (instead of the 1st semester), students will hopefully understand the need for the course better and be better prepared for the learning outcomes.

In connection with the BATV, it was pointed out that because of the many changes to the BA, the BATV had some difficulties with the alignment of the profile and the course descriptions. The competence profile has been re-visited after the course descriptions have been prepared, and there were still a few challenges that will have to be solved in the course descriptions or the profile for the BATV after the UN approval, among other things to ensure co-operative competence (*samarbejdsmaal*) from the qualifications framework.

The UN pointed out that BA IVK English continues to have two electives – one in the 3rd semester and one in the 4th semester. The members of the working group are pleased that they do not have to reduce the electives more.

The UN discussed the difference between the 1st semester in the BATV English and the BATV IVK English. BATV English had been given a special allowance to have 3x5 ECTS course in the 1st semester. However, these courses could not be graded since the courses are taken in continuation of each other, and one course is to be completed before the next one starts. BATV IVK English was forced to develop a 15 ECTS course for the 1st semester, which is graded.

MA ICS (English):

Matthias Stephan gave an introduction to the revision work with MA ICS (English): The aim of the revision was to strengthen the overall profile and cohesion of the four programmes in Intercultural Studies (ICS) (English, French, Spanish and German). For example, the working group had worked a lot with harmonising titles and content of the specialisation courses as much as possible and to work with the co-taught courses. The aim was to strengthen the academic skills and progression between the co-taught courses and the *Project placement*, as well as strengthening the common approach to writing the *Master's thesis*. This meant that the co-taught courses in the 1st and 2nd semesters will both address interculturalism in professional and organisational contexts and the course in the 3rd semester will be about interculturalism within a broader historical, national and transnational framework, in which the thesis preparation will be included.

It was pointed out that the revision work has been time-consuming as it involves two departments, two UNs and many academic regulations. In addition to the four ICS programmes, MA and MATV in SLK French, Spanish and German are also involved due to

co-teaching. The current proposal reflects what is possible within the current framework, including guidelines for the budget, and that co-teaching is still a condition for the ICS programmes in French, Spanish and German. For MA ICS (English), the specialisation courses differ in titles and learnings from the ICS programmes in French, Spanish and German. In MA ICS (English), some of the exam forms in the specialisation courses were changed in order to make the degree programme more cohesive.

The UN commented on the Commencement of Studies exam, and it was pointed out that this was a pilot project for all Master's degree programmes. When students start the 1st semester of the degree programme, they will receive an e-mail (sent to their AU e-mail address) with a link to the Commencement of Studies exam. This exam consists of a questionnaire that the student must complete by a specified date as well as a document to be completed and uploaded. See further information on the website here:

<https://studerende.au.dk/en/studies/subject-portals/arts/rulesandguidelines/important-rules-on-your-degree-programme>

Decision:

The UN approved all the new academic regulations to the Board of Studies (SN) for discussion at their November meeting. The documents will be submitted to the Board of Studies by Louise Wennemoes Hansen.

3. Any other business

Anne Schjoldager made the UN aware of the e-mail from her on 27 October 2022 about *ministeriets underviserpris 2023*. This is an award given to excellent university teachers.

If students have suggestions for nominations of teachers, they should send them to the SN chair and vice-chair by 15 November 2022.