

Meeting: 6 December 2023, 15:15-17:15
Building 1481, Room 366
Uddannelsesnævnsmøde Engelsk

Participants:

UN members:

Anne Schjoldager (UN chair), Sandro Nielsen, Peter Katballe-Kristensen, Lærke Orup, Martin Engelsborg Schwartz (UN vice-chair)

Observers:

Dominic Rainsford, Ken Ramshøj Christensen, Matthias Stephan, Jeanette Landgrebe (for item 4), Majken Evans Jensen, Nis Grøn, Anne Bjørn Friis (minutes)

Apologies: Trine Susanne Johansen, Mark Eaton, Joseph Sterrett, Nadia Schalipp, Ann Carroll-Bøgh, Frederikke Mie La Cour, Jane Lücke Didriksen, Alona Chernyshenko, Freja Helene Kjærby

Minutes (referat)

Uddannelsesnævn Engelsk

Date: 6. december 2023

Ref: Anne Bjørn Friis

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1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Any follow-ups on the approved minutes of the last meeting

The UN followed up on the approved minutes from the meeting on 15 November 2023. The UN did not have any comments to the minutes.

3. Information: News from Arts Studies

Anne Bjørn Friis (ABF) presented the headlines from this month's newsletter from Arts Studies:

Useful information

- *Guidance sessions for students who have fallen behind – autumn 2023*
- *Degree programme diagrams for the 2024 academic regulations now available online in the study guide*
- *The exam period starts very soon*
- *Admissions to further and continuing education programmes after the application deadline on 15 November*
- *Hour count completed for autumn 2023*
- *Topic reports updated in Power BI*

Important deadlines

- *Students must submit their supervision plan by 15 December – new online format*
- *Collection of descriptions of elective courses and courses with changing topics for autumn 2024*

4. Discussion: A guide to understanding the grading of an exam paper

Jeanette Landgrebe (JL) was invited to the meeting to present a tool that she has developed to help students understand exam grades. The tool may be especially helpful for students who are unhappy about a grade. JL gave a brief presentation of the tool and invited the UN to ask questions. The UN discussed the implications and uses of the tool.

From the discussion:

- Tool for all academic papers with an analytical component.
- Could possibly be made available to students at the beginning of the course.
- Teachers should use it carefully and be very aware of possible conflicts with criteria for the specific exam in the academic regulations.
- Could be problematic for teachers to use without a discussion about expectations for the course with the students, i.e., “*this is what you are to be graded on/this is what you are expected to achieve*”.
- The tool should be checked for possible conflicts with the intended use of the current grading scale.
- Academic goals are not necessarily based entirely on Bloom’s taxonomy.
- A positive aspect is that it makes the assessment more transparent.
- Grading reflects an overall assessment, which is difficult to put on formula.
- Teachers should be careful not to let students act as co-examiners.
- The tool is to be used by students in preparation for a meeting with the examiner about an exam grade, not as a substitute for feedback. Students should not use it as a checklist for exam requirements as this could affect the way they work with the material and their learning outcome.
- It would be difficult to use the tool (as it is) for all courses in the department as courses differ in aims and assessment criteria.

JR explained that the tool is meant to be used as a didactic tool for self-reflection and not as a tool for self-grading. It is most likely not useful for all types of exams, and this is not the intention either. The aim is to try to eliminate students’ frustrations regarding exam grades. Head of Department Dominic Rainsford (DR) concluded the item by saying that learning from one’s grades is no easy feat and requires an in-depth understanding of the grading process. JL’s tool might be useful as a didactic tool for frustrated students, which would be very positive.

5. Follow-up: Letters to project hosts in Project placements

The UN was updated on the usefulness of the letters that students may send to potential project hosts in connection with their project placements/internships in the department’s master’s degree programmes (KA, CLM and ICS). The wording of the letters was approved by the UN in March 2023.

The UN noted that letters to be used by KA and ICS students are available in both Danish and English, while the letter to be sent by CLM students is only available in Danish. The UN recommended making the CLM letter available in English also.

The UN did not know of any specific experiences with the letters.

Mark Eaton, who is a project placement coordinator for ICS and KA English, was unable to attend the meeting, but had sent his input for the item by e-mail in advance: “*I do not have anything specific to say about the introductory letters to internship hosts. I emailed some students currently on internship to ask if they provided their hosts with the letters and if they could see any effect but have not heard back from them as yet.*”

6. Information: Titles and teachers for electives in autumn 2024

The UN was informed of titles and teachers for electives in autumn 2024. This procedure was decided by the UN at the meeting on 24 August 2022.

In autumn 2024, the department is to offer the following types of electives:

Focus area, [BA IVK English \(2023\)](#), 3rd semester:

- Carmen Daniela Maier: *Risk Communication*
- Antoinette Fage-Butler: *Communication Values*
- Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen: *Interculturality and Communication*

One student asked about the elective *Workplace training*. Unfortunately, this will not be offered in 2024.

Focus area, [BA SLK English \(2023\)](#), 3rd semester:

- Stephan Joyce: *Transmedia worldbuilding*
- Dominic Rainsford: *Charles Dickens: Best and Worst*
- Sten Vikner: *English Linguistics Beyond the Basics*

Bachelor's project electives, [BA English \(2018\)](#), 5th semester:

- Mathias Clasen: *Recreational Fear*
- Mark Eaton and Michaela Hejná: *Conflict in Popular Culture: Political and Sociolinguistic Approaches*
- Joseph Sterrett: *Trust in the End*

One student commented that he would like the department to offer a Bachelor's project course within English linguistics or as a free topic with supervision without teaching. DR commented that the department has previously discussed the possibility of supervision without teaching on different occasions, and that it is possible to discuss it again when working on new academic regulations. The lack of options within the linguistics field for bachelor's projects pertains to an ongoing challenge of offering electives that only a small number of students sign up for.

Next step:

In February 2024, the UN is to approve the course descriptions in question.

7. Information: Summary of degree programme evaluation meeting about BA and KA English SLK

DR informed the UN about the outcome of the degree programme evaluation meeting regarding BA and KA English (SLK). The UN was presented with the minutes from the evaluation meeting as a document for the UN meeting. The topics discussed

included recruitment of new students, the importance of feedback, ways to actively develop contacts with Danish secondary schools (*gymnasier*) and the balance between '*kernefaglighed*' and '*erhvervsrettethed*'.

DR is to provide the SN with the same information at their December meeting.

The UN discussed remarks regarding '*erhvervsrettethed*' and whether or not to maintain and stand up for academic core qualities in the humanities, such as critical thinking, new thoughts and social criticism. The importance of not being complacent and not giving in on important degree-programme components simply to serve perceived needs of the labour market was also discussed and emphasised. Finally, the UN discussed what was mentioned in the meeting minutes about translation. It was pointed out that the discussion in the minutes reflect an understanding of translation that is much too narrow.

For the UN meeting in January, the UN is to receive the revised plans of action as meeting documents.

8. Update: SN's approval of the department's proposals for changes in the academic regulations

The UN was informed of SN's discussion and approval of the suggested changes concerning the exams of Project placements in KA English and in CLM and the exam form of the course the *Communicating organisation* in BATV (IVK) Strategic Communication.

Supported by the Director of Studies, the documents have now been sent to the Vice-Dean for Education for discussion at an approval meeting on 10 January 2024.

9. Items from the Agenda of the School of Communication and Culture Board of Studies (IKK Studienævn: SN)

Anne Schjoldager informed the UN of an ongoing discussion in the SN regarding the process for nominating teachers for *AU's Jubilæumsfonds undervisningspris 2024*.

For information about the SN, including agendas and approved minutes, see also: <https://studerende.au.dk/studier/fagportaler/arts/kontakt/udvalgognaevn/studienaevn/kommunikation-og-kultur>

10. Messages

The UN received updates and news from:

- *Head of Department: Nothing*
- *Academic and administrative staff: Nothing*
- *Students: Nothing*
- *Arts Studies: Nothing*

- *Student counsellors (Studievejledning/VEST): Majken Evans Jensen introduced herself as a new counsellor from October and informed the UN of another new position posted as a substitute for Theresa Cecilie Møller, who has left her position.*

- *Internationalisation coordinators: Ann Carroll-Bøgh, who was not present at the meeting, had sent a mail explaining that the International Coordinators received applications from almost 500 outgoing AU Faculty of Arts exchange students for 2024/25. This is a new record.*

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11. Deadline for submitting documents for the next UN meeting

Any documents for the UN meeting on 17 January 2024 should be sent to Anne Schjoldager (asc@cc.au.dk) and/or Anne Bjørn Friis (abf@au.dk) *no later than on Monday, 8 January 2024.*

12. Any other business

Nothing.