

Meeting: 21 February 2024, 14:15-16:15
Building 1481, Room 366
Uddannelsesnævnsmøde Engelsk

Participants:

UN members VIP: Anne Schjoldager, Ken Ramshøj Christensen, Sandro Nielsen, Trine Susanne Johansen, Matthias Stephan, Joseph William Sterrett

UN members students: Nadia Schalipp, Peter Katballe-Kristensen, Lærke Orup, Emilie Bjørg Rank-Kornum, Katharina Krogh Attermann, Martin Engelsborg Schwartz

Observers: Michelle (KAF), Alona Chernyshenko, Frederikke Mie la Cour, Peter Mortensen, Mejse Voss, Jane Lücke Didriksen, Ann Carroll-Bøgh, Frederikke Ohlenschlaeger, Kim Behrens Jessen (minutes)

Apologies: Naja Broberg, Emilie Vedel Hagelskjær

Minutes (referat)

Uddannelsesnævn Engelsk

Date: 21. februar 2024

Ref: Kim Behrens Jessen

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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 17 January 2024. The UN did not have any comments to the minutes.

3. Information: News from Arts Studies

Kim Behrens Jessen (KBJ) presented the headlines from this month's newsletter from Arts Studies:

Useful information

- *Practical questions in connection with teaching activities*
- *The thesis semester begins on 1 February*
- *Re-examinations, winter 2023/24*
- *Update of admission requirements in academic regulations for Master's degree programmes and in the study guide (kandidat.au.dk)*
- *Fewer resources allocated to the Blue system*
- *Update of the study portal to include new members of the boards of studies and degree programme boards*
- *Use of First Agenda for board work support*
- *Presentation for new exchange students by Study Centre Arts*
- *Exchange programmes 2024-25*
- *Career guidance in Emdrup*

Events

- *Career events in spring 2024*
- *Arts Career Week and Arts CompanyDating 2024*

- *Webinar for second-semester Bachelor's degree students: "Styrk din mundtlige præsentation" (How to improve your oral presentation skills)*

There was a question about the introduction of full-degree students from countries other than Denmark. The department is planning separate information and meetings for these students. Peter Mortensen (PM) will inform the UN when there is news in this regard.

4. Discussion (CONFIDENTIAL): End-of-term teaching evaluations from autumn 2023

The UN was made aware that the documents for this item must be treated with confidentiality as there may be personally identifiable information in the comments.

The UN was presented with the results of the teaching evaluations, based on coordinator summaries and data drawn from Brightspace. Summaries were presented by coordinators, according to the new structure as from spring 2024:

- BA IVK English years 1-2 and BATV IVK English (Anne Schjoldager)
- BA IVK English 3rd year and CLM English (Sandro Nielsen)
- BATV IVK Strategic Communication (Trine Susanne Johansen)
- BA English years 1-2 and BATV English (Ken Ramshøj Christensen)
- BA English 3rd year, KA English and KATV English (Joseph William Sterrett)
- KA ICS English (Matthias Stephan).

The evaluations were overall positive.

The UN discussed the end-of-term evaluations from autumn 2023 in order to give input to the Head of Department's summary report. The UN reviewed the evaluated courses with the following questions in mind:

- What can the department learn from the evaluations?
 - Nice to see that there is a slight improvement with the satisfaction for courses in the new degree program for BA IVK English.
- What will the department work with on the basis of the evaluations?
 - Q17: The likert scale for this question seems to be inverted in the Brightspace degree programme report. Mejse Voss (MV) will follow up on this with the Brightspace/Blue support.
 - Two teachers fell ill during the autumn semester and many lectures had to be cancelled for an obligatory CLM course. Solutions should be found for this in the future. PM will look into this.
 - In ICS, the number of students in the seminar groups were unusually high this semester, though attendance dropped somewhat during the semester. The teaching locations have varied a lot and have not matched the intentions of the courses. For instance, it has been nearly impossible to have group work in some of the rooms, which might be one reason for the drop in attendance. PM will follow up on this.

The head of Department (PM) summarised the input from the UN, which included:

- Response rates vary widely from course to course: Perhaps this is a sign of evaluation fatigue? This will be considered in relation to future evaluations.
- Electives seem to be very popular among the students.
- Size matters: Large classes do not seem to work well.

PM will write a summary report (approx. one page) formulated in a way that is appropriate for publication on the AU website here

<https://studerende.au.dk/studier/fagportaler/arts/undervisning/undervisningsevaluering>.

The Head of Department has been informed by Director of Studies Lars Kiel Bertelsen that the evaluation report must be sent to studieleder@cc.au.dk by 10 April 2024. After a review, the Director of Studies will forward Head of Department reports to the Board of Studies (SN). The UN will see the English Head of Department's summary at the UN meeting in March.

5. Information: Evaluations of Project placements (autumn 2023)

The UN was informed that, at the March meeting, the UN is to discuss and comment on the evaluations of Project placements in autumn 2023. To support the discussion, the UN will be given end-of-term evaluations from students extracted from Brightspace as well as evaluations from project hosts. Both types of data will be supplied by Department consultant Nis Grøn as well as an overview of the results (so-called 'forklæde').

At the March meeting, the UN is to discuss whether the evaluation results provide input for proposals for quality improvements or special focus points to be brought up (orally) by the Head of Department at the SN meeting in April. The SN can then collect these and pass them on to the Dean's Office.

6. Information: UN's end-of term evaluation questions in spring 2024

The UN was informed that, because of reduced resources for operating the Blue system in the department of *Studiesystemer*, the end-of-term evaluation questions from autumn 2023 will have to be reused in spring 2024. Unfortunately, this means that the UN questions chosen by English UN and German-Romance UN for spring 2024 cannot take effect as planned.

7. Decision: Course descriptions for electives in autumn 2024

The UN discussed and approved the course descriptions for three types of electives in autumn 2024:

- Bachelor's project electives, BA English:
 - Mathias Clasen: Recreational Fear
 - Mark Eaton and Michaela Hejná: Conflict in Popular Culture: Political and Sociolinguistic Approaches
 - Joseph Sterrett: Trust in the End
- Focus area electives, BA English
 - Stephen Joyce: Transmedia worldbuilding

- Dominic Rainsford (DR): Charles Dickens: Best and Worse
- Sten Vikner: English Linguistics Beyond the Basics

- Focus area electives, BA IVK English
 - Antoinette Mary Fage-Butler: Communicating Values
 - Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen: Exploring Interculturality
 - Carmen Daniela Maier: Risk Communication

From the discussion:

- There is no separate BA project course elective on linguistics. There used to be, but for various reasons this is not possible at the moment. PM will look into this for future courses.

Decision:

The UN approved the course descriptions for the electives in autumn 2024, but it was agreed that the final word in the English title of DR's Focus area elective should be checked. MV will follow up on this before the publication of the course description.

8. Information: Changes to academic regulations following a review by the Dean's Office to take effect on 1 September 2024

The UN was informed that the Vice-Dean for Education has reviewed and approved the department's proposals for changes to academic regulations regarding KA CLM 2020 (Project placement), KA English (SLK) (Project placement), and BA-TV Strategic communication (The communicating organization).

On this basis, the UN was informed about the specific changes to academic regulations that will take effect on 1 September 2024. Changes in autumn courses are to be published in the course catalogue on 1 April 2024.

9. Information: New guidelines from the Dean's office regarding generative artificial intelligence

The UN was informed of new guidelines from the Dean's office regarding generative artificial intelligence (GAI). According to these new guidelines, more students at AU will now be able to use ChatGPT and other forms of GAI in their exams. The university's rules have just been amended so that students can use GAI in the following summer exams in 2024:

- 1) Bachelor's projects
- 2) Master's theses
- 3) Final exams on continuing and further education programmes
- 4) Exams for which it explicitly states in the relevant course descriptions that students may use generative artificial intelligence.

Regarding the courses referred to in bullet point 4, the Dean's office has decided to manage special cases in the spring of 2024 in the same way as in the previous semester: Teachers may, if necessary, inform students on Brightspace that the use of GAI is allowed for a particular course. The reason for this is that it is too late now to revise course descriptions in the AU course catalogue.

Further information is available on the AU website here (in English):

<https://medarbejdere.au.dk/en/news-articles/news/artikel/nu-maa-studerende-bruge-ai-til-specialer-og-bacheloropgaver>.

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

The UN was not informed of the preliminary agenda for the upcoming SN meeting on 28 February 2024, as it was not available when the UN agenda was finalised and made available to the UN. A copy of the preliminary SN agenda was subsequently posted on the UN's o-drive.

For information about the SN, including agendas and approved minutes, see:

<https://studerende.au.dk/studier/fagportaler/arts/kontakt/udvalgognaevn/studienaevn/kommunikation-og-kultur>

11. Information: Brief introduction to members of the new UN

For the benefit of new UN members in particular, the UN was given an ultra-brief introduction to the role of the UN within the School of Communication and Culture (IKK). Members were referred to the documents for this item. Any questions should be directed at UN secretary Anne Bjørn Friis.

12. Messages

The UN received updates and news from:

- *Head of Department:*
 - The evaluation of ICS will not be fast-track after all but will instead follow the standard track. Students from ICS will be invited to participate in the evaluation meetings.
- *Academic and administrative staff:* Nothing
- *Students:*
 - Some students say that they do not get enough information from student counsellors in regard to re-exams, dates for signing up for exams and the like. There are not enough visiting hours to help all students when they need it. The representative at the UN meeting from the student counsellors explained the situation from their perspective and promised to address the issues with her superiors.
 - Many students are complaining that smoking areas are placed just outside entrance doors. The department secretariat will take this up with the building staff.
- *Arts Studies:* Nothing
- *Student counsellors (Studievejledning/VEST):*
 - The UN was informed of and presented with a list of upcoming events held by the Student Counsellors' Office in the spring of 2024. The list was posted on the UN's o-drive as: 'UN-Engl-EXTRA-SSV Sprogfagene arrangementer F24'.
 - U-days started the day after the UN meeting.
- *Internationalisation coordinators:*

- Evaluations from the autumn semester show that exchange students are not only studying at AU but are also looking for work and trying stay on or return to Aarhus after finishing their studies.

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13. Deadline for submitting documents for the next UN meeting

Any documents for the UN meeting in March 2024 should be sent to Anne Schjoldager (asc@cc.au.dk) and/or Anne Bjørn Friis (abf@au.dk) *no later than on Monday, 4 March 2024.*

14. Any other business

Nothing.