

Meeting: 18th November 2020 at 11.00-13.00

In Zoom:

UN-meeting, LICS

Minutes

Present:

UN members:

Ethan Weed (chair of the meeting), Jan Rijkhoff, Kristian Tylén, Peter Bakker, William McGregor, Mikkel Wallentin

UN LICS

Dato: 18.11 2020

Observers:

Johan Keller Jensen, Alexandra Kratschmer, Sofie Raun, Cordula Vesper, Kristina Duun (student counsellor), Karsten Olsen, Rebekah Baglini, Jeroen Willemsen, Joshua Skewes (head of department), Jakob Steensig, Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK, minute taker)

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Guests:

Solveig Sandal Johnsen, Jesper Olsgaard

1. Approval of agenda and follow up on the minutes from last meeting

The UN approved the agenda and there were no follows up on the minutes from the last meeting.

2. Plagiarism (discussion and decision)

In order to continue the discussion about whether or not to have URKUND automatically turned on for all assignments at the department, the UN had invited URKUND coordinators Solveig Sandal Johnsen and Jesper Olsgaard, to join the Meeting.

Solveig gave a presentation of the system, which showed the UN how the system works.

URKUND is an anti-plagiarism system used at AU. It is mainly used via the Digital Exam system, but it is also possible for teachers to get personal accounts.

It was informed that the system gives you a text similarity report showing the degree of text similarity – it does not prove plagiarism. It makes it easier for teachers to find text overlaps.

URKUND uses three main sources:

- The Internet (not everything on the internet, some documents are not available for URKUND)
- Academic published material
- previous submitted student documents (you only get access to the specific text if it is from AU)

Solveig informed the UN, that URKUND is only a tool that can be used by the teachers, it is not for students to use. Here it is up to the teachers to teach students about academic integrity and the right way to do quotations.

Via the Digital Exam system URKUND can only be used to the entire class, and not to check individual papers. This can only be done by getting an individual account or by asking AU library to do the report. AU library would prefer that not all teachers get an individual account, since they have experienced that this has been misused.

Solveig will look into what the coloring in the report means and get back with an answer to Alexandra who asked the question.

It was asked how students react to this system and the knowledge of it being turned on. To this it was mentioned that the students who worry about plagiarism and quoting correctly will probably worry regardless to whether or not the system is turned on.

It was asked whether or not the moral issues of this system had been discussed in the URKUND group at AU library. To this it was answered that this is not a concern for the staff at AU library since they are only supporting the usage of the system. The university has decided to use the system, so any questions about the moral aspects of the system should be sent to the university.

It was stated that if teachers find cases of plagiarism they should contact the legal department, and not AU library.

Ethan Weed and Joshua Charles Skewes thanked Solveig and Jesper for joining the meeting and presenting the system.

Decision:

The UN decided that URKUND should not be turned on by default for all courses at the department. But each teacher can contact Head of Department if they want the system turned on for certain exams. Then Head of Department will pass this on to UVAEKA at the semester coordination meetings.

For the courses where the system is not turned on, it is possible for teachers to have URKUND turned on for all exams in a course, at request to UVAEKA.

Head of Department will send an email to all teachers to make sure, that they are aware of this decision.

3. Briefings (orientation)

3.1 News from the Board of Studies

Ethan Weed informed the UN about the items being discussed at the latest Board of Studies meeting.

- The Director of Studies had informed about the one meter distance rule, which will continue for the spring semester.
- Frustration about booking teaching facilities was mentioned again, and the comments from the Board of Studies have been communicated onwards.
- Students are feeling more stressed about the possibilities for online teaching and technical difficulties, and they feel frustrated about the lack of social arrangements.
- A lot of students are concerned about the lack of possibilities for going abroad in the spring.
- The teaching evaluations were discussed, and one of the main comments was that students would like more feedback.
- The Board of Studies decided to continue with the same mandatory questions for teaching evaluations for the next semester. There is still a complaint about the question on digital teaching, which will be looked at.
- There had been a discussion of the oral exams and whether or not these should be onsite or blended.

In connection to this Head of Department informed that it has been decided by the University management that the all exams will be held on campus.

3.2 News from the Institute Forum

There has been a joint meeting with LSU about the institute economy. Diversity will be a new theme for the institute. It is normally thought about while hiring staff, but now there should also be a focus on diversity in the curriculum.

3.3 News from the student guidance

The social aspect of the corona situation is a big topic at the moment and students are worried about the next semester, and how they will get to know their class mates.

There is a general concern from the ITTU students. Both regarding this spring semester but also for next year. Some students are thinking about switching 3. and 4. Semester, but the guidance does not encourage this.

It was mentioned that the academic regulations for the Bachelor's degree programme in linguistics 2010 is closing. This means that some students according to plan for the phasing out of the regulations do not get three attempts for the exam of the Bachelor project. The people from Student guidance have been in contact with the administration about this. There is a clash between the plans for the phasing out and the transitional regulations since the students cannot be moved to the new regulations without losing ECTS. It was mentioned that this should be a focus point for future regulations.

- 3.4 News from staff and students
No news

- 3.5 News from the study administration
The Arts Studier Newsletter is publicly available at the teacher's portal at Arts:
https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fileadmin/www.medarbejdere.au.dk/hovedomraader/Arts/Underviserportal/Nyhedsbreve_Arts_studier/2020/November_2020_Nyhedsbrev_fra_Arts_Studier.pdf

4. News from Head of Department (orientation)

(1) UPDATE – POSITIONS

- IKK- Professor in Cognitive Science (In negotiation)
- IKK – Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science (Shortlisting)
- IKK/CHC – (Fixed term) Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science and Digital Humanities (Under evaluation)

(2) INFORMATION – TEACHING PLANNING F21

We are in the process of adjusting the spring teaching schedule. We have increased latitude to shuffle rooms between courses on a semester, and we have fewer constraints on how we need to deliver courses, so the dialogue with UVEAKA is much better. We may also have the possibility to book additional workshops in the days up to Easter if we need to. The HoD is meeting with teaching groups within each semester, on each program, to coordinate the solutions we have, and to shuffle rooms if it makes sense (I will not meet with teaching groups where all courses have a room).

(3) INFORMATION – INSTRUCTORS

Part of this process is also deciding how best to use student instructors. The HoD hopes to get this finished asap so we can send out ads for student instructors. He may write out a general email to the student community, to inform them that ads will be coming soon.

(4) DISCUSSION – LICS SLACK CHANNEL?

More social communication into the work. Rebekah will set this up and send a link around. This can be used by those who want to. [is done]

(5) INFORMATION – LICS TALKS TO RESUME

5. Issues for upcoming meetings

- 11.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings
- 11.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies

6. "Rondvraag" (short questions/comments before the closure of meeting)