

Meeting: 21st October 2020 at 11.00-13.00

Minutes

In Zoom:

UN-meeting, LICS

Called:

UN members:

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

UN LICS

Dato: 21.10 2020

Observers:

Johan Keller Jensen, Alexandra Kratschmer, Sofie Raun, Cordula Vesper, Josephine Sørensen Brunsgaard (student counsellor), Karsten Olsen, Rebekah Baglini, Joshua Skewes (head of department), Jakob Steensig, Peter Thramkrongart, Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK, minute taker)

Side 1/6

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. Briefings (orientation)

2.1 News from the Board of Studies

At the Board of Studies the election of the Head of Studies was mentioned. The current Head of Studies Lars Kiel Bertelsen wishes to continue, but there are also room for anyone else to run for the post.

There had also at the last Board of Studies meeting been a long discussion of the conflict between the administration and the departments. Head of Department mentioned, that this has also been a topic at a lot of the meetings that he attended.

The problem with the new language policy at the Master's degree in Linguistics were also mentioned at the Board of Studies meeting, along with some other comments about the new policy.

Head of Department informed that he, since the last UN meeting, had found out that it is a faculty decision, which means, that maybe something can be done about it. At the moment Head of Department is looking into the possibilities of getting a dispensation like the one given to the language programmes, which makes it possible for students to take the exam in Danish.

It was mentioned that it is important that there can be given an answer soon, since the teachers have to tell the students about the rules in the thesis preparation course. Teachers are preparing students to write their thesis in the spring.

For now, the students writing in the autumn semester, can write the thesis in Danish. It was mentioned that a proposal could be written to the Board of Studies, to have them vote for whether or not Linguistics should be given a dispensation.

The UN decided to wait for an answer, and if this would not come soon, they will look into the possibility of asking the Board of Studies.

At the next Board of Studies meeting, the board are asked to approve the teaching evaluation reports, and look at the obligatory questions for teaching evaluations. The Board of Studies will also approve the emergency academic regulations, which the UN at LICS, had approved for the department before this meeting. The last course to be settled was *Text: Processing, critique and improvement* at the Master's degree programme in Linguistics. The UN approved at the meeting that this will be a zoom exam using the existing exam description.

2.2 News from the Institute Forum

Nothing to report since there had not been a meeting since the last UN meeting.

2.3 News from the student guidance

A representative from the student guidance informed that the Studiepraktik is taking place these days. Since it is held in zoom, there will probably be a very different feedback.

The student guidance receives a lot of questions about the supplementary subjects, and students who are not able to go abroad as planned.

It was informed that the student council (fagråd) for cognitive science is moving forward.

2.4 News from staff and students

Nothing to report

2.5 News from the study administration

Camilla Mark Thygesen informed about the newsletter from Arts Studier, which is publicly available at the staff portal at Arts: https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fileadmin/www.medarbejdere.au.dk/hovedomraader/Arts/Underviserportal/Nyhedsbreve_Arts_studier/2020/Oktober_2020_Nyhedsbrev_fra_Arts_Studier.pdf

Regarding the news about the questionnaire to be sent around to students this week, gathering data about study intensity, the Head of Department informed that it is important that the teachers tell students to answer as correctly as possible and include all the time they spend, not only on campus and in class, on their study.

It was mentioned by a student representative that the categories for the questions do not fit students from cognitive science, which might influence the way students answer the questions. Head of Department mentioned that this can be included in the future action plan if necessary.

It was mentioned that it would be a good idea to remind students to include the workload in the exam period and write an average throughout the semester.

It was mentioned that the project "Akademiker i erhvervlivet" has been introduced to the students via email, but that it is also a good idea for teachers to mention this, and maybe the department could consider inviting someone from VEST to present the project to the relevant students.

3. Status on the election for the new UN (orientation)

Head of Department introduced the list for the VIP which includes a representative from each degree programme.

Johan Keller Jensen, who is list coordinator for the students, informed that at the moment only he and Peter Thramkrongart will be on the list for the election. They are still trying to find a student from cognitive semiotics.

— Next year the *fagråd* will work more on letting students know what the UN is, and try to find more students.

It was mentioned that maybe students do not know what the UN is, and that it would be a good idea to inform them about the agenda and minutes from the meetings. Head of Department will send a link to students each month on Blackboard, where they can find this information.

4. Status on the action plans (orientation/discussion)

— Head of Department gave a short update on the action plans. Overall the initiatives have been working and updated regulations will also help getting positive data for the yearly status. The corona situation might have had a negative effect on some of the numbers, which before corona were going the right way (e.g. dropout).

Camilla Mark Thygesen informed that the action plans have all been approved by the institute.

5. Plagiarism (decision)

— The UN discussed whether or not it wanted to make a decision to turn on the plagiarism programme URKUND automatically for all exams at the department.

The UN discussed the pragmatics of the programme and some felt that it would give teachers a bigger workload, while others (mostly teachers who had tried the programme) were sure that it would save time for the teachers.

It was discussed whether or not students were able to see the numbers calculated by the programme in the digital exam system, and whether or not students could check this before handing in their assignments. Some believed that it would relieve some stress for the students, if they could check this, because that would give them a knowledge about whether or not they have cited texts in the right way. Others were afraid that it would bring the students more stress, if they saw a high number, e.g. in

group assignments, where the teachers would expect a high number. It was mentioned that it could be used as a learning tool for the students to learn about the balances between citation and plagiarism.

The UN wishes to find out more about what the students can see in the digital exam system.

Students mentioned that they already thought that such a programme was turned on for all their assignments, since they are very focused about plagiarism. In general they were not against the programme if it could help the teachers. But it has to be communicated to the students, whether or not it is turned on.

The UN also discussed if this had to be turned on for all courses or if teachers could choose it for their own course. Some believed that it had to be a joined decision for it to make sense, while other suggested to let a few courses try it out at first.

It was mentioned that if URKUND is not turned on from the beginning, it can be turned on afterwards, if teachers find it necessary to check for plagiarism, but it will still have to be turned on for all students doing the assignment.

The ethical issues about the programme were also discussed. Some felt like it would show the students that the teachers assume, that they all cheat at their exam. The UN wishes to discuss the ethical issues more, when they have more information about the programme.

If the UN decides, that it should be turned on for all courses, it is necessary that the teachers are properly introduced to it.

At a later time, the UN would also like to discuss how teachers deal with plagiarism, and what to actually do with the information that the programme is giving.

It was pointed out that cases of plagiarism have to be reported to the University, the vice chancellor or his representative at the institute

Decision:

The UN decided to invite the URKUND coordinator to the next meeting to answer questions about the programme, and which possibilities it has. After that the UN can make a decision about whether or not to turn the programme on.

Head of Department will also talk to other Head of Departments to hear about their experiences with the programme.

6. Approval of changes to the current academic regulations (decision)

The suggested change was presented.

Decision:

The UN approved the change and recommended it for approval in the Board of Studies.

7. News from Head of Department (orientation)

(1) INFORMATION – ARTS FINANCES

- Coronavirus seems at this stage not to have caused major problems for Arts' finances. IKK's business model is particularly robust, because most of our funding comes from large educations. Very much simplified, our financial situation is dependent on two things: 1) students enrolling in our programs and completing their exams on time, and 2) politicians decisions about how much universities should get for this. At this stage, neither parameter has been radically reduced by the pandemic. But that could change. Other schools/faculties have slightly different business models and may be affected in different ways, but there is no reason for pessimism at present at IKK.

(2) INFORMATION – IT VEST

- IT Vest are holding a case competition for Cand. It. students. Details are here <https://www.cand-it-vest.dk/case-competition/>. Please advertise to Danish speaking (unfortunately) MSc Cognitive Science students.

(3) REMEMBER – STUDENT ADVISERS

All students are asked to remember to consider if the student advisers can help them, in stead of starting at the administration or Head of Department. It can be a confusing system, but just remember, that the student advisers are there to help.

(4) 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 (Shortlisting)

(5) INFORMATION – TEACHING PLANNING F21

We are in the process of checking the spring 21 plans. I expect that spring semester will be conducted under very similar circumstances to the current semester. Recall that for fall, our starting point was extremely rigidly defined by our initial plan. So now is the chance to get this right – or at least less wrong. If you have a lab or something that Sofie and I don't know about, and you don't tell me about it now, it almost certainly isn't happening. Or if you have a weird schedule, and you haven't let us know about that when we had the chance to review the plans, there is a high probability you'll be stuck with what we report.

8. Issues for upcoming meetings

11.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

11.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies

Side 6/6

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