

Meeting: 10th February 2021 at 11.00-13.00

Minutes

In Zoom:

UN-meeting, LICS

Present:

UN members:

Ethan Weed (chair of the meeting), Alexandra Kratschmer, Cordula Vesper

UN LICS

Dato: 10.02 2021

Observers:

Johan Keller Jensen (student representative), Peter Thramkrongart (student representative), Helle Skjøth Sørensen (student representative), Jan Rijkhoff, Kristian Tylén, Peter Bakker, William McGregor, Mikkel Wallentin, Mads Jensen, Karsten Olsen, Riccardo Fusaroli, Byurakn Ishkhanyan, Chris Mathys, Rebekah Baglini, Daina Crafa, Jakob Steensig, Kristina Duun/ Josephine Sørensen Brunsgaard (student counsellor), Joshua Skewes (head of department), Sabrina Bækkelund Larsen (Department consultant), Julie Zederkof (SNUK, minute taker), Peter Waade (Guest), Peter Waade, Sebastian Scott Engen

Side 1/6

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

The UN approved the minutes.

At the last meeting it was asked if there was a place where members of the new fagråd could be listed, so all students would know who to contact. Julie Zederkof informed as a follow up to this question, that there is a webpage on the Study Portal, where the fagråd can get their own page and make a description of their work:

<https://studerende.au.dk/studier/fagportaler/arts/kon-takt/udvalgognaevn/fagudvalg/>

The agenda and previous minutes of UN meetings are publicly available at the UN web page: <https://studerende.au.dk/studier/fagportaler/arts/kon-takt/udvalgognaevn/uddannelsesnaevn/kommunikation-og-kultur/>

In the future material for meetings can be accessed in sharepoint. Contact the Ethan Weed for access to the folder in sharepoint.

2. Presentation of Gather.town

Peter Waade and Sebastian Scott Engen presented gather.town.

Gather.town is a software for interacting online. It is similar to the functions of zoom, except that people move a little avatar around in an online simulated universe resembling the university, and are connected by video and sound to those that have avatars nearby them. This allows for better group work dynamics where students can split up and move between groups, or where the teacher can move between groups, in ways that resembles normal class life a bit more. In addition to this, the plan is to set up a larger virtual space for all students at cognitive science and cognitive semiotics, potentially also linguistics, with separate classrooms for the different courses, and with a Friday bar and study café. Hopefully, this can allow students to feel a bit

more connected, and can facilitate social and study-related activities that are otherwise impossible under the COVID lockdown restrictions.

Side 2/6

Join Gather.town

Join Gather.town at: [Gather | Cogwarts](#) (Google Chrome). Can be tried out by all. At the time 120 people can join the platform at the same time. This means that four classes can go at the same time. This is a buffer since there are not planned so much teaching at the same time.

Feedback from teachers

Teachers enjoy using the platform. It is nice to walk around and interact with students. The platform have worked fine for teaching programming courses.

Some misses the recording function from zoom. It is discussed whether Gather.town are suitable for lessons compared to zoom. Gather.town is more demanding to run for the computer.

Teachers furthermore mentioned that students have to discover more of the features to get the full benefit of the platform. For instant to change the the default settings on the video from one person view to gallery view.

Suggestion of promotion

It was suggested that gather.town could be promoted to Lingoland as a social offer. Peter Waade and Sebastian Scott Engen can contact MA student at the Linguistic programme Gustav Johannesen regarding this matter.

It is also suggested that gather.town are promoted to the supplementary subjects in the department.

It was suggested to set up teaching rooms for classes in the Linguistic programme and that teachers at linguistics could start to use it.

3. Briefings (orientation)

3.1 News from the Board of Studies

- Thesis students have asked if they can have access to study carrels (specialepladser). Furthermore students have talked about missing the daily contact with fellow students.
- The teacher role in cases where students meet in private have been discussed. The consensus was that teachers should not urge students to meet in person and that they have no obligations to look into cases were students meet in private.
- The new Learning Management System Brightspace which replaces Blackboard can be accessed by teachers in May.
Josh Skewes will send out an email regarding if content from existing courses are exported into Brightspace and when Blackboard closes down.

3.2 News from the Institute Forum

There have not been a meeting since last UN meeting.

3.3 News from the student guidance

- Much time and energy are used on the planning of U-days
- Upcoming events are furthermore
 - o The presentation (recruiting) of the MA programmes. This year a combined presentation of Linguistics and Cognitive semiotics.
 - o The Supplementary subject event
- There are nothing special to report from the office hours.

3.4 News from fagrådet

- Cognitive Science are not constituting until they can meet in person.
- Linguistics talked about online exams at their last meeting.

3.5 News from staff

The union representative informed that the unions have made a new 3 year deal with the state. The union representative have uploaded information about this on Slack. The deal e.g. means salary improvements and improved conditions for contemporary contracts.

Regarding salary negotiations – the deadline is 25/2. Everyone are encouraged to apply but there are only 0,5% of the budget used for negotiations. The institute leader have informed that the budget barely are enough for salary improvements for the permanent staff which are put ahead of temporary staff. The union representative disagree with this point of view and objected at the meeting.

3.6 News from the study administration

- Julie Zederkof informed about the newest Newsletter from Arts Studier which is publicly available at the teacher's portal at Arts: <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/ar/til-undervisere-paa-arts/nyhedsbrev-fra-arts-studier/>
This month the main point includes:
 - Language policy – a reminder of the current rules
 - Plans to welcome new students in 2021
 - Bachelor admissions in relation to average grades (Power BI)
 - Drop-out rates on Bachelor's degree programmes in relation to average admission grades, quotas and priorities (Power BI)

- Julie Zederkof informed that the [Study Portal](#) is now updated with the new members of the UN

- Julie Zederkof informed about a small change made in the academic regulations for the [supplementary subject in Social Minds](#). In the course Cognition in Social Interaction the description of a take home assignment with a product was unclear about whether the described number of students in a group applies for both the assignment and the product. This has now been correct, so there is no doubt that the assignment and the product are both included in the exam and therefore the described number of students applies for both parts.

4. Orientation changes in current academic regulations after approval by the Vice Dean

The Vice Dean for education has now addressed the suggestions for changes to current academic regulations, and the UN were informed about the outcome.

The Vice Dean approved the following changes:

BA Linguistics – Bachelor's project – changes to the description of the teaching

5. New academic regulations and changes in current academic regulations 2022

The UN decided not to start any revisions for new academic regulations for 2022.

6. Discussion of the end-of-term teaching evaluations from autumn 2020

The Board of Studies have decided to continue with the simplified reporting format (see the minutes of the SN-meeting, 28.10.2020). On the basis of a discussion in the UN, the Head of Department must therefore write a summary report (scope: approx. 1 page) of the course evaluation for autumn 2020, in the same reporting format, which was tested with the evaluations for spring 2020.

Joshua Skewes informed that not all courses are mentioned in the evaluation report, which is a general overview but he assures that he has noted down all the important details from all courses where action is needed.

Especially two things are mentioned:

- Split of classes are resource-intensive and inconvenient for teaching.
- Some general comments to the on the management on teaching planning.

Ethan Weed comments that he likes the new approach by seeing on the evaluations collectively and using them strategically.

Joshua Skewes asked students, whether they feel represented in the conclusions of the evaluation report, when every evaluation is not discussed at the UN. Student's response to the report is that they feel included in the process. Student's main frustration with the quality control regarding evaluation results is that they often experience not to benefit from their own comments in the evaluations. Joshua Skewes want to talk with the students in a future meeting on having an additional process on course development.

Students complained about classes being held late (16 pm-18 pm). Joshua Skewes informed that he have been told that the timetable can't be changes since students should count on their timetable and due to organizational circumstances.

7. Discussion of the evaluations of Project placement (projektorienteret forløb)

The UN discussed and commented on the evaluations of project placement (projektorienteret forløb) for autumn 2020 both from students and project hosts.

Side 5/6

Joshua Skewes informed that due to technical problems there are no evaluation from Cognitive Science.

The UN focused the discussion on that the same problem comes up for most international students. The students need proper documentation for taking internship in DK. The project coordinators need information of who to contact if there are questions about visa etc.

The UN finds it problematic that international students can't have a job aside the internship which is required for them to stay in DK. The 'profilfag' is not viewed as a good option for these students and they therefore have to do an internship.

The UN decides to contact a representative from the International Centre to join the project coordinators presentation on internship.

Joshua Skewes, Sabrina Bækkelund Larsen and Kristina Duun will set up a meeting with Studieleder Lars Kiel Berthelsen on the issue.

Furthermore the UN discussed that it seems that it is very different how much coordination teachers have with the companies. It could be good to have some minimum standards on the one hand and on the other hand it seems very different what both students and companies benefit from. The UN did not reach a conclusion on this part of the discussion.

8. News from Head of Department (orientation)

(1) UPDATE – POSITIONS

- IKK- Professor in Cognitive Science (In negotiation)
- IKK – Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science (Under evaluation)
- IKK/CHC – (Fixed term – 3 years) Ross Deans Kristensen-McLachlan: Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science and Digital Humanities (Completed)

(2) UPDATE – LINGUISTICS EXAM LANGUAGE

- Exemption from rule added to regulations for students enrolled prior to 2021
- Peter Bakker have talked to 2nd semester students BA on their opinions of writing exams in English. Students feel diversely about this change in exam language. One third are against and feel that the exam language could affect their choice of MA studies. The rest are either positive about writing exams in English or undecided.
- There might be opportunities for some general exceptions to the rules. These exceptions Are to be negotiated with the institute.
- Risk of further reduction to English language places, from Danish government (650 millioner kroner i SU til udlændinge i 2023: Der skal »skæres mange engelsksprogede uddannelsespladser« (berlingske.dk)). We should discuss the rele-

vance of this prospect to how we tackle this issue after 2021. Since the department don't yet know if there are to be further consequences for Universities and how it effects educations in LICS, it is decided to await the situation.

Side 6/6

(3) UPDATE – TEACHING SCHEDULE

- Teachers are welcomed to contact Joshua Skewes if they have questions e.g. about corona
- Backup plans for exams are soon to be planned
- Rebekah Brita Baglini brings up that some students at LING and COGSEM complains about the lack of systematization on formation of study groups. They have different groups in different courses and therefore students use much time coordinating. It might be a difficult problem to solve, since students are split between obligatory courses, elective courses and combined courses between Cognitive Semitics and Linguistics. It is suggested that Rebekah Baglini, Jakob Steensig and Peter Bakker coordinate formation of groups across their courses. It is suggested that groups are set up in the fall and reused in the spring.
- Joshua Skewes suggest that students need to be informed that this problem exists and that teachers do their best to solve it.
- The student counsellors will like to meet with the teachers to coordinate the formation of study groups. Joshua Skewes will set up the meeting. Students suggests that general complaints about study group formation also can be discussed in the fagråd.

(4) DISCUSSION – CORONAVIRUS UNCERTAINTIES & REFLECTIONS ON SEMESTER-START

Soon to be discussed in a teachers meeting and UN meeting.

9. Issues for upcoming meetings

11.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

There were no issues presented for upcoming meetings.

11.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies

There were no issues presented for upcoming Board of Studies meetings.

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

There were no questions/comments before the closure of meeting.