

Meeting: 17th March 2021 at 11.00-13.00

In Zoom

UN meeting, LICS

Minutes

Present:

UN members:

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

UN LICS

Date: 17.03 2021

Observers:

Johan Keller Jensen (student representative), Mathilde Hyldal Eberholst (student representative), Helle Skjøth Sørensen (student representative), Kristian Tylén, Peter Bakker, William McGregor, Mikkel Wallentin, Karsten Olsen, Riccardo Fusaroli, Chris Mathys, Rebekah Baglini, Jakob Steensig, Ross Deans Kristensen-McLachlan, Josephine Sørensen Brunsgaard (student counsellor), Joshua Skewes (head of department), Sabrina Bækkelund Larsen (department consultant), Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK, secretary)

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

The agenda was approved, and there was no follow-up on the minutes of the last meeting.

2. Briefings

2.1 News from the Board of Studies

Ethan Weed informed the UN about the items from the upcoming Board of Studies meeting

- Evaluations of the project placement: Ethan Weed will bring on the points from the last UN meeting, including issues for international students and the lack of options with regard to the profile courses. The Head of Department informed the meeting that he has been talking to the student counsellors and the Director of Studies about this. The department has sent in a proposal to the school about this to get them to act on the problems for international students. They have suggested hiring a third-year international student as a mentor for the first-year students. This issue has not been settled yet. The Head of Department will inform the UN when there is any news.
- General corona-related issues will be discussed.
- The internal organisation at Arts will also be discussed at the upcoming meeting, and is on the agenda for today's UN meeting.
- Student representatives have raised a point about the commencement of studies, which is also on the agenda for today's UN meeting.
- A student representative has suggested that the different degree programme councils can exchange thoughts and ideas – the student representatives on the UN are asked to think about this and to consider what might be relevant to share with the Board of Studies.

2.2 News from the School Forum

Points from last meeting:

- Internal organisation at Arts– they were introduced to the same document that has been distributed to the UN for this meeting.

2.3 News from the student counsellors

- The online U-days event was a success.

- Overall the students are dealing with the situation, but corona is still a big issue for the students. The student counsellors are planning to have a discussion of well-being with the students.

- A meeting will be held with the students about the upcoming profile semester.

- Career events for MA students will come up as well.

2.4 News from the Degree Programme Council

Johan Keller Jensen reported that he had met the new well-being coordinator. He has collected some new ideas about well-being for students and how the fagråd can contribute to this.

2.5 News from staff

Joshua Skewes presented the application numbers for the MA programmes, which were in general positive for all three programmes.

2.6 News from

Camilla Mark Thygesen mentioned the Arts Studier Newsletter, which is available on the teacher's portal at Arts: <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/ar/til-undervisere-paa-arts/nyhedsbrev-fra-arts-studier/>

3. **Orientation about academic emergency regulations summer 2021**

Ethan Weed presented the process involved in changing the summer exams and mentioned that the official members of the UN had approved the suggestions before the meeting to save time.

The meeting participants approved this procedure on the understanding that they would be involved whenever necessary.

4. **Orientation and discussion about internal organization at ARTS**

The Head of Department presented the document outlining ideas relating to the internal organisation of the faculty, as well as the possible solutions that he could think of. It was also stated that the faculty management team consists of the dean, the vice-deans and the heads of school.

The head of department presented various scenarios:

1. LICS could become part of a new school in the Nobel Park (language degree programmes).
2. LICS could become part of a new school at Katrinebjerg (computer science, aesthetics programmes, media programmes).
3. LICS could be split up – linguistics could become part of a new school in the Nobel Park, while cognitive science and cognitive semiotics could become part of a new school at Katrinebjerg.
4. LICS could be moved to the School of Culture and Society (IKS).

From an internal perspective, LICS is a very united department. But in the views of outsiders, the degree programmes represented at the department might fit into different parts of the faculty.

In general, the head of department did not think that it was a good idea to create a fourth school. One reason for this is the financial burden that this would cause. But the timing is not good, either. Coming back to campus after the lockdown will require some changes that will make it hard to cope with these types of changes as well. The head of department does not believe that splitting up the department would be a good idea, either.

The idea of reorganising the faculty focuses on our teaching activities, which are the basis of our financial situation. But the department also has to think about the research issues involved in the different solutions.

Here are some of the discussions and arguments presented at the meeting with regard to the four different scenarios:

1. Nobel:

This solution would make cognitive science stand out from the rest of the degree programmes and the school, since the other programmes are focused on second language acquisition and upper-secondary school courses. It was mentioned that this solution might end up making the department an applied linguistics department servicing the second language learning programmes.

2. Katrinebjerg:

Linguistics would not fit in at Katrinebjerg. The geographical move would also create a distance to e.g. IMC, which would make collaboration harder. It would also make it hard for cognitive science to stand out from the other computer science programmes at Arts if it becomes too closely connected to them.

3. Splitting up the department

This will make collaboration between the degree programmes difficult. And a lot of the staff work across our different programmes. It was mentioned that it would be a good idea to use the situation facing specific teachers to prove this

point. The department has been trying to create a united department, which will fall apart if it has to split up.

4. Become part of IKS

In order to even out the numbers of the department at the schools, LICS could move and become part of IKS. This might solve some of the problems at the School of Communication and Culture (IKK), rendering any other changes unnecessary. It was mentioned that LICS already has some research collaborations with IKS and already runs the new Bachelor's supplementary subject Social Minds in collaboration with departments at IKS. The Head of Department mentioned that one downside to this solution would be that IKS has a different financial situation, and that the pressure to get grants is bigger at IKS. The UN discussed this, and there were different opinions about whether this was a good or bad thing.

It was mentioned that this solution probably would mean the smallest number of actual changes for the staff. It would primarily be the Head of Department who would have to work in a different way.

After the discussion of the four different scenarios, two questions were asked: why is the faculty suggesting these changes, and why are they being suggested now? The Head of Department said that one of the reasons was that IKK had grown too large and was too complex to run. The Head of Department has previously suggested that operations should be more decentralised and that more responsibility should be placed on the departments to avoid this problem. One of the reasons for the timing was the finalising of the plans for Campus 2.0. It already seems to be difficult to find enough room at Katrinebjerg, which might also be an argument for keeping LICS in the Nobel Park.

The UN agreed with the suggestions and analysis presented by the head of department, and ranked the different solutions as follows:

1. Status quo with more decentralisation
2. Move to IKS
3. Become part of a fourth school in the Nobel Park
4. Become part of a fourth school at Katrinebjerg
5. Split up the department – this should not be an option according to the UN

It was suggested that the other departments might support the idea of moving LICS to the School of IKS so that none of the other departments would have to change.

The Head of Department will go on creating and answer to the faculty management, using the arguments presented during the discussion at the UN meeting.

5. **Orientation about introduction of minimum grade requirement of 6.0 for quota 1 applicants**

The Head of Department informed the UN about the introduction of a minimum grade requirement of 6.0 for quota 1 applicants. He mentioned that this would not have an effect on the degree programmes at LICS, since the admission requirements were higher.

More information can be found here: <https://newsroom.au.dk/en/news/show/artikel/au-indfoerer-karakterkrav-paa-minimum-60-i-kvote-1/>

6. **Input to study start 2021**

The UN had no specific input for the upcoming discussion in the Board of Studies.

7. **News from Head of Department (orientation)**

(1) UPDATE – POSITIONS

- IKK- Professor in Cognitive Science (Offer refused)
- IKK – Assistant Professor in Cognitive Science (Under evaluation)

(2) Email concerning decision about online teaching and exams

Head of Department informed the meeting about the announcement by the senior management team about online teaching and exams for the rest of the semester.

The UN were not surprised about the decision, but the teachers hope that they will be able to use their offices at some point during the semester. It was mentioned that some students had been frustrated about this, but the students in the UN were not surprised.

8. **Issues for upcoming meetings**

11.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

11.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies

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