

Meeting: 12th October 2022 at 12.00-13.00

Minutes

Place: 1481-366

UN-meeting, LICS

Present:

UN members: Ethan Weed (chair of the meeting), Alexandra Kratschmer, Cordula Vesper, Mina Almasi (stud. Rep.), Ronela Beatrice Wagner Fredensborg – attending via zoom (stud. Rep.)

UN LICS

Observers:

Side 1/5

Karsten Olsen, Rebekha Baglini, Peter Bakker, Mikkel Wallentin, Anna Zamm, William McGregor, Ross Kristensen-McLachlan, Jacob Steensig, Riccardo Fusaroli, Marc Malundorf Andersen, Chris Mathys, Laura Bock Paulsen (stud.), Joshua Skewes (Head of Department), Josephine Sørensen Brunsgaard (student counsellor), Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK minute taker)

Absent:

UN members: Emma Olsen (stud. Rep.)

MINUTES

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

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

2. Briefings (orientation)

2.1 News from the Board of Studies

Ethan Weed informed of the following:

- It has been mentioned that there are still problems with exchange students from other universities that need grades for their home university for courses where they only get a pass or fail. This should be informed to the students, and can be considered at an upcoming revision of the regulations, where this might be a problem.

2.2 News from the Institute Forum

The institute forum representative were not present at the meeting.

2.3 News from the student guidance

The student guidance representative informed about the following:

- They receive a lot of questions about applying for cognitive science and if it is possible to come and see the courses. The guidance tell them to contact the teachers to make an appointment.
- There will be an upcoming meeting with the international students about the profile semester

- 3. Semester meeting is coming up about going abroad
- Study practice is being arranged
- 1. Semester meeting coming up soon where the focus will be on the exams. It was mentioned that it should be mentioned for the students that they will be in a new study group next semester. If teachers experience students being unsatisfied with their study groups it should be emphasized that it is an academic group that will be changed each semester, and that they are allowed to do things with other students as well.

2.4 News from fagrådet

Cognitive science: not that many projects going on at the moment. They are working on making a Study café with a focus on methods, where students can teach other students. This is a try to get more students to use the study café also from other years than the first semester.

2.5 News from staff

It was mentioned that it is a possibility to hang up posters about recent publications for all researchers. But it has been noticed that it does not seem updated, so Peter Bakker asked people to be aware, that this is a possibility.

2.6 News from the study administration

Camilla Mark Thygesen presented the newsletter from Arts Studier, which is publicly available at: <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/ar/til-undervisere-paa-arts/nyhedsbrev-fra-arts-studier/>

- Action plans from the annual status review 2022 are approved (more about this under item 5 on the agenda)
- Meetings in October about studying abroad in the supplementary subject year
- It is now possible to submit proposals for internationalisation electives to be offered in the autumn 2023/spring 2024.

3. Approval and proposal of changes to academic regulations (decision)

The degree programme board discussed, approved and proposed changes to academic regulations.

Applied linguistics:

It is suggested to make it possible to do the ordinary exam individually. Teachers at the course would prefer it to a group exam as a default and to make it up to the teachers to give permission to do the exam individually. It was mentioned that this is not possible to put in the academic regulations, so if an individual exam is mentioned here, it should be possible for all students. But teachers are allowed to advise students to do the exam in groups and also make group-based activities in the teaching.

It was suggested to change the number of pages to the following:

1 students: 10-12 standard pages
2 students: 17-22 standard pages
3 students: 24-32 standard pages

Side 3/5

Cognitive neuroscience:

It is suggested to change the form of the re-exam so that it matches with the form of the ordinary exam. Head of Department explained that background for the two different exam forms, and that it is not working in practice as hoped.

Decision:

The degree programme board approved both the suggested changes including the change in the number of pages for Applied Linguistics. The UN submits the changes to the board of studies for discussion at November meeting.

4. Elections to board of studies/degree programme board (discussion)

Mina Almasi who has coordinated the list informed, that she had already sent in the list which includes 10 students from different degree programmes at the department.

5. Status of plans of action (discussion and decision)

Head of Department explained that they have almost done all the actions already or at least started them up. He informed of some of the actions and how they have been dealt with which has included a lot of different staff members.

On the background of this presentation the UN did not want to put any of the actions on the UN agendas in the coming year. The UN are pleased with the way it is going with the action plans.

It was mentioned that sometimes there are problems with the servers and the programmes (e.g. Ucloud) used for both researching and teaching. It was suggested to have an ongoing discussion and sharing of experiences within this field. Head of Department is focused on this and is working on getting it working better in collaboration with relevant people.

It was suggested both to have a list of relevant people to ask when problems are experienced, but also share the information in a way so the same questions are not asked more times.

6. Internationalisation electives – IV-courses (discussion)

The degree programme board discussed the suggested internationalisation electives for the next academic year.

Head of department informed that due to the economic situations at the faculty it has been decided to make a reduction, in the number of IV-courses offered, so

each UN should now only suggest two courses instead of three. Head of Department explained that the two courses suggested are both reputations of previous courses.

Due to Josh's new position as Head of Department at Culture, cognition, & computation the UN at LICS has been allowed to submit three courses this year. This will be discussed at the department with the relevant teachers.

It was mentioned that a lot of students especially at cognitive science choose to take a summer university course instead to make more room on their third semester.

The UN had no comments to the suggested course descriptions.

7. News from Head of Department (Orientation/discussion)

Head of Department informed of the following:

- Semiotics are more or less officially closed. The final evaluation report has been made, and is explaining how the closure will be dealt with. This includes different plans for students who might not be able to take the courses or the exam at the ordinary timeframe. The staff and courses will remain the same for the existing students, they will just be the last cohort.

There is a wish to keep the same department name even though the programme is closing.

- IKK is re-thinking research organization at the moment, and the departments have had a chance to give input. Head of Department informed about the history of the current organization. The department has transformed but the research organizations have not changed in the same way. Research programmes can be applied for soon, and can now be applied for as a department. This is a better solution for the researchers at the department, and there will be an official research coordinator. It was mentioned that we should remember there are researchers working at the department who are officially hired at IKS, IMC. The new coordinator will be looking at formalizing the process for applications, so that everyone can be involved. All research units and centers should be included in the application, which will make it easier to apply, since many researchers have been unaware of the possibility to apply for funding. But in general there is a lack of information about the details of the requirements for applying e.g. if researchers has to be the part of a research unit in order to apply. The more detailed structure for the process will be discussed later.

- Update on the economic situation: There is a hiring freeze at the university at the moment. The department has been effected in different ways due to this. The usage of instructors has been approved to continue, but the department has been asked to look at possibilities for saving money, e.g. by removing one instructor

for courses with that uses two. It was discussed at which courses the usage of instructors is necessary.

It was asked if the raising the number of students has been considered as a possible solution. Head of Department explained that there is no plan to expand the number of students accepted at the programmes. This would require more teachers, and the current number of students is working - also pedagogically. It was mentioned that in regard to the student environment it is good that the number of students at the programmes is not higher. The master's programme at cognitive science do have room for more students, and it was discussed why not all students take the master's after the bachelor. The conclusion was that the conversion rate could be higher but is fairly okay, and that the programme is doing well, and should continue as it is.

It was mentioned that there is an issue with the high number of Ph.D. students that the university do not have a chance to hire, when they are finish. It was mentioned that a Ph.D. gives the students good competences that they can use elsewhere as well, and they should be made aware of the prospects for hiring at the university, when they apply for the position.

8. Issues for upcoming meetings

7.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

It was suggested to add the following point:

- Assistance to the students in navigating in the study regulations.

7.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies