

Meeting: 20th April 2022 at 12.00-13.00

Place: 1485, 316

UN-meeting, LICS

Minutes

Present:

UN members:

Ethan Weed (chair of the meeting), Cordula Vesper

UN LICS

Observers:

Mina Almasi (student representative), Karsten Olsen, Lau Møller Andersen, Jakob Steensig, Kristian Tylén, Anna Zamm, Peter Bakker, Riccardo Fusaroli, Joshua Skewes (Head of Department), Josephine Sørensen Brunsgaard (student counsellor), Sabrina Bækkelund Larsen, Camilla Mark Thygesen (minute taker)

Guest: Nina Vad Thomsen (Student ambassador)

Side 1/6

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:

- The teaching evaluations were approved at the last meeting. Student stress was an issue in a lot of the evaluations, and the Board of Studies discussed how to understand the reports of students stress on one hand and reports on students not spending enough time on their studies on the other.
- There were a presentation of the usage of questionnaires in the beginning of the semester to make student groups.
- The Director of Studies had informed of information to be found on the AU webpage (medarbejder.au.dk) about the consequences for employers regarding the Ukrainian war. If students need information they can contact the student guidance.

2.2 News from the Institute Forum

Karsten Olsen was present at the last Institute Forum meeting and informed of the discussions here.

- There was a clarification of the plans for closing Cognitive Semiotics. Within the next month there will be a more detailed information.

- It was announced that the application patterns and the intake of new students will be a focus point in the decisions of shutting down student places across the degree programmes.
- The research programme organization was discussed. The institute will look at another organization and a plan for this work was discussed. This is also on the agenda for their UN meeting.

2.3 News from the student guidance

The representative from the student guidance informed of the following:

- Second semester meeting for the Master students have been held. Students had asked for this meeting to be held earlier, since the deadline for internships is very early. Students asked what the requirements for product thesis are and what a product might be. Head of Department, Joshua Skewes (HoD) answered that the product thesis is a shorter written paper followed by some short of documentation of a product. But the possibilities for what can be a product are very broad. It depends on the importance and range of the product whether or not it should be counted as an actual product, or as part of the monographic thesis. It will be a question of judgment for the individual cases. The students have to ask their supervisor whether or not their idea can count as a product. It was suggested to make a list of possible products. Ethan Weed will create a document, where teachers can fill in their experiences the different types of products.
- It was asked about the procedure for students choosing thesis supervisor. It was suggested to make a meet ´n´ greet session where students can meet all the teachers, who is possible supervisors and be presented to the head topics that the different teachers can supervise within. Ethan Weed will make this for Linguistics and Semiotics. Due to the close deadline it will not be possible at cognitive science this year, but will be organized for next year. Maybe it can be held together for all programmes next year.
- Carrier path for all programmes are coming up
- Bachelor kick off are being prepared.

2.4 News from fagrådet

Cognitive science:

- They have a meeting on Thursday. There has been a meeting about evaluation of BA supervision, and the students are very happy about the discussions at this meeting. HoD will have meetings with the individual programmes about this now. It was suggested to start evaluating the BA-project course next semester.

Cognitive semiotics:

The representative were not present at the meeting.

Linguistics:

The representative were not present at the meeting.

2.5 News from staff

Different upcoming events were announced.

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/>

3. Annual status review 2022 – part 1 (discussion)

HoD informed of the format for this year's annual status review. It is a formal process which is part the quality control system, which is also part of the re-accreditation to make sure that the quality work are up to the right standard.

Once every five year the degree programmes has to go through a larger evaluation (uddannelsesevaluering). The years between these evaluations the programmes do annual status reviews and make plans of action.

There are four sub-policies for the evaluation and within these there are some key performance indicators which can be seen in the indicator cards.

The four sub-policies are:

1. Getting students off to a good start
2. High-quality, coherent degree programmes
3. Motivational teaching and learning environments
4. Highly qualified graduates with relevant competencies

The plans of action has to contain actions within the four sub policies. The data for from the key indicators will be used, with a specific focus on the red and yellow indicators. But a lot of other material or knowledge from the everyday work at the department can be drawn in to the plan of actions.

HoD presented the overall status for the department:

Some of the mayor problems has for several years been drop outs and employability.

- Employability: Previous years there has been some inaccurate data for the employment due to clusters of data, where several degree programmes has been put together. This year that picture has changed.

- Dropout: the students dropping out before the 1st October are not counted.

- Study intensity: this is a focus point this year, and has a benchmark at 37 hours pr. week. There is a dilemma between students saying there are stressed but at the same time. There has been a lot of discussion of this at the department and institute already.

Cognitive semiotics are closing and therefor the data has not been send out, and there will not be made a plan of action. But there will still be a focus on the programme, but not part of this official status.

This meeting will focus on the retrospective and the next meeting will focus on the approval of the draft for the new plan of action. HoD went through the degree programmes looking at the data and the suggested actions. The UN commented on this, and will be presented to a draft of the plan of actions at the next UN meeting.

Bachelor's Degree Programme in Cognitive Science:

Sub-policy 1:

Regarding the numbers for dropouts it was mentioned that 25% is only 13 students, which is only three more than the benchmark. It is important to look at the application numbers as well, and the fact that it has been a corona year, where it was experienced that students did not want to start at the programmes even though they applied. So the 2020 and 2021 cohorts is a different group of students than usual. Due to the corona the department are not that worried, it depends on whether or not the pattern continue the next couple of years. HoD mentioned that they can overbook the programme and take in more students than they have places for – this to make sure that the cohort do not get to small when some students dropout. The study environment might suffer if the number of students get to small, so it is important to prevent that.

It was mentioned from a student that she gets question from fellow students about what the degree programme can be used for. It is not very clear what cognitive science actually is. This might affect the dropout as well. It was mentioned that it might also affect the number of students going on to the Masters – especially for student who might not be that in to data. It was mentioned that this is okay, and a lot can be done for students only having the BA programme. fte

Sub-policies 2 and 3:

It was mentioned that the student forum meetings are working well and the students feel heard and included – so this will continue. It is important to focus on recruiting students for the fagråd.

Study intensity: it was mentioned that the percentage of answers are quite low. Due to previous discussions about this at the department, it will not be discussed further at this meeting.

Master's degree programme in Cognitive Science:

Sub-policies 2 and 3:

It was noticed that the study intensity is good at the Master's degree programme. The academic regulations have been changed due to talks with the students, so the effects of this has not yet shown, but the department has tried to accommodate with the students wishes. Besides that new staff have been hired so they have more staff.

Sub-policy 4:

Employability: It was mentioned that this indicator looks good.

Bachelor's Degree Programme in Linguistics:

Sub-policy 1:

It was mentioned that this is pretty much the same picture as for Cognitive Science. Corona dropout is very plausible due to the changes in the numbers over the last couple of years.

They will work on getting students to be active in their study environment to help the dropout number. It has been experienced that a lot of students have dropped out due to personal issues – this might also be a late effect of the lock downs.

There will be added some actions looking at the recruitment strategy to see if this will help the dropout number.

Sub-policy 2:

The numbers show a good study environment, but they have experienced a lot of contacts to the student guidance about student not being happy, and it has been very difficult to get students to participate actively at different activities.

The department have been working on getting students to be active in their study environment, and have hired a student ambassador who are in charge of getting student to be active and help create a good study environment.

The student ambassador Nina Vad Thomsen was present at the meeting and presented the results. At the last semester she has been working on creating a student forum called SOLIA. She has been in charge of organizing different events e.g. there has been a visit to the steno museum and movie nights as well. The work of the student ambassador is an action from the last plan of action which will continue.

There has been a problem with students mentioning that there is too much English teaching, but this is no longer experienced as a problem.

In general the department experiences a large satisfaction with the programme.

Master's Degree Programme in Linguistics:**Sub-policy 1:**

It was mentioned that due to the small number of students the increase in the data only means one student.

Sub-policy 2:

It was mentioned that the student intensity looks alright here.

It was mentioned that the courses in general are working fine. The Computational linguistics course still have some problems, but there has been some specific issues, and these has been evaluated, to make sure that they can be fixed next year.

Sub-policy 4:

Good employability after the clutch with other degree programmes has been removed.

It cannot be measured on the employability if the new strategy with focus on the computational linguistics is working, but the department and the students still thinks that it seems like a good idea. It might "scare off" some students from the Master

with this focus, but it is not experienced as a problem, since they experience getting students from other programmes as well.

Side 6/6

4. Discussion of the research organisation

HoD will send out an email to get feedback on this to send to the institute.

5. Discussion of research workshops

Postponed for the next meeting, unless it might be discussed at another meeting before that.

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

- Congratulations to Kristian Tylén for receiving an ERC consolidator grant for the project “The Evolution of Early Symbolic Behavior”. Camilla Søballe Horslund from the Nordic department has been hired to take some of Kristian’s teaching.
- Marc Malmdorf Andersen has been hired as a new associate professor at IMC to teach on the cognitive science program. He will start in the fall on Introduction to Cognitive Science
- We are now evaluating applications for our associate professorship in computational linguistics, which follows on from our assistant professorship in this area.
- We will soon open a new call for a tenure-track professorship in cognitive science at IMC focused on machine learning methods in cognitive science. The cognitive science staff all gave inputs to the call.
- Ida Anthonj Nissen has been hired as a new postdoc

7. Issues for upcoming meetings

11.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

11.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies