

Meeting: 15th November 2023 at 11.00-13.00

Place: 1481-366

UN-meeting, LICS

Minutes

Present:

UN members: Ethan Weed (Chair of the meeting), Alexandra Kratschmer, Cordula Vesper, Nina Vad Thomsen (stud. rep.). UN LICS

Observers:

Riccardo Fusaroli, Marc Malmendorf Andersen, Mikkel Wallentin, William McGregor, Chris Mathys, Andreas Højlund, Lau Andersen, Charlotte Bilde (student guidance), Suzan Kurt (stud.), Victoria Engberg (stud.), Sabrina Zaki (stud.), Joshua Skewes (Head of Department), Sabrina Hansen (department coordinator), Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK minute taker). Side 1/4

Absent:

UN members: Laura Bock Paulsen (stud. rep.), Mina Almasi (stud. rep., Deputy chairperson)

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

- No news

2.2 News from the Institute Forum

- No news

2.3 News from the student guidance

The student guidance informed:

- Studiepraktik was held in week 43 and went well.

2.4 News from Student forum/fagrådet

Students informed:

- Events for the upcoming semester have been discussed in the *fagråd*. There will be events that are relevant for both cognitive science and linguistics students.
- Head of Department informed, that 3. Semester at cognitive science has been discussed in the student forum. The students experience some issues with the methods courses at the degree programme, but this year it is mainly on the 3rd semester. It is experienced that especially for the method courses it can resolve in some issues if a new teacher takes over a course, that has been planned by someone else. This is a difficult task. This is the case this year due to new recruitment of

teachers. It has been discussed both at the student forum and among the teachers, and it has been suggested that the solution would be to create some more sustainable and general material that can be used more easily by different teachers. The material will be like a template that can be used as a standard, and then the teachers can add to this to fit their own style and put an angle on the course.

2.5 News from the Union representative

The Union representative gave a status. This is not included in the minutes.

2.6 News from staff

No news

2.7 News from the study administration

The UN was informed that the newsletter from Arts Studier is available at:

<https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/arts/til-undervisere-paa-arts/nyhedsbrev-fra-arts-studier/>

Letters of reference for student representatives:

If students would like to have a letter of reference in connection with their participation in the UN, they should write the UN secretary Camilla Mark Thygesen by e-mail camillathygesen@au.dk and state their full name, date of birth and the period of time they have been a member of the UN (or participated in the UN in others ways, for instance as the Vice chair).

Normally, the letters of reference are written in Danish, so please state if they should be written in English.

3. Summary of degree programme evaluation meeting for Linguistics

The Head of Department informed the UN about the results of the degree programme evaluation meeting for Linguistics and highlights possible degree programme initiatives which have been incorporated into the revised plans of action. The Head of Department will provide the board of studies with the same information at the December meeting.

Head of Department informed of the following highlights:

- The report was discussed at the meeting, and it was mentioned that the report was to focus on key performance indicators. That is the assignment given the from the management, but the experts did not think this is the most important angle.
- Employability was a focus point in the report, and it was discussed that computational linguistics should not be a course in itself. Head of Department informed the external experts about how it works at the programme, and the conclusion was that in general the degree programme has the right structure and elements.
- First year drop out was also a focus point. The department focuses on recruitment of the appropriate students. This was agreed on as a good strategy at the meeting. With regard to this, it will be added to the action plan, that there will be held workshops at high schools, to inform them about what linguistics is. Nina Vad Thomsen will be in charge of this action.
- Conversation analysis was mentioned by one of the external experts as very important and one of the things that makes the degree programme at AU stand out.

4. Degree programme board questions for teaching evaluation spring 2024 (decision)

The UN can choose a number of obligatory questions at degree programme level and the order of questions – in addition to the obligatory AU question and the board of studies' obligatory questions. These questions will thereby form part of all the teaching evaluations on the degree programme.

Previous decision:

The UN has previously decided not to add any obligatory UN questions when the Board of Studies has chosen so many obligatory questions.

Decision:

The UN decided not to add any obligatory questions.

The UN had some comments about some of the obligatory questions chosen by the board of studies. Ethan Weed will pass these on to the board of studies at the next opportunity:

- The question about how prepared students are for classes should be rephrased. It is difficult for the students to answer, since they do not know what to compare themselves to, and therefore they might indicate a lower number of hours than they actually use. Some students also read the material after class and not before.
- The question about whether the course material fits the exam is also difficult to answer as many students have not done their exam yet when evaluating the course. It was explained that students should reflect on if they feel able to live up to the academic objectives (learning goals).

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

5.1 Support for developing effective teaching methods:

In recent years, the department has started to talk more about how to use effective teaching methods to reduce preparation time in a way that also supports better student learning. The Head of Department suggests a seminar with somebody from CED IN FULL who has knowledge of and experience in this topic, and who he personally believes to be knowledgeable and helpful to this aim.

Teachers present at the meeting were supportive of this suggestion, but it was also discussed that a problem is that the field is constantly moving, and the teachers have to follow this development. So, it takes time to stay updated and teach the newest theories and technologies.

5.2 Election:

Head of Department mentioned that students should be aware of the election since there are two lists for the students. The winning list will be the representatives at the board of studies and the UN.

5.3 Kandidatdag:

Head of Department informed that the Kandidatdag has a different form this year. The departments have been asked to make videos to present their degree programmes. This makes it possible for students to get acquainted with several MA degree programmes. Student counsellors will be present in the Søauditorier to answer questions from students who show up. The video for cognitive science has been made, and Ethan Weed and Jacob Steensig will talk to the student counsellors about the video for linguistics.

Side 4/4

Besides the kandidatdag for all degree programmes, the department is working on making their own version of kandidatdag, where potential new students are invited to campus. It was discussed at the meeting that these days should be held in December.

6. Issues for upcoming meetings

- 7.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings
- 7.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies