

Meeting: 19th April 2023 at 11.15-13.00

Place: 1481-366

UN-meeting, LICS

Minutes

Present:

UN members: Ethan Weed (chair of the meeting), Alexandra Kratschmer, Nina Vad Thomsen (stud. rep.), Mina Almasi (Deputy chairperson), Emma Risgaard Olsen (stud. rep.)

UN LICS

Student alternates:

Suzan Kurt, Geertje Graehn

—

Side 1/7

Observers:

Roberta Rocca, Riccardo Fusaroli, Marc Malmdorf Andersen, Andreas Højlund, Anna Zamm, Lau Andersen, Rebekah Baglini, Mikkel Wallentin, Kristian Tylén, William McGregor (via zoom), Chalotte Bilde (student guidance), Sabrina Hansen (Stud.), Victoria Erykr (stud.) Joshua Skewes (Head of Department), Sabrina Bækkelund Hansen (department coordinator), Camilla Mark Thygesen (SNUK minute taker)

Absent:

UN members: Cordula Vesper, Laura Bock Paulsen (stud. rep.) Ronela Beatrice Wagner Frensborg, Emilie Munch Andreasen, Emma Risgaard Olsen, Helle Skjøth Sørensen, Mia Jacobsen

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 that the following were discussed at the last meeting:

- No news from the board of studies last meeting.
- At the upcoming meeting the board of studies will be discussing the new guidelines for planning and scheduling teaching. The board of studies is given the opportunity to comment on the guidelines. It was said that if any members of the UN or staff have comments, these can be given to Ethan Weed or Head of Department (HoD), Josh Skewes to pass on.

HoD mentioned that in the new guidelines the head of departments has been given the opportunity to ask for changes in the planning if there is any special considerations for certain teachers.

It was mentioned that it should be taken into consideration, that student evaluations might be effected by the time of day the class is placed. It was suggested that someone should look at this, and maybe it should effect how the teaching evaluations are being looked at.

It was suggested to have a talk about the local guidelines for the student's opportunity to follow other classes than their own, if these are placed at a better time.

2.2 News from the Institute Forum

The representative were not present at this time of the meeting.

2.3 News from the student guidance

The representative from the student guidance informed:

- They receive a lot of questions about quota 2 applications at the moment.

2.4 News from Student forum (fagrådet)

Representatives from the student counsel (fagråd) informed, that it has been decided to include linguistic students in the counsel for cognitive science, so now they have a joint student counsel. The role of the student counsel has been discussed in order to try to get more students to attend.

2.5 News from the Union representative

No news

2.6 News from staff

It was mentioned from members of staff that it is a problem that teachers at the first semester is told to do the commencement of studies exam (studiestartsprøve), but is not given any hours for it. It is an important task that takes time away from the teaching and preparation for the specific teacher. Sabrina Bækkelund will look into this.

2.7 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. Diversity in the content of the degree programmes at the Faculty of Arts (Discussion)

On the basis of discussions in *Uddannelsesforum Arts* (UFA), the Vice-dean for education requests that the UNs initiate a (or continue the already initiated) dialogue on diversity in the curricula of the degree programmes at their department.

UN chairperson Ethan Weed started of introducing the point suggesting that the focus of the discussion could be on:

- Ideas for improving diversity.

- What can be done to keep remembering diversity?
- What does diversity mean for the department and the specific degree programmes?

The UN discussed the following:

Diversity in curriculum:

It was mentioned from a student point of view that more minority woman could be included in the curriculum to create more gender diversity. There are a lot of female students, who would appreciate to feel reflected more in the curriculum.

Especially in the philosophy courses it was suggested to include more woman and preferably from different cultures.

Diversity in the gender of the teachers is also preferable for the students. It was suggested to think about the division of classes, so there are both women and men teaching at the semester. Teachers become role models for the students, so it is important to have someone to be able to connect with. It is emphasised that it is not because the male teachers are not good, but it is easier for female students to mirror themselves in female teachers.

These points were supported by the VIP representatives, and it was mentioned that there is a focus on an increased diversity in staff.

There is also a focus on making study groups as diverse as possible, but here it was discussed that on the other hand they should not be too divers, since students also need to be able to mirror themselves in their fellow students.

It was discussed that it might not take that many actions to increase the diversity in the curriculum, since a lot can be done simply by emphasising when it is female writers that are introduced, since this is not always clear. So, a focus on using the pronouns more clearly could help some of the way.

It was discussed that more focus on the person behind the research and their context could help – this would probably help both regarding gender diversity but also diversity in class and ethnicity.

In connect to this it was mentioned that there is a balance in this because introducing the person behind the research can also create a certain idea of the person, and therefore also the theme or theory of the text being discussed.

Diversity in the way of teaching was also mentioned as a good idea to think about.

Formalization of diversity:

It was discussed whether it should be formalized at the department how teachers should include diversity and evaluate on this.

On the one hand this could give some guidelines for the teachers, since it can be difficult to know that is expected in regard of including diversity in the curriculum – to what amount is expected and which types of diversity should be included and prioritized.

On the other hand, it is very difficult to make guidelines for this, since it will vary from course to course. Each teacher needs to reflect on, what makes sense for the concrete course.

As part of this discussion, it was mentioned that there must be a focus on finding the right balance for the course, since random diversity is not a good type of diversity, and maybe the discussion should be on inclusion instead of diversity.

It was suggested to include a discussion on diversity in the midterm evaluation, so teachers get some feedback from the students regarding this. Then it can also be with the focus on the concrete course.

The diversity of the students:

It was mentioned that the diversity of the students could also be a topic for a future discussion, and whether the degree programmes should attract a more diverse student group. In general, the group of students at the department are very homogeneous.

Next step:

The Head of department/UN chair will no later than 30 April 2023 send the output from the discussion (10-15 lines) to the Vice-dean for education at prodekan.uddan-nelse.arts@au.dk. During the autumn of 2023, the Boards of Studies (SN) will be given the output from the discussions in the UNs.

4. Annual status review 2023 (decision)

The annual status review is part of the ongoing quality assurance process relating to degree programmes at the Faculty of Arts, and is described in greater detail in [degree programme quality processes at Arts](#). The purpose of [the annual status review process](#) is that the degree programme board, board of studies and school should prioritise the areas on which the degree programme board will focus in the upcoming quality year to ensure the quality of our degree programmes in accordance with [AU's quality assurance policy](#), based on a systematic review of these degree programmes in their entirety.

Tasks of the head of department and UN:

1. The head of department reviews the status of last year's plans of actions for degree programmes, with input from members of the UN.

OBS: For both Cognitive Science and Linguistics

Actions that have been completed should be entered under “Status of completed actions from the last quality year”. On this basis, the degree programme board discusses whether there are any derived actions which need to be continued. Derived actions should be added to the plan of action for 2023.

2. The head of department produces a draft of the plans of action for degree programmes, which will be discussed by the UN. The UN approves the plans of action for each individual degree programme with a view to recommending them to the board of studies.

OBS: only for Cognitive Science due to the degree programme evaluation of Linguistics.

The plans of action for 2023 are an extension of the quality work done in previous years, so the experience gained in each degree programme can be carried forward to the new quality year.

The plans of action proposed by the degree programme board are discussed by the board of studies in June. Provisional plans of action are prepared alongside the evaluation report for all the degree programmes which are to be evaluated.

At the meeting HoD presented the process and the purpose of the annual review. After that he presented the data for the degree programmes and the draft for plans of action.

Bachelor’s degree programme in Cognitive Science and Master’s degree programme in Cognitive Science

HoD had as an appendix for the meeting drawn up a draft for plan of action. In this is included a status of the plan of action for 2022 and suggestions for plan of action for 2023, which takes the new data material into account.

The UN approved the new plan of action and had no comments about the actions for 2023 or the described status for the 2022 plan of action.

In the presentation of the data material HoD focused on the one red indicator for study intensity at the Bachelor’s degree programme.

The UN discussed why this number is not high enough. It was mentioned from the students that they do the work required and read all the material it is a heavy load, but it is experience that a lot of students do not do this, because it does not seem necessary to pass the exams. It might be a bit too easy to slack through the degree programme if this is what the students want. It was also mentioned that the number might not reflect the actual number of hours spent in average throughout the semester. Some students might not spend that many hours during the semester, but then spend a lot of time.

It was suggested that it might help to make the students work on their exam projects earlier in the semester. This might make the students more engaged with the teaching.

It was suggested to add this to the plan of action, in order to get this idea spread out to more courses.

Bachelor's degree programme in Linguistics and Master's degree programme in Linguistics

These degree programmes are going through a degree programme evaluation, and therefore there will not, in connection to the annual status review be made new plans of action for these degree programmes. At the UN meeting in May the UN discussed the focus points from the evaluation report, and the discussion of the data will continue in other fora at the department in connection to the process for the evaluation.

Decision:

The degree programme board decided to approve the draft of the plans of action made by HoD with the addition of the action mentioned in regard to study intensity at the bachelor's degree programme in Cognitive Science. The UN submits the plans of action for 2023 for discussion by the board of studies.

Next step

HoD sends action plans for 2023 to the secretary of the Board of Studies on the 20th June at the latest.

5. Annual report from the chair of external co-examiners (item for discussion)

This was postponed to the next UN meeting.

6. Degree programme evaluation Linguistics – finding students for the preliminary meeting and evaluation meeting

In connection with the degree programme evaluation, students are required to participate in preliminary meeting and evaluation meeting. This may be done in collaboration with the UN/degree programme board's student representatives.

Several students expressed wishes to participate, and it was agreed that HoD sends out an email to the linguistic students in the UN with the dates for the meetings, and they will get back to him with an answer.

HoD informed that the evaluation report is almost done. He also informed that it has been decided that the meeting should be held in Danish, and this will influence the list of possible external experts. The UN protested to this and said that the evaluation meeting should be in English to secure the usage of the most relevant external experts.

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

- All teachers teaching the first semester will be attending a course made by the CED. There will be given hours for this.
- It is the experience that the exchange students can be confused about the exam forms, and therefore there will be held a meeting for this group of students, where they will be given more information about the exams.
- Student admission is coming up – there has been shown interest from the School about having more students at the programmes at the LICS departments. It is a strategic discussion about whether the department wants the degree programmes to grow, since it is working the way, it is now.

Side 7/7

8. Issues for upcoming meetings

8.1 Issues for upcoming UN meetings

8.2 Issues for upcoming meetings suggested for the Board of Studies
