

Meeting Subject

UN Meeting – Global Studies

Moderator: Uwe Skoda

Ref.: Camilla Mark Thygesen

Date: Wednesday 20th May 2020

Duration: 14.00-16.00

Present: Uwe Skoda, Peter Bugge, Anemone Platz, Jason Tran.

Observers: Georg Fischer, Andreas Steen, Birgitte Pristed, Gauri Pathak, Vladimir Pacheco, Christoffer Kølvrå.

From Arts Studier: Camilla (ref.)

Absent: Asta Jensen Raae , Jakob Kristen Winter Overgaard, Gustav Brorholt Eskildsen, Rikke Sønderby Nielsen, Liselotte Malmgart, Studievejledere IHO, Anna Sønnichsen

| Agenda item: | Discussion and conclusion: | Follow-up |
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| 1. Approval of agenda and follow up from the minutes from last meeting | The agenda was approved and there was nothing to follow up on from the minutes. | |
| 2. Questions about the Corona situation | <p>Jason Tran (JT) shortly presented the situation for the 4th semester students from all the Bachelor degree programmes at Global Studies, who are not able to go abroad due to the current situation. The issue has also been discussed in the board of studies. The students had written a complaint to let the university know about their dissatisfaction with the situation even though they know, that nothing can be done about it.</p> <p>Head of department, Uwe Skoda (US) informed that everything possible has been done to come up with solutions e.g. for a language summer school, but it is very difficult to come up with concrete plans right now, since we still don't know how the situation in the world will change.</p> <p>A teacher from China Studies informed that all had been done, to find the best possible solution for the students who were not able to go to China. JT informed that the students are not dissatisfied with the teacher and the work that they have put in to replace the teaching here in Aarhus, but it is a frustration about the situation in itself.</p> <p>US informed the UN about the current ongoing discussions about the fall semester. There are being made a lot of calculations about how many students are allowed to be in the classrooms and other similar details. This is done to find out how many courses can take place at the university, and how many still has to take place online. There will be made a process plan, guidelines and principles for how to settle this, which will be informed to the UN as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was mentioned that language classes should be a priority for teaching taking place at the university in the fall. It was informed that this has been mentioned to the vice-dean.</p> | |
| 3. Briefings | <p>3.1 <u>News from the Board of Studies</u></p> <p>Peter Bugge (PB) informed the UN about the last meeting in the board of studies. There had been a lot about the corona situation.</p> | |

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| | <p>Besides that the Board of studies are working on a set of guidelines or minimal standards for teaching incl. course communication, i.e. a list of things that has to be put in to blackboard 2 weeks before the semester begins. This will work as a minimum list that the individual UN can adjust. This will be circulated to the UN and discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>3.2 <u>News from the Head of Department</u> US informed about the work going on for finding a format for the graduation ceremony. It will probably be postponed to November in the hopes of having a face to face meeting.</p> <p>US asked the teachers to remember to send in their teaching evaluations for this semester.</p> <p>3.3 <u>News from the student guidance</u> No members of the student guidance were present.</p> <p>3.4 <u>News from the study administration</u> Camilla Mark Thygesen (CMT) informed about the news letter from Arts Studier.</p> | |
| <p>4. New date for meeting in the fall (orientation) (14.35-14.40)</p> | <p>At the last UN meeting, the UN decided on the dates for the meetings in the fall, but it turns out that one of these dates falls in the autumn break. So the 14th October will be changed to the 21st October. The UN had no comments to this.</p> | |
| <p>5. Status for new academic regulations at the department (orientation) (14.40-14.45)</p> | <p>US informed about the processes for the new academic regulations at the department. For the new academic regulations for Global and area studies there has been a meeting in the working group on the 15th May.</p> <p>The working group for European studies has had a startup meeting with SNUK. They are planning on only making smaller revisions and do a quick process. A major change will be to make the project placement a 30 ECTS course instead, and make the thesis preparation a part of this course.</p> | |
| <p>6. Approval of emergency academic regulations for re-exams (14.45-14.55)</p> | <p>The teacher from China Studies explained the comments in the documents, and informed that he had send the same comments to SNUK.</p> | |

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| | <p>China studies informed that they have had one online oral exam and did not experience any technical problems.</p> <p>The attached emergency academic regulations were approved. The rest will be send to the UN for approval before the deadline on the 3rd June.</p> | CMT |
| <p>7. Annual status review (decision) (14.55-15.15)</p> | <p>US informed that the requirements for this year´s annual status are a bit smaller than usual. This year they only have to adjust last year´s action plan and look at the red indicators.</p> <p>All the degree programme coordinators presented the changes that they were going to make to the action plans.</p> <p>European studies: Here there is one red indicator for employment. They plan to have a day for the students, where they will learn to translate their skills and competence into skills used for the labor market. It was mentioned that the packing of the data and the fact that the foreign students do not count, seems to have a big influence on the data, and might be the reason why this indicator is red.</p> <p>GLAS: It was mentioned that some of the figures seems to be wrong with regard to the number of students. In the long run they have to rethink the content of the teaching to make sure that the small regions do not have a high dropout. But the limited data makes it difficult to come up with concrete solutions.</p> <p>International studies: The degree programme coordinator was not present to present the action plan. The plan will be send to the UN afterwards.</p> <p>Japan studies: Wants to continue with last year´s actions.</p> <p>India and South Asian studies: Standard issue with the high dropout rate. Due to the small population of students, 1 or 2 students can affect the results. Some of the activities have not been fulfilled due to the situation this semester, so they will continue this next year. They want to apply for more funds for different activities to make the teaching more fun for the students.</p> | |

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| | <p>China studies: The dropout rate is red, but the number has dropped. There are some ghost students that might affect this number. They will continue with the activities such as group trips to make some joint activities. But it depends on the students each year. Some students are more enthusiastic about the social activities than others. It has had a good effect, to send students to promote for the degree programme at the high schools.</p> <p>Russian studies: First year dropout has gotten red again after being yellow last year. But due to the number of students it does not mean a really big change. The main focus for this degree programme will be on the correlation between the entrance grade and the first year dropout. They hope to have more applicants which will raise the entrance grade.</p> <p>Brasilian studies: They have the same red indicators as the previous years, but find it difficult to use the data from the indicators about the study environment, since it does not say anything specific about what the students are unhappy about. The degree programme arranges a lot of different activities, but not a lot of students show up, so they find it difficult to know what they have to change to make them come. The degree programme will keep up the work that they have started the last couple of years.</p> <p>It was mentioned by JT, that the students share the responsibility with the teachers to make a good study environment. It is important that students also arrange activities. E.g. the study café, which should be a student driven initiative, and therefore should not be mentioned in the action plans.</p> <p>Decision: The UN approved the comments from the programmes and the programme coordinators will make the final actions plans and send them to CMT and US by the 2nd June and after that they will be send to the Board of studies. Since the coordinator for international studies were not present to present the action plan, this has to be ready by the 28th so it can be send to the UN for approval.</p> | <p>Degree programme coordinators, CMT, US</p> |
| <p>8. Annual report from the censors (discussion) (15.15-15.25)</p> | | |

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| | <p>The UN did not have that many comments. It was mentioned that there had been some issues at European studies and International studies, but that this had been solved afterwards.</p> <p>It was mentioned that there were some critique about the faculty in general in the reports, and the UN were wondering who deals with these comments. It was mentioned that the administration would take any necessary action for this point.</p> | |
| <p>9. Evaluation of project placement (discussion) (15.25-15.35)</p> | <p>The course coordinator for the project placement were not present at the meeting, but had send some comments, that were presented by US.</p> <p>In general the evaluations are positive, and he has not experienced any big problems during the semester either.</p> <p>There was one comment about sexual harassment, which will be a bigger theme in the workshop next year, to help the students who might experience this.</p> <p>It was at the meeting mentioned that it would be a good idea to make both a positive and negative list of companies, where students can see where others have had good or bad experiences. This is to protect the students from bad experiences at certain companies.</p> <p>It was mentioned by the course coordinator, that students have complained about not having enough time to do the thesis preparation work because they work too much at the companies.</p> <p>It was mentioned at the meeting that it has to be clarified to the students that they have to find the right balance between working and doing the academic assignments, since the project placement is still an academic course.</p> <p>Overall the exam form seems to work well with the content of the course.</p> <p>Representatives from European studies mentioned that they, in their new academic regulations wants to switch the report from pass/fail to graded, both since it is a 20 ECTS (maybe 30 ECTS) course, and the students will put more effort in the report if it is graded.</p> <p>It is also the experience at European studies that some students are frustrated about the missing clarity of who will sign their contract. Normally, though not necessarily, it is the thesis supervisor who also becomes the internship supervisor at this degree programme, but some students might need to sign their contract before they get assigned with a thesis supervisor. In these cases it is the coordinator for the project placement who should sign.</p> | |

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| <p>10. Activity fund (decision) (15.35-15.45)</p> | <p>The UN discussed the incoming applications for the activity fund.</p> <p>Decision: The UN decided to approve all the applications that were concerning actual social and academic activities. The activities including meals will be supported by half of the suggested amount.</p> <p>The activity fund only have 10000 DKK pr. semester, but since the department has not spend as much money for guest lectures this semester as originally planned, the department budget will be able to more than double the amount.</p> <p>The UN decided not to fund transportation within Aarhus, and the activities from China Studies “hosting high school students” and “work shop on Chinese pronunciation”.</p> <p>US will try to find out, if the license for Unihelpr can be funded in a different way. So they will not be included in this fund right now. If this is possible the application from Russian studies “Transport Russisk Center for Videnskab og Kultur, København” can be funded. Otherwise that will not be possible, because then the money will be spend on Unihelpr instead.</p> <p>It was suggested that in future the different sections will be ask to prioritice their applications, to make it easier for the UN to decide.</p> | <p>Anna Sønnichsen</p> |
| <p>11. Programme for the Study start week (discussion) (15.45-15.50)</p> | <p>The head tutor attended the meeting for this item to answer any questions. The UN commented on the way alcohol was mentioned in the programme and asked for this to be removed.</p> <p>The UN also wanted to move the party from Monday to Friday to make sure that it does not signal the approval of alcohol mixed with an academic context. The head tutor would look it to finding out if this is possible. It was suggested to make Monday evening into a game night instead.</p> <p>Representatives from Brazilian Studies asked why they were given less time with the students on Wednesday morning. The head tutor explained that he programmes using the app Unihelpr had been given one hour extra, to introduce the students to this.</p> <p>It was decided to give all the programmes the same amount of hours even though not all uses the app.</p> <p>Members of the UN asked about the programme for the MA students, and were informed that Anna Sønnichsen is working on this at the moment.</p> | |

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| | <p>It was suggested to broaden out the introduction to the fagudvalg to an introduction of all the different extra-curricular activities that can be done at the university. The head tutor will talk more to the representatives from the fagudvalg about this.</p> <p>It was suggested to change the abbreviation "STRIP" since it might signalize something other than what it is (a walk in the park).</p> <p>Uwe thanked the head tutor for joining the meeting. The final programme will be send around for approval later.</p> | US, CMT |
| 12. Updates | <p>12.1 Updates from the degree programs</p> <p>There were no updates</p> <p>12.2 Updates from the students</p> <p>There were no updates</p> | |
| 13. AOB | | |
| 14. Issues for the next meeting | | |