

Meeting Subject

UN Meeting – Global Studies

Moderator: Uwe Skoda

Ref.: Camilla Mark Thygesen

Date: Wednesday 24th February 2021

Duration: 14.00-16.00

Present: Members: Uwe Skoda, Anemone Platz, Georg Fischer, Mette Thunø, Gauri Pathak, Vladimir Pacheco. Jan Ifversen, Raymond Yamamoto, Frederik Korsbjerg, Jonatan Bolwig Balladone.
Observers: Rikke Bundgaard, Jeremy Morris, Chatrine Clausen (student guidance)
Afdelingskonsulent: Anna Sønnichsen
From Arts Studier: Camilla Mark Thygesen (ref.), Studievejledere IHO.

Absent:

Studieleder Liselotte Malmgart, Birgitte Pristed, Louise Buchhave Carstens, Lilia Prelevic.

| Agenda item: | Discussion and conclusion: | Follow-up |
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| <p>1. Approval of agenda and follow up from the minutes from last meeting</p> | <p>The UN approved the agenda with the following comments:</p> <p>Item 2 will be postponed to the next UN meeting, since Inger Drivsholm Schytter was not able to attend the meeting.</p> <p>AOB: The development in the discussion of entry grades can be discussed under AOB, if the orientations from Head of Department are not sufficient.</p> | |
| <p>2. Voluntary self-test (discussion)</p> | <p>This item was postponed to the next UN meeting</p> | <p>CMT</p> |
| <p>3. Constitution and introduction of the new UN (decision)</p> | <p>Camilla Mark Thygesen (CMT) gave a presentation of the work and responsibilities of the UN. Afterwards the UN constituted.</p> <p>Decision: Uwe Skoda was elected chairperson, and Frederik Korsbjerg was elected vice chairperson.</p> | |
| <p>4. Briefings</p> | <p>4.1 <u>News from the Board of Studies</u></p> <p>Uwe Skoda (SK) presented the issues from the last Board of Studies meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The evaluation of the master thesis supervision process was discussed. The evaluation will start in 2022. - The process for emergency academic regulations for summer 2021 has been initiated by the administration. The UN will be involved at the next meeting. - Some issues for students with special challenges was also discussed at the meeting. E.g. students using tools for reading aloud files and texts have issues with some PDF files, if the quality is not good enough. It is important that students let the teachers know about this as soon as possible, so that the teachers have the time to prepare the right material. - It had been mentioned by students from the department of Global Studies, that there has been a good communication regarding 4th semester. - The new rule about entry grades was also discussed and it was decided that a working group will look at the different experiences from the degree programme and discuss possibilities for quote 2. The working group have not been formed yet, but there will be more information at the next Board of Studies meeting. | |

- The planning of the autumn semester is going on at the moment, but there are still some uncertainties about the situation in the autumn regarding the possibilities for teaching on campus.
- It had been mentioned that all students have access to the zoom license via their au ID. This might help students connect with their fellow students.

4.2 News from the Head of Department

US mentioned that following points:

- There is still no decision about the form of the teaching (online/campus) after the Easter break.
- The requirements for active participation has been changed this semester due to COVID-19.
- There are still challenges for the students at 4th semester (Japan Studies).
- The suggested emergency academic regulation will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- It has been decided that students writing their master's thesis can be given an extension of 30 days, if they have problems with e.g. child care.
- The department is in the process of finding tutors for the study start week. There has been no applications from students at China Studies and Brazilian Studies, so the deadline for applications has been extended.
- The survey regarding the transition from BA to MA has been send out and is running until the end of the month.
 - kandidat: <https://survey.au.dk/LinkCollector?key=WL733882U53K>
 - BA: <https://survey.au.dk/LinkCollector?key=9NFS1466J51P>
- Regarding the new rule about entry grade the Head of School had attended the departmental meeting at the end of January. Here the department had raised general concerns about the rule and asked if the new rules can be reversed if they have a greater consequence than first thought. The Director of Studies are invited to the next departmental meeting, and the UN will be informed afterwards. This is a pressing item at the other departments as well and has also been discussed at the institute leadership meetings.

4.3 News from the student guidance

The representative from the student guidance informed about the following:

- There has been a change in how they do guidance sessions. Guidance has been given for all students at the same time via a public zoom link, but due to harassment this has been changed. Students now have to send an email so the guidance can

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| | <p>check that they are actually enrolled at the university before they send them the zoom link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students at Russian Studies are asking for more information about the possibilities for a summer language stay. US mentioned, that the students are welcome to contact him if they have any questions, but right now – due to the Corona situation - the final details are not yet solved. - <i>Career path</i> are being planned at the moment and will take place in April. <p>4.4 <u>News from the study administration</u> CMT informed about the newsletter from Arts Studier, which can be found here: https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/ar/til-undervisere-paa-arts/nyhedsbrev-fra-arts-studier/)</p> <p>The Study portal are updated with the new UN members, and will be updated with the constitution after this meeting.</p> <p>The UN asked some questions regarding the new language policy, which was mentioned in the newsletter. CMT explained that for Danish degree programmes, if a course is taught in English students cannot demand to take their exam in Danish, but can ask their teacher if it is a possibility. But the teachers are allowed to say know no, as long as all student taking the course are treated equally. There are different sets of rules for different types of degree programmes. So it is important to look at the specific description in the regulations and it is also important, that it is the correct language stated in the course catalogue. For most English degree programmes students are only allowed to take their exams in English. The division between Danish and English taught course at a degree programme is under the responsibility of the institute.</p> <p><i>After the meeting CMT has looked into the rules for this, and it is stated in the guidelines for the language policy, that a refusal of student´s requests for specific examination languages must be based on academic or linguistic reasons. If there is any doubts about this, it should be taken up with the Head of Department or the School.</i></p> <p><i>At this page more information about the language policy can be found:</i> https://medarbejdere.au.dk/fakulteter/ar/til-undervisere-paa-arts/undervisning/</p> | |
| <p>5. Orientation about academic regulations and changes to current regulations for 1st September this year after</p> | <p>CMT informed about the approval status for new academic regulations and changes to current regulations.</p> <p>The Vice Dean has approved the following: for Education has now addressed the new academic regulations and suggestions for changes to current regulations. The UN are hereby informed about the approval status for these.</p> | |

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| <p>approval by the Vice Dean (orientation)</p> | <p>5.1 New academic regulations 2021 The approved academic regulations will be published on the Study portal on the 1st March and take effect on the 1st September.</p> <p>The approved academic regulations are: Master’s degree programme in European Studies 2021</p> <p>5.2 Changes to current academic regulations 2021 The approved changes to current academic regulations will be published in the academic regulations and take effect on the 1st September. Changes to courses in the autumn semester, will be visible the in course catalogue on the 1st April.</p> <p>The approved changes are: - Bachelor’s supplementary subject in Central European Studies – project placement - Master’s degree programme in Global and Area Studies – addition of exam form for the Master’s Thesis - Master’s degree programme in Global and Area Studies, European Studies, International Studies – Thesis preparation</p> | |
| <p>6. Break</p> | | |
| <p>7. Teaching evaluation (discussion)</p> | <p>US started off by mentioning some general points from the evaluations: - There is a very high number of courses being evaluated, and therefore the body of material and appendices are quite large. - Some of the evaluation questions (e.g. about guest lectures and tools) might have to be changed or modified, since some students were not able to answer it, and it might raise some wrong expectations for the course. - There were a lot of positive comments about the ways teachers have handled the corona situation. - There were a lot of positive comments about the creative technical tools used – e.g. podcast. - New programmes and new courses have had some more critical comments, which is normal after a first run. - Joint teaching in a course can give problems and requires more coordination. It would be good idea to talk more with the students about the advantages of this type of teaching, so they do not only focus on the negative sides. - Certain courses e.g. Brazilian studies: wish for more hours for certain courses.</p> | |

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| | <p>- There had been an issues with the timing of some of the courses at Russian Studies.</p> <p>In general the evaluations were positive, and for a lot of the courses there are no need for changes.</p> <p>US mentioned that the Board of Studies had suggested, that the work with the evaluations also include a focus on how each course is impeded in the programme or in the semester.</p> <p>Comments from the UN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The appendices for this item on the agenda is very long and a bit overwhelming. - There had been some critical comments about the course on 1st semester at Addressing Global Challenges, which will lead to a discussion about maybe reducing the number of teachers, and how to secure a better coordination between the different teachers. - Similar to this the courses at the BA programmes being taught for the first time this semester, will also be looked at, with regard to the comments from the evaluation. - There is a frustration about the questions for the evaluation – especially the question about guest lectures, which are not relevant for all courses. The UN will look at a question again at an upcoming meeting to see if some of them should be removed. - Academic writing workshop on the first semester: there had been some different comments about this workshop, e.g. that it is too long. The UN discussed this and agreed that the format of this workshop needs to be discussed by a group of relevant teachers. <p>US informed that he is working on a suggestion on how to reduce the number of evaluations each semester. This will be presented in more detail at the next UN meeting.</p> <p>The UN decided, that they do not need to see the final report before it is send to the Board of Studies by the 1st March.</p> | <p>CMT</p> <p>CMT</p> |
| <p>8. Discussion of the evaluations of Project placement (projektorienteret forløb)</p> | <p>Vladimir Pacheco (VP) presented the overall results from the evaluations. Some of the main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The match of expectations between students and hosts were good. - Almost all hosts would like to take students again, but most of them do not won ´t to have more contact with the university than it is now. - The students were positive, but the internal students had some problems with finding internships. | |

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| | <p>- Right now the department is in dialogue with the Institute about changing the exam date, since some of the students are still doing the project placement, when they have to hand in their exam paper.</p> <p>Besides that VP mentioned that some students find the number of pages too long, since the exam includes a prerequisite on 10 pages (thesis preparation), and they have to hand that in, at the same time as their exam paper. A new exam date might make this problem smaller, but if that is not possible VP will contact SNUK in order to find out is anything can be done about this.</p> <p>The UN discussed the problem that some international students have regarding their SU and the number of hours spent in the project placement. It was also suggested to have a greater focus on finding companies fit for project placement for international student, since they have a much smaller group of companies to choose from. The Student guidance mentioned the problem for international students who end up not being able to take a project placement, and how they only have one profile course to choose. This is a well-known problem, and has been raised and mentioned to the Director of Studies by people at the department many times.</p> | |
| 9. New deadline for the activity fund (decision) | Since it is still not sure if the university will open in the spring semester the issue will be taken up again at the next meeting. | CMT |
| 10. New academic regulations and changes in current academic regulations 2022 | <p>US shortly presented this item and informed that it will be discussed further at the next UN meeting.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it has been discovered a mistake in the translation of the description of the exam in some of the BA regulations for the course “Preparing for a stay in xxx” and “Introduction to applied qualitative research methods”. In the English version the optional of an individual assignment is mentioned, but it is not mentioned in the Danish version. CMT will contact the relevant coordinators in order to correct this, as soon as possible.</p> <p>So at the next meeting the UN will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - be given an update about the revision of the academic regulations for GLAS. - Discuss a suggested change for International Studies - Discuss a suggested change for the BA programmes for the courses “Preparing for a stay in xxx” and “Introduction to applied qualitative research methods”. | CMT |
| 11. Updates | 11.1 Updates from the degree programs | |

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| | <p>Each degree programme gave an update.</p> <p>11.2 Updates from the students</p> <p>The students gave an update on their situation. One mentioned that there has been an episode where students at India and South Asian studies had been forgotten. The degree programme coordinator mentioned, that the programme is focused on this to make sure that it does not happen again.</p> <p>In general students are coping with online teaching, and the students mentioned that it has been experienced that teachers are coping really well and have good dialogues with the students about the current situation.</p> | |
| 12. AOB | <p>The issue of the entry grade will be postponed to the next meeting, where there will be some more news.</p> | |
| 13. Items for upcoming meetings | | |