

Meeting Subject

UN Meeting – Global Studies

Moderator: Uwe Skoda

Ref.: Camilla Mark Thygesen

Date: Wednesday 21th April 2021

Duration: 14.00-16.00

Present: Members: Uwe Skoda, Anemone Platz, Georg Fischer, Mette Thunø, Birgitte Pristed, Vladimir Pacheco, Jan Ifversen, Raymond Yamamoto.

Observers: Thøger Lautrup (student guidance)

Guests: Sophie Schmalenberger, Rasmus Grønne (head tutor)

From Arts Studier: Camilla Mark Thygesen (ref.)

Absent:

Studieleder Liselotte Malmgart, Frederik Korsbjerg, Louise Buchhave Carstens, Lilia Prelevic, Jonatan Bolwig Balladone, Anna Sønnichsen, Rikke Bundgaard, Gauri Pathak

Agenda item:	Discussion and conclusion:	Follow-up
<p>1. Approval of agenda and follow up from the minutes from last meeting</p>	<p>The agenda was approved with no suggested points under AOB.</p>	
<p>2. Approval of programmes for the study start (decision)</p>	<p>Rasmus Grønne visited the UN meeting as the head tutor for the upcoming study start. He informed about the programme, and the fact that there are still some uncertainties about the corona restrictions in the fall. This means that not everything can be planned in details at this moment in time.</p> <p>Decision: UN approved the programme for the study start</p>	
<p>3. Introduction to results from the survey about the transition between BA and MA (discussion) (14.15-14.35)</p>	<p>Guest Sofie Schmalenberger (SS) presented the draft for the report made from the results of a survey among current BA and MA students regarding their transition from BA to MA. 44 BA and 19 MA students answered the survey.</p> <p>The report focuses amongst other thing on why students have chosen their current degree programme and which MA degree programme, if any, the current BA students would choose. The majority of the BA students are not yet sure which MA degree programme they want to apply for. The majority of students choosing a MA degree programme from the department would choose GLAS, if they have to choose at that specific moment.</p> <p>Students have been asked what would make the degree programmes more attractive, and answered among other thing; more language, longer stay abroad, more clear description of the programme before starting and more focus on practical work they can use for a job in the future.</p> <p>A lot of the students at BA level have answered that their motivation for the region have had an influence for their choice. For some students this passion for studying the region can prevent them from choosing GLAS as, according to their perception, the programme seems very broad.</p> <p>In general there are many broad and different answers to the open questions. If the programmes have any specific focus points, they would like to look at, SS can look for answers in a certain direction if needed.</p> <p>Comments from the UN: There seems to be a lot of room for improving communication e.g. about how much the regional perspectives is in focus at GLAS.</p>	

	<p>One of the main reasons for this survey was to find out why a lot of BA students do not choose GLAS as their MA degree programme. It would be preferable if BA students who did not choose GLAS could be included in the survey, but it can be difficult to reach those students.</p> <p>It was suggested to look at if the communication regarding what GLAS is about good enough?</p> <p>It was mentioned that there is in general a large focus on employability also from the students. It has to be discussed how to deal with this in the best way with in the degree programmes.</p> <p>CED can help retract data from the survey regarding certain students with different combinations of programmes.</p> <p>It could be interesting to look more into what the student's expectations of GLAS is, and how these are met when stating the programme.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it is a small number of respondents for the survey especially for the MA programmes even though, they have tried to contact as many students as possible.</p> <p>The data will be divided into smaller groups according to degree programme and semester. The UN will be presented to the final version of the report later on.</p>	CMT, US
<p>4. Annual status review 2021 (decision) (14.35-15-05)</p>	<p>The UN decided at a previous meeting, that the focus of the action plans should be primarily on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dropout – both on the first year and later in the study. - Recruiting students under the new rules - transition from BA og MA - broadly on well-being <p>Besides these points the individual programmes will have to focus on the points relevant for them in the action plans.</p> <p>All degree programme coordinators presented the most important points from their new action plans. Follow up from last year's action plans can be found in the 2021 action plans and the UN had no comments for these.</p> <p>As an overall comment Head of Department, Uwe Skoda (US) mentioned that it is a difficult time to write an action plan, and some of the actions from last year's plans, might not have been possible to do the past year.</p>	

US mentioned that first year drop out is a key focus point for all degree programmes. The department is right now in contact with VEST about creating a self-test for future students, to take at the Studieguiden, to secure a broader knowledge of the degree programme before applying. The process for this has been delayed, but it is worth mentioning as an action in all relevant action plans.

There is also an ongoing initiative about improving the communication with a new webpage (globalstudies.dk) describing the different programmes.

Besides this, the activities funded by the activity fund (item for the agenda this meeting), can also be mentioned as upcoming actions.

Brazilian Studies:

Drop-out rate is the biggest challenge. The programme is keeping a focus on movie nights and virtual Friday bar. They have very small cohorts of students, and they have to think about how to bring the small groups together. They are doing cross course activities across the semesters to create larger groups of students.

The UN had no comments for this action plan.

India and South Asia Studies:

The coordinator for India and South Asia Studies were not present at the meeting, but the UN had no comments to the action plans.

Japan Studies:

Dropout rate is still an issue. They have tried many different measures over the last couple of years e.g. extra focus on group work.

To improve the study environment they have had large focus on the students who were supposed to go abroad with a lot of extracurricular activities.

The quality of writing has been addressed by the co-examiners, which means that there will be an extra focus on this.

The UN had no comments for this action plan.

China Studies:

To secure study intensity they will continue with differentiated learning and work intensively with group work. They have a lot of focus on creating the groups to make sure they function. This will hopefully have an effect on both study intensity and drop-out. They will continue the tea house as a social extracurricular activity.

The UN had no comments for this action plan.

Russian Studies:

The coordinator for Russian Studies were not present at this time of the meeting, but the UN had no comments to the action plans.

CMT mentioned that the status of last year's action plan was missing in the new action plan.

Global and Area Studies:

It was mentioned that due to the small cohort of students, the indicator for drop-out, are effected largely by only a small number of students. It was commented by the UN, that it is important to take this seriously even with the small number of students.

Regarding students environment it was mentioned that they are continuing with the initiatives from last year´s action plan, since they have received positive feedback from the students on these. It was suggested by members of the UN to add more social events for the students, and that it has to be clear who is responsible for helping with these events.

Regarding unemployment of students, it was mentioned that it would be a good idea to look at, where students get job after their education, in order to figure out, what to about potential problems with this area.

CMT mentioned that the status of last year´s action plan was missing in the new action plan.

International Studies:

Unemployment has a red indicator while the rest are green. It has been like this for the last couple of years. Half of the students are getting jobs overseas, and are therefore not counted. Since the programme has changed in to Danish it is expected to have e positive effect on the numbers in the future.

Recruitment is where the programmes is focusing. Make sure that the students they get in the beginning are actually interested in the degree programme.

The UN had no comments for this action plan.

General comments from the UN:

Two larger problems were mentioned as general problems for all degree programmes:

- Drop-out: it is not only a problem for the first year but also on the later years of the study. It was mentioned as a good idea to make sure that the students are aware of what the programme is about before starting – initiatives to secure this has been started. Besides this, it was mentioned, that the department also needs to look at, if this demands any actual changes in the programmes

- Unemployment: this is a problem for all the MA programmes. They have to try and support their candidates in getting jobs afterwards. How to do this has to be discussed both at programme level, but also across the department. What can actually be done to make the degree programmes attractive for both students and companies?

It was suggested to create a more hands on course concerning “How to practice area studies”. They have to create a room where practical elements are rehearsed and

	<p>presented. It should be built into the academic regulations. The UN will discuss this further at a later UN meeting.</p> <p>Decision: The UN decided which actions should be given priority in the action plans for 2021 based on last year's action plans and the current status of the degree programmes. The drafts for the action plans were approved with the comments above. The corrected action plans will be send to US and Camilla Mark Thygesen (CMT), and they will be submitted for discussion by the board of studies.</p>	Degree programme coordinators, US, CMT
<p>5. Break</p>		
<p>6. Status on degree programme evaluation for European Studies (discussion) (15.10-15.20)</p>	<p>Jan Ifversen, coordinator for European Studies gave a status of the evaluation process for European Studies. The main focus points will be: - Study intensity - Employability: They are trying to find out, what their students actually do after they finish their programme.</p> <p>They believe that it is possible to find students to participate in the evaluation meetings. They can include new students as well, since the meeting is in November. They have found the two external experts – one academic experts and one employer.</p> <p>The UN had no comments.</p>	
<p>7. Briefings</p>	<p><u>7.1 News from the Board of Studies</u> US informed about the issues from the last Board of Studies meeting: These points had been presented at the departmental meeting earlier, and there were no student representative present at the UN meeting.</p> <p><u>7.2 News from the Head of Department</u> US mentioned that following points: - IV courses: there is a deadline for informing the administration about the IV-courses from the department. US will send out an email to the teachers about this.</p> <p><u>7.3 News from the student guidance</u> The representative from the student guidance informed about the following: - It is a slow period with no events recently due to the exam period. - There will be a dialogue meeting with Head of Department, to discuss the collaboration and possible improvements between the department and the student guidance.</p>	

	<p>7.4 <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/) Besides this it was informed that Jeppe Norskov will take over as UN-secretary from the meeting in August. CMT has enjoyed the collaboration with the UN, and will continue as the main SNUK person for the revision of the academic regulation for GLAS. The UN thanked CMT for all her work for the UN.</p>	
<p>8. Yearly status report from the co-examiner Chairmanship (discussion) (15.35-15.40)</p>	<p>US introduced the main points from the report: - It is mentioned in the report there is an improvement regarding the communication between the administration and the co-examiners - It is suggested to have an evaluation of the oral exams conducted online.</p> <p>It was mentioned by the UN, that it is described in the report that the body of external co-examiners for ES/IS will be merged with another body of external co-examiners including some other small degree programmes. But it is not described why of how this will work. US will pass on the comment.</p>	US
<p>9. Annual lecture for autumn semester (15.40-15.45)</p>	<p>Birgitte Pristed presented the proposal for the annual lecture for the autumn semester, which this year will be hosted by Russian Studies. Proposal for an inaugural roundtable for Friday 17th Sept, 2021. 14:30-16:00. Viktor Pal who is a researcher at Helsinki who is doing a project on beverage containers, will be invited to give a talk. If corona restriction allows it there will be a reception afterwards.</p> <p>The UN supported the suggestion.</p>	
<p>10. Activity fund (decision) (15.45-15.55)</p>	<p>The UN discussed the incoming applications. The department has 30.000 kr. to give out, but they have received applications for almost 50.000 kr. There are other ways of receiving funds, but it has turned out that the guidelines for the well-being fund from the institute has been changed, which means that some of the applications for this were not accepted. Another way to get more funds could be to get students to apply for the funds from the Board of Studies. It was mentioned that students have a larger chance of getting funds, if they apply as a group. For more information about this activity fund please look here: https://studerende.au.dk/?id=1442693</p>	

	<p>It was suggested to divide the money into equal parts, so that the six degree programmes that has applied for funds each gets 5000 kr. Then it is up to the individual degree programme to divide the money between the activities applied for. The UN supported this idea.</p> <p>China Studies and Indian and South Asian studies, who originally applied for more than 5000 kr., will send the final list of which activities they will spent the money on to US.</p> <p>Decision: The UN decided to divide the money equally between the 6 degree programmes who had applied (5000 kr. for each).</p>	<p>Degree programme coordinators Indian and South Asian Studies and China Studies</p> <p>US</p>
11. Updates	<p>11.1 Updates from the students No students were present at this point of the meeting.</p> <p>11.2 Updates from the programmes There were no urgent updates from the degree programmes</p>	
12. AOB		
13. Items for upcoming meetings	<p>Items for the August meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - student involvement in the UN - GLAS academic regulations - “practicing area studies” ideas to include this in the regulations - follow up discussion on the survey about the transition from BA to MA - Developing collaborations with other universities 	CMT