

Meeting: 19.04.2023 at. 14.00-16.00
Building 1467, room 316
UN-meeting, Global Studies

MINUTES

Present

VIP Members: Uwe Skoda, Birgitte Pristed, Georg Fischer, Raymond Yamamoto

Uddannelsesnævn Globale
Studier

Student members: Frederik Edsberg Hansen, Daniela Lange Andersen, Julia Ieva Jørgensen, Karoline Thode Fogh, Jakob Frederik Thomsen og. Dato: 21. april 2023

Observers: Christina Fiig (VIP), Chun Zhang (VIP), Vivek Kumar Shukla (VIP), Hagen Schulz-Forberg (VIP), Sofia Ozerova Flou Pedersen (student), Studievejledere IHO and Sine Gyde Meler (Arts Studies, ref), Julie Schultz Pedersen Lorensen (Department coordinator) Liselotte Malmgart (Head of studies, point 3) and Ana Paula (VIP) (point 4).

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Absent: Jonas Østvand Matthiesen og Sofie Lambertsen.

1. Approval of agenda and follow up from the minutes from last meeting (14.00-14.05)

The agenda was approved with the note that point 5 will be postponed for the next meeting. Uwe Skoda (US) followed up from the last meeting:

- US have contacted "Studiecenteret" with the list of information which the UN wish to add to the [website](#) about the 3rd semester. Some of the requests have already been made.

2. Discussion about exam period for Russian studies (14.05-14.20)

Student representatives from Russia studies raised a discussion about the options for changing the conditions for the exams on 4th semester at Russian Studies. The exams must be taken physically, which means that students will have to interrupt their stay abroad before it is necessary to attend the exam in Denmark (the exam date is in the beginning of June), if they want to stay beyond the teaching period.

Some students would like the possibility to either take the exam online or that the exam date is moved to August, so they have the option to stay abroad for a longer period. In the long term, students believe that changing the exam date would significantly improve the degree programme by providing the opportunity for longer stays in the host country, and e.g. improve the students language skills.

The teachers sympathize with the students who wish to stay abroad longer but opening up for either moving the exam date or changing it to an online exam can be tricky because it means that it would apply for other degree programmes too. There will also need to be consideration to the AU guidelines which states that all exams must be on

campus and secondly all students must be treated equally. The UN expressed concerns that moving the date will not be in favor for all students and furthermore many teachers are not in favor of the online exam format. Some students at Russia studies have also expressed that they do not have a problem with the current conditions for the exams or rather prefer the timing.

Liselotte Malmgart (LM) informed that in general the exam must be on-site as a default due to the AU guidelines. Furthermore, it is not a possibility to have two different options (online and onsite) for one exam. There can be individual reasons for changing an exam to an online exam, but it is always an individual assessment of the student's situation.

Students raised the point that they wish to make it more flexible for students abroad in general. The way the exam dates are now and with no possibility for online exams, it could lead to students postponing their 1st exam attempt.

Teachers expressed a concern that moving the exam to August, can create a gap of almost two months between the teaching ends and the exam, for some students this will create more stress due to the long wait, and it can also affect the students' level, if they have a long break between their study and the exam.

LM informed that normally exams dates are not changed this late in the semester, but it can be looked into the possibility of pushing for the exam date to be in the end of June for the coming semesters.

Next step:

The implicated students who wish to stay abroad longer, can try to apply for dispensation for the upcoming exam. A long-term solution must be considered and the head of department and representatives of the different studies will see which options are available.

3. Briefings (14.20-14.35)

3.1 News from the Board of Studies

- AU have decided that almost all written exams will be [anonymized](#).
- At the degree programme for "Religionsvidenskab", the "fagråd" have arranged a local "tilvalgsdag" for their students and US encouraged the UN to consider whether they would like something similar for global studies.
- [The Project placement agreement](#) have been modified with a precision of the time intervals.
- The course evaluations were discussed for Global Studies and the initiative regarding ensuring a respectful tone in class and including all international students were discussed. SN also discussed that the process for following up on the course evaluations are important.

See the minutes from the Board of Studies meetings [here](#).

3.2 News from the Head of Department

- The deadline for applying for the activity fund is on the 1st of May. Information will be sent out to the teachers.
- The date for the graduation ceremony will be on the 15th of September.
- The website for Japan studies will be updated with more information about deadline and so for the semester abroad – information have been sent to studievejledningen.
- Liselotte Malmgart (LM) informed that the analyze of the future of Brazilian studies have been started due to the low intake of students and applications for the degree programme and that it does not have anything to do with the students' evaluations.

3.3 News from the student guidance

- The online part of the U-days did not go as successful as hoped and for next year the plan is to instead make small films from the degree programmes.
- Karriereveje for global studies were held and many alumni attended. But unfortunately, not many students showed up. In general, the student guidance struggle with getting students to attend their events.
- Julie Schultz Pedersen Lorensen (JSPL) informed that JSPL would be happy to help with trying to connect the “fagmiljø” or helping to reach out to the students if needed or to help getting the events visible in the students' timetable. It was mentioned that an event like this would be more suitable in autumn, because many students are abroad.

3.4 News from the study administration

Newsletter from Arts Studier ([click here](#))

4. Terminology for different types of courses (item for discussion) (14.35-14.50)

In the UN meeting in Nov 2022 Ana Paulla Braga Mattos (APBM) raised an issue for further discussion in a coming meeting – namely the terminology for the different courses (“language” and “content”) used in the UN and the department generally.

APBM raised the discussion that the terminology used among teachers and students where “language courses/teachers” often are put in contrast with “content courses/teachers”. But this terminology indicates that the two disciplines are not connected and sometimes it's conceived as the language courses are less than the other courses. The discourse is that language is a tool, but there might be a need for talking more about how language also is connected to culture and history and that the language courses also are very valuable.

Teachers at the meeting agreed that there are some issues with the discourse. There are also structural problems which also need to be changed, but this is in the long

term and cannot be done in the UN, because it also implies the content of the teacher's contacts. On the short term a change in the way of speaking of the language courses would be a start.

Some points that can be discussed at the department in the future:

- Should the language course be more integrated in other courses than it is the case now? Some courses can be more connected to language/linguistics, Language/culture or Language/politics. It is already integrated in many courses, but it needs to be articulated more.
- The system makes it almost impossible for the language teachers to teach other courses than language courses. How and can this be changed?

US concluded the discussions by mentioning that this topic needs to be discussed in as many forums as possible, because there are some structural issues which can be hard to change but in the department the focus for a start can be the terminology and ways of speaking.

5. Discussion about competence understanding and questions from SN (item for discussion) (14.50-15.20)

The point was postponed for the next UN-meeting in May.

6. Status on initiatives in action plans from assessment of teaching environment (item for discussion) (15.20-15.30)

The assessment of the teaching environment covers the university's physical, psychological and aesthetic environment. It is a legal requirement that this assessment is conducted once every three years. The objective is to identify any areas in which special efforts are needed to develop and ensure a good teaching environment for the students. In 2021 the department on the background of the assessment made action plans for 2021-2023. The head of department reviewed the status of the assessment of teaching environment action plans from 2021 with input from members of the degree programme board.

Many of the actions have been started e.g. action 1 with the creation of the global studies webpage, annual joint lectures and the "trivselsmidler" have been rolled out. Regarding action 3 the process with strengthening the career aspects have been started and a working group have been formed and the first meeting will be in week 17.

The UN commented that the introduction week for the international students had very positive feedback this year and that the initiatives in the action plans are in general welcomed. There was also raised a flag for remembering the amount of resources that goes into all the initiatives, because there is a lot going on at the department.

At the May meeting UN will discuss the annual status for 2023 and discuss whether there are any actions that can be included in connection with the preparation of the annual status action plans for 2023.

7. Annual report from the chair of external co-examiners (item for discussion) (15.30-15.40)

The degree programme board discussed the annual reports from the chair of external co-examiners. In continuation of the UN discussion on the annual reports from the body of external co-examiners (CFM), UN were asked to discuss the content of the annual reports that was particularly valuable and which questions should be addressed to CFM in relation to their annual report.

UN encouraged that the template was filled with more information, the report was lacking a lot of information and therefore UN could not discuss the substance.

8. Updates (time)

8.1 Updates from the students

Students informed that "Fagrådet" have discussed the situation about Brazilian Studies and a representative from Artsrådet was invited to the meeting. Unfortunately, no students from Brazilian Studies showed up. Fagrådet will write a letter to the faculty management and invited students from Brazilian studies to attend the next meeting – Karoline volunteered to attend the next class at Brazilian studies to inform the students about this. All the meetings in the fagråd are held the last Tuesday in the month.

8.2 Updates from the degree programmes

Many events are going on in the department, flyers and information will be sent out. On the 10th of May there will be an exam for the MA GLAS students, which will be held in a new format of a student conference and is an open exam were all are welcomed to join.

9. Suggested points for upcoming meetings

US informed that the SPS have been contacted and hopefully they will be able to attend an upcoming meeting, but there is no response yet. A discussion about the use of Chat GPT and other AI's are coming up, it will be discussed how to best have this maybe with an invite to CED.

Points for upcoming UN meetings:

- Special Educational Support -SPS
- Discussion about the use of Chat GPT AI (May or Autumn)
- "Entry on the labor market" (May or Autumn).
- Underviserprisen (August)

10. AOB

US informed that a memo with information about the purpose and process of the course evaluation are being drafted and asked for a student and teacher to participate

in reading the document. Julia Ieva Jørgensen and Anemone Platz volunteered. The UN will be given the possibility for commenting on the draft too.

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