

Meeting: 1st of May 2024 at. 12.15-14.00

Building 1481, room 262

UN-meeting, Global Studies

Minutes

Present

VIP Members: Annette Skovsted Hansen, Georg Fischer, Vivek Kumar Shukla and Christina Fiig

Uddannelsesnævn Globale Studier

Dato: 3.05.2023

Students Members: Frederik Edsberg Hansen, Daniela Lange Andersen, Jakob Hoffmann Holm, Lise Hostrup Daugberg, Sofie Lambertsen og Willem Adriaan Cornelis Koen.

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Observers: Andreas Steen (VIP) Studievejledere IHO, Morten Holst Zachariasen (department coordinator) and Sine Gyde Meler (Arts Studies, ref)

Absent: Hagen Schulz-Forberg Birgitte Pristed, Joakim Axel Bengt Ydebäck, Kasper Steenbjerg

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

Annette Skovsted Hansen (ASH) welcomed to the meeting and UN approved the agenda and there was no follow up from the last meeting.

2. Orientations from the students (12.20-12.30)

The students informed that:

- Some students would like more focus on and introduction to theory and methods in both teaching and in the syllabus. This goes for several of the BA programmes. It was decided to have this as a separate item for discussion at a meeting in the Fall before academic regulation revisions.
- There were questions about the process for applying for a bachelor's project supervisor and suggested that next year an information mail about the deadline and process for applying should be sent out in the beginning of the semester, so the students can prepare beforehand. ASH asked the students to give feedback on an email draft, to prevent misunderstandings.
- At the 7th semester on Russia studies there is a huge workload for the students, because they have 10 ECTS course with a take-home assignment on topic of student's choice at the same time as their bachelor's project. Georg Fischer (GF) informed the workload is the same for Brazil studies. ASH informed that it will be brought up with the next revision of the academic regulations.

3. Briefings (12.30-12.40)

3.1 News from the Board of Studies

[Link to the Agenda and minutes of the meetings.](#)

3.2 News from the Head of Department

- ASH thanked staff and students who participated in “Forskningens Døgn” and she stated her intention to repeat next year with more of a research angle added to the success of the booth.

3.3 News from the student guidance

- At the moment there is not many inquiries after a busy period when questions about applying for the supplementary subject and for the MA degree programs.
- Furthermore, there have been a career day at the department, the attendance was not a high as hoped.

3.4 News from the study administration

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

4. Information from the department about the alumni and student mentoring programme (item for orientation) (12.40-12.45)

Morten Holst Zachariasen (MHZ) informed the UN that last autumn, the school (IKS) entered a pilot project with NAT (Faculty of natural science) about a mentor program between alumni and students. The pilot project went well to the benefit of both alumni and students, and the school is therefore working to establish the mentor program as a permanent offer to students at IKS.

Please refer to the following links about the mentorship program:

- For students/mentees: Mentor project – mentee (au.dk)
- For mentors: Mentor project mentor (au.dk)
- If you have any questions about the mentor program, please contact education consultant Kristine Ørnsholt by email kristine.oe@cas.au.dk.

MHZ informed that information has been sent out and there is a link via Brightspace. ASH encouraged students to join the program. Students raised the point that it is difficult to distinguish this mentoring program from the departments mentoring program and asked if the names could be changed. MHZ will bring the question to Kristine Ørnsholt.

5. Process towards new guidelines for the use of GAI from autumn 2024 and onwards (item for orientation) (12.45-12.50)

ASH informed that the Committee on Education at Aarhus University (UU) has decided to change the guidelines for GAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence) in force from the autumn semester 2024, so that the use of GAI as a rule is allowed for all examinations.

Since the general rule is that GAI is permitted from autumn 2024 and onwards, the examinations in which GAI must be exceptionally prohibited should quickly be identified, as this must be explicitly stated in the academic regulations.

The department and the UN must identify examinations, in which GAI must exceptionally be prohibited. It is the recommendation from the Vice-Dean and the Head of Studies “that one chooses to prohibit only examinations where some very special skill is tested that would be overshadowed by the use of GAI”. No further adjustments to the academic regulations can be made as part of this process. At the meeting 22nd of , UN will process any suggestions to changes in courses that may be.

UN had a discussion in February about good experiences with GAI and which consequences the use of GAI has on different aspects of teaching at the degree programs. ASH stated that this discussion will continue in the following months with the implementation of GAI.

UN members asked if there will be any guidelines for teachers regarding the grading and assessment of examinations e.g. in the language courses and in translations exams. Furthermore, questions about how to deal with censors who come from universities where there are different guidelines.

SGM informed that guidelines about how to use GAI will be formed and hopefully all these uncertainties will be cleared.

UN discussed that there may need to be other classroom assignments to train the students translation skills, furthermore, teachers will continuously need to emphasize that the GAI can translate, but not discuss the nuances about the specific words and translations, which is also a big part of the language teaching.

UN agreed that it is important to have an ongoing discussion about the consequences for teaching, exams, and the students learning.

6. UN provides input to a list of external experts for the degree programme evaluations for MA International studies (item for discussion) (12.50-13.00)

The UN was presented with an overall list of external experts for the degree programme evaluation for MA International studies. The UN commented that the list seems to have some competent candidates and had no further comments. When the list is finalized, it will be sent to approval from both the school management and vice-dean.

7. Break (13.00-13.05)

8. Annual status review 2024 - part one (item for discussion) (13.05-13.50)

The annual status review is part of the ongoing quality assurance work relating to degree programmes at the Faculty of Arts and is described in greater detail here: [Degree programme quality assurance processes at the Faculty of 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 the degree programmes in their entirety. The degree programme board is the primary forum for subject-specific discussions in April and/or May/June.

ASH presented an overview of the data of the degree programmes and informed that MA International studies will be discussed at the next meeting, because the programme are going through the degree programme evaluation. Thereafter the UN was asked to discuss the data and action plans from 2023 and give input to the action plans for 2024 in groups. ASH informed that from 2024 the action plans for the departments BA degree programmes will be one joint action plan.

After the group discussion ASH summed up the discussions for the BA Degree programmes: Brazil studies, India and South Asia studies, Japan studies, China studies and Russia studies and MA degree programmes: European studies and Global Area Studies:

orsiden

Indikatorkort

Kvalitetsprocesår

Indikatornavn	2022		2023		2024		2022		2023		2024	
	Ikon	Udv.	Ikon	Udv.	Ikon	Udv.	Ikon	Udv.	Ikon	Udv.	Ikon	Udv.
Uddannelsesudbud												
Brasilianske studier, bachelor	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Europastudier, kandidat	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Globale områdestudier, kandidat	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Indien- og sydasiestudier, bachelor	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Internationale studier, kandidat	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Japanstudier, bachelor	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Kinastudier, bachelor	!		!		!		!		!		!	
Ruslandstudier, bachelor	!		!		!		!		!		!	

Sub-policy 1 – Getting students of to a good start

Indicator 1: First year drop-out rate:

ASH had asked the members to focus on first year drop out, due the fact that all the BA programmes have a yellow or red indicator. For the MA programmes it is green.

UN had the following comments and suggestions to the action plans:

- UN agreed that focus on the first-year drop-out should continue to be a focus for all the BA degree programmes and gave input to actions.
- At China studies the teachers gathered the students in the introduction week and talked to students about the degree programme and students could ask questions about the degree programmes.

- Furthermore, they use “Unihelper” to form the study groups, so the students are mixed in groups after their language skill level. These activities are to secure retention and may inspire the other degree programmes.
- Students pointed out that the drop-out rate at Russia studies went down from last year, so it seems that some of the actions may be helping and should be continued.
- Fagudvalget hosted an event at the beginning of the semester with new students and the focus on the collaboration with fagudvalget should continue to keep the contact with the students. This can also help with the study environment (indicator 5b)

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Sub-policy 2 – High-quality, coherent degree programmes

Indicator 6c

Staffing plans:

- In principle we can cover the courses we have and offer research-based teaching, but at the same time we have a challenge in ensuring research time when we only have one person to cover a certain field as we receive more external funding.

Indicator 7: Study intensity

- Students see the low response rate as a problem. Furthermore, the students do not seem to have the same understanding of what they can count as hours used at their studies. For example, some students have extra language training, which they could count as study hours, but they don't.
- There was a suggestion that the department gives more information to the students when the different questionnaires are out e.g. “Danmarks studiemiljøundersøgelse”, to see if this might help to secure a higher response rate. Last year the UN was informed, and teachers was encouraged to mention it in class, but it does not seem to have affected the response rate significantly.

Sub-policy 3 – Motivational teaching and learning environments

See under sub-policy 1.

Sub-policy 4 – Highly qualified graduates with relevant competencies

The sub-policy and indicator 8 will be discussed at the next meeting.

At the next meeting UN will continue the discussion of the data and process the proposal for the action plans 2024 and approve them for process at the SN-meeting in June. All the UN members were asked to send any notes and suggestions to the actions plans from the group discussions to Morten Holst Zachariassen on later than 14th of May.

The next step:

- The UN gives input to evaluation focuses for MA International studies.

- The UN decides which actions should be given priority in the action plans for 2024 based on last year's action plans and the degree programme board's discussions of the status of the degree programmes concerned.
- The head of department submits the action plans for 2024 to the board of studies secretary no later than 3rd of June to the SN-secretary. The action plans proposed by the degree programme board are processed by the board of studies in June.
- The director of studies approves the action plans for the annual status review before 1 September and informs the vice-dean for education.

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9. Updates

Nothing to the item.

10. Suggested items for upcoming meetings

Points for upcoming UN meetings:

- Follow up on discussion about GAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence) maybe with a presentation from CED or others who have insight in how to deal with GAI in teaching.

Following item was added to the list:

- Discussion about theory and methods in teaching and syllabus (see item 2)

11. AOB

Nothing to the item.
