

**Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 at. 12.15-14.00

**Building 1467, room 316**

**UN-meeting, Global Studies**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Members VIP: Annette Skovsted Hansen (Chair of UN and Head of department), Birgitte Pristed, Georg Fischer, Hagen Schulz-Forberg, Vivek Kumar Shukla, Christina Fiig.

Uddannelsesnævn Globale Studier

Dato: 21. august 2024

Members Students: Frederik Edsberg Hansen (Vice-chair of UN), Daniela Lange Andersen (SN-representative), Jakob Hoffmann Holm (SN-representative), Lise Hostrup Daugberg, Sofie Lambertsen and Kasper Steenbjerg.

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

**Absent:** Joakim Axel Bengt Ydebäck, Willem Adriaan Cornelis Koen

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

UN approved the agenda. There was one follow up from the last meeting in May, where UN asked to see the program for the weekend trips (hyttetur) again. The program was attached as an appendix for the meeting, there were no comments to the programs.

**2. Election of the vice chair (decision) (14.03-14.05)**

Frederik Edsberg stepped down as vice-chair for the UN and, therefore, UN had to elect a new vice-chair amongst the student members.

*Decision:*

The degree programme board elected Jakob Hoffmann Holm from Japan studies as the vice chair of the degree programme board.

**3. Orientations from the students**

Sofie Lambertsen informed that the “fagudvalg” plans its first meeting of the semester. Daniela Andersen informed that Globale Studies’ “Studenterformidlere” are also starting up after the summer and if anyone would like to join, they are welcome to contact Daniela.

**4. Briefings (14.05-14.20)**

4.1 News from the Board of Studies

4.2 News from the Head of Department

Annette Skovsted Hansen (ASH) informed:

- That all new and current students in Global Studies should be aware that there are three rooms specifically available to GS students: 1461-614, which is a study room with books and 8 desks for quiet individual study, a student lounge with coffee machines and refrigerator in 1463-315 with a door code available from other students or Bende Ingvorsen in the office 1463-513; and, finally the room for the Global in 1465-115 is equipped with a projector and screen and tables that can be used for group or individual study, 'fagudvalgs' meetings and student events.
- UN members gave a brief update of the various summer courses the department offered this summer and ASH encouraged UN to give input to course subjects in the future.
- The September calendar includes many guest lectures, when all are encouraged to attend- especially students.

#### 4.3 News from the student guidance

The student guidance informed that they are planning events for the new students with focus on study groups and how to work together in groups.

#### 4.4 News from the study administration

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

### 5. Admission numbers 2024 (orientation and discussion) (14.25-14.35)

The UN was briefed about the department's admission numbers for the 2024 intake. Students expressed concern that the intake for some of the BA degree programs is lower than in previous years. ASH mentioned that the department has undertaken various recruitment initiatives over the past few years and that there is a need to evaluate and plan future activities accordingly.

It was noted that there is an international trend of change in student intake for degree programs within area studies and these trends should be considered when planning recruitment activities.

Students also emphasized the importance of focusing on activities that prevent drop-outs. Engaging new students in various extracurricular activities and focusing on career perspectives are potential strategies.

The UN would like to continue this discussion in the autumn semester. CF proposed that we keep the item of 'career perspectives' as a permanent point on the agenda for the UN and that the department's career coordinator presents his initiatives for the UN this autumn.

### 6. Discussion of joint courses (discussion) (14.35-15.05)

Jakob Holm (JH) introduced the item where the UN was asked to discuss their experiences from joint course sessions across the degree programs. JH informed that

some students have experienced that the “preparation for stay abroad” course takes up a lot of time, and they feel that this time should be used for language courses. While joint courses are not a problem and it is positive that students meet each other across programs, there needs to be a focus on the content of the course and that in case of team teaching all involved know more about what others teach.

From a teacher’s perspective, the issue sometimes is that students do not see the alignment between the joint lectures, the different degree programs, and the exams. ASH mentioned that the idea behind the joint courses is to provide a broad introduction to methods that can be used across programs.

## 7. Break (15.05-15.10)

## 8. Degree programme board processes the results of the assessment of teaching environment (item for discussion and decision) (15.10-15.30)

Every three years Aarhus University conducts an educational environment assessment (UMV) for full-time students, and this was last discussed in autumn 2021. The UMV is based on a selection of results from the most recent national student survey. Teaching environment evaluations are assessments of the University's *physical, psychological, and aesthetic environments*, in which students' perceptions of the teaching environment are considered to ensure a good teaching environment.

### *Preparation of action plan*

The degree programme board is responsible for providing input to and approving the head of department's proposals for possible activities in the action plan. In the action plan, it is possible to initiate activities within the topics mental, physical and aesthetic environment, where deemed relevant by the degree programme board. At the School of Culture and Society, draft action plans have been prepared based on the following identified themes: Feedback, Cooperation and Well-being.

ASH introduced the data and informed that there will be joint action plans across the BA and MA degree programs. ASH emphasized the importance of having more conversations about the tone of communication and how to address and adjust to a new student population.

UN briefly discussed that students in the BA programs seem to be more stressed compared to other departments, and this might be a topic for future discussion. There is also an action addressing the first year, where the department aims to develop a “first-year package” inspired by other departments at the School. UN provided input on the format. ASH informed that actions directed at the physical study environment have been passed on to the School.

UN agreed to have broader discussions on some of these themes in upcoming meetings, such as study groups, which are already on the agenda for future meetings.

*Decision:*

The degree program board approved the UMV action plans for the department's degree programs. The head of the department will submit the plans of action for discussion by the board of studies and subsequent approval by the director of studies and vice-dean.

**9. Annual report from the chair of external coexaminers (item for discussion) (15.35-15.45)**

The degree programme board discussed annual reports from the chair of external co-examiners. Christina Fiig (CF) noticed that the external co-examiners have mentioned that there is not an oral defense of the master's thesis, and there could be feedback to them, that this is not possible within the current rules at Arts. UN thereafter had a discussion of the advantage and disadvantage of oral defense on the master's thesis. There were no other comments to the report.

**10. Making changes to academic regulations (15.45-15.50)**

UN was informed that it is possible for the degree programme boards to request that changes are made to existing academic regulations. This requires, cf. the review of degree programmes, that the academic regulations must have had a full run through at least once. Only minor changes can be made to academic regulations, and it is important to relate each change to the degree programme. It is only possible to make changes to the academic regulations before a full run through in the case of actual errors that need to be corrected in the interests of the students' legal rights.

SGM will send a template to the teachers who wishes to propose changes to the academic regulations. The UN will process it at the meeting in October and approved changes to the academic regulations take effect on 1 September 2025.

**11. Elections to the degree pro-gramme board - students (item for orientation) (15.50-15.52)**

UN was informed about the elections at AU in November 2024. The preliminary schedule is online <https://medarbejdere.au.dk/strategi/universitetsvalg/tidsplan-2023>. The HoD emphasized the importance of getting a new cohort of students to engage and run for the election.

**12. Updates (15.52-)**

CF informed about the two letters to students received in connection with Project placement. One of the letters explains the layout of the term and the 3 sessions of supervision that the students can get from their supervisor. The letters were also attached to the agenda.

**13. Suggested items for upcoming meetings**

Items for upcoming UN meetings:

- Discussion about theory and methods in teaching and syllabus (autumn)
- Follow up on discussion about GAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence)
- Discussion about study groups (autumn)
- Presentation by the department's career coordinator about initiatives around employability (autumn).

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#### **14. AOB**

Nothing to the item.

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