



**CENTRE OF AFRICAN STUDIES
STUDY BOARD**

MINUTES OF THE STUDY BOARD MEETING

Time: Tuesday 11 May 2016, 13-15

Venue: Centre of African Studies, Købmagergade 46, 4th floor, room 455

Notetaker: Julie Oxenvad

Participants: Stig Jensen (Chairman, Associate Professor) (SJ), Karen Lauterbach (Associate Professor) (KL), Marquis Lee Caldwell (Vice-Chairman, Student Representative) (MLC), Lasse Poulsen (Student Representative) (LP), Carsten Selch Jensen (Head of Studies) (CSJ), Maj-Britt Johannsen (Director of Studies) (MBJ), Anja Mee Foldberg (Head of Study and Career Counselling) (AMF) and Julie Oxenvad (Secretary of the Study Board) (JOX)

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last Study Board Meeting

The minutes from 19 April were approved.

3. Constitution of the new Study Board

The students had decided to elect a new student representative, Lasse Poulsen, since Amanda Nielsen wished to withdraw. MLC will continue as vice-chairman.

4. Applications for dispensations, credit transfer and Professional Master Final Project

- a) One application for Professional Master Final Project was approved.
- b) One application for a 4th exam attempt for the final project for the Professional Master programme was approved and the exam deadline is 1 December 2016.
- c) One application for dispensation for late exam registration for the re-exam (3rd attempt) in two *optional courses* in the summer exam 2016. The application was approved.

5. Approval of course descriptions for autumn 2016 and spring 2017

The final description for a course planned in the autumn semester 2016 and the descriptions for courses in spring 2017 were sent for the SB's approval. SJ went through the descriptions:

Autumn 2016:

- *Critical Development Planning and Policy Analysis: Focus on Africa* (7.5 ECTS) (Amanda Hammar): the adjusted description was approved.

Spring 2017:

- *Politics, Development and Change* (15 ECTS) (Amanda Hammar): approved.
- *Religion and Development* (15 ECTS) (Karen Lauterbach), course offered together with theology: approved.
- *Governing Africa's Natural Resources* (7.5 ECTS) (Stig Jensen): approved.
- *Urban Africa* (7.5 ECTS) (Amanda Hammar): approved.

Furthermore, SJ informed that CAS has selected two courses (7.5 ECTS) open for CAS student at Political Science (in accordance with the agreement with Political Science):

- *Civil War and Peace Processes in Comparative Perspective* (Nikolas Emmanuel)
- *State Fragility and Collapse* (Nikolas Emmanuel)

The SB agreed that it is not necessary for the SB to approve course descriptions for the compulsory courses unless there are major changes in the course.

6. Revision of the Study Progress Reform (hearing)

MBJ informed about the new proposal for changes in the rules set out in the Study Progress Reform:

- Repealing the requirement of forced course registration. *The SB agreed to continue with the administrative registration of students on 1st and 2nd semester for the compulsory courses.*
- Reintroduction of the late course registration period.
- Automatic registration for the first exam attempt. The students are responsible for signing up for second and third exam attempt.
- Introducing a new requirement for study activity so students have to pass 45 ECTS every year. If students do not meet the requirement, they will be given a notice and a new deadline for when the requirement must be met.

- Introducing a maximum time limit of 3 years for completion of the MA programme for students enrolled 1 September 2016. There is a transitional agreement for students enrolled before 1 September 2016: the time limit for students at CAS is 4 years.
- Introducing new rules for leave of absence for students admitted 1 September 2016 applicable from 1 February 2017.

The SB agreed that the changes in the reform are positive. It also agreed that it is necessary to consider the available resources and ensure that there are sufficient resources in order to implement the recommendations to ensure a better and faster study progression.

7. CAS annual programme report

CSJ informed about the process for the annual programme reports and the process for reporting on quality assurance to Rector every year. CSJ went through the programme report for CAS and particularly stressed the numbers for drop-out, unemployment and international students.

SJ asked whether data about the quality of the programme can be linked to the information in the report, for example in terms of looking into whether the large drop-out rate (23.4 percent) can be linked to the quality of the programme. SJ also suggested adding statistic on the grades for the MA theses and the length of the thesis writing period to the programme report.

The SB discussed the drop-out rate and how to improve the rate. It particularly discussed what to do about students admitted to the programme who do not show up when the semester starts. It discussed different solutions for how to deal with this at the semester start 2016. The following suggestions were discussed: that the students have to confirm their enrollment a second time when the semester starts (they already confirm their place in the programme when they receive the admission letter), or introducing a requirement for attendance in the compulsory courses at semester start. The SB agreed that the Study Administration (MBJ) looks into the possibilities and it will discuss it on the next meeting and decide what to do.

The SB also agreed that in the long run it want to look into how to improve the quality of the programme for the students that are attending the courses.

The SB also discussed the unemployment rate (30.5 percent) and the initiatives already undertaken in terms of improving the rate, including strengthening the link between internship/thesis and the labor market.

The SB also discussed which graduates are included in the statistic and whether international students, international recruitments and part-time jobs are included. The SB asked for information on who is included and who is not included in the statistic.

The SB discussed how to improve the unemployment rate, for example to enhance the Career Day and continue the work to improve the link between internship/thesis and companies and organizations where there are possibilities for employment. SJ said that CAS is facing a difficult situation with the cut downs in NGOs, organizations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. KL suggested that CAS improves the description of the students' competences when graduating.

8. Update from the meeting with the Employer Panel

SJ informed that CAS had a meeting with the Employer Panel on 2 May and the dropout rate and employment were also discussed with the Employer Panel.

9. The formation of student groups autumn 2016

The SB discussed the group formation for *Economic Development in Africa* related to a discussion on a meeting in the beginning of the year. It discussed the purpose of the groups and agreed that it wish to create both social study groups in terms of improving the study start especially for the international students and to create academic exam groups for *Economic Development in Africa*.

The SB suggested that the academic student counsellors will create social groups for the study start, and SJ will discuss how to create exam groups for *Economic Development in Africa* with the lecturer Henrik Meyer.

The SB agreed to discuss the formation of students groups again on the next meeting.

10. Information on minor issues

a) Statistic on requests to the student ambassador

This item was postponed to next meeting (21.6.2016) because there was no time left to discuss the item.

11. Points of discussion raised on behalf of MA students

The Student Representatives asked whether there is any money for a social event for the students. AMF informed about the possibilities through the Student Study Environment Funds.

12. Other business

No other business.