



CENTRE OF AFRICAN STUDIES STUDY BOARD

MINUTES OF THE STUDY BOARD MEETING

Time: Thursday 31 March 2016, 9.30-12

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), Amanda Nielsen (Student Representative) (AN), 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).

Absent: Marquis Lee Caldwell (Student Representative).

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

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

The minutes from 23 February were approved.

3. Applications for dispensations, exemptions and credit transfer

- a) One application for pre-approval of credit transfer of courses (22.5 ECTS) from the University of Cape Town. The application was approved and the courses will replace *Optional Courses*.
- b) One application for exemption from the requirement for study activity. The application was approved due to the special circumstances. The new deadline for the requirement for study activity was postponed until 30 June 2016. Furthermore, the SB granted the student an exemption from being registered for new ECTS credits in the spring semester 2016 and thus a dispensation to cancel the registration for the Thesis in the spring semester 2016.

- c) One application for exemption from the requirement for study activity. The application was approved due to the special circumstances. The new deadline for the requirement for study activity was postponed until 30 June 2016.

The Study Board also considered a request to grant a general pre-approval of credit transfer of the summer course *New Urban Life Across the Globe: Activism and Change in a World of Cities* (7.5 ECTS). The summer school is organized in cooperation between the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies (TORS) (Faculty of Humanities), Sociology (Faculty of Social Sciences) and the Centre of African Studies. The SB decided to grant a general pre-approval of the course and CAS students that are admitted to the course can register the pre-approval in the CAS administration.

SJ informed about a change of a decision from last meeting regarding an application for exemption from participating in person in the *Thesis Seminar* in the spring semester 2016. The application was approved due to special circumstances.

4. Study Start evaluation 2015

The SB discussed the Study Start evaluation from 2015. The SB noted that the response rate was low. The SB also noted the following feedback from the students:

- The programme for the Study Start days was too long and the students would like to have more social activities included in the programme.
- Better information for the international full-degree students was needed.
- Better information in general before the study start was needed.

MBJ asked to include a comparison with surveys from previous years when the Study Start evaluation is presented to the SB.

5. Study Start Guide 2016

The SB discussed the Study Start Guide and especially the study start programme. As a consequence of the discussion of the Study Start evaluation, the SB agreed that the study start should only be held on one day instead of two in 2016. The SB discussed the topics and staff that should be presented on the day. The SB agreed that the presentation of the core staff at CAS should be in short sessions and presentations.

6. Approval of course descriptions for autumn 2016

Descriptions of some of the courses planned in the autumn semester 2016 were sent for the SB's approval. SJ went over the descriptions:

- *Nature, Population and Society*: approved
- *Helping Africa?*: the SB agreed that the 'learning outcome' has to be adjusted in order to become more specific before next meeting
- *Critical Perspectives on Human Rights and NGOs in Africa*: approved with an adjusted title: *Human Rights and NGOs in Africa*
- *Critical Development Planning and Policy Analysis*: the submitted description was not adequate and the SB will consider a complete one at the next meeting

7. Courses Spring 2017

SJ said that he hasn't received any feedback from the students regarding courses offered in the spring semester 2017. SJ informed that the research group has discussed the range of optional courses for the spring semester 2017.

8 Evaluation autumn 2015

The SB discussed the course evaluations from the autumn semester 2015. The SB noted that it hasn't received an evaluation from one course (*Conflicts in Africa*).

The SB discussed the format of the evaluations and how they are presented to the SB. It was suggested to include the response rate on the evaluation, and furthermore the number of students registered for the course and the number of students that have completed the exam. The SB agreed that it was a good idea and SJ said that the working group will look into this. MBJ also suggested that the SB establish a group that will consider and go through the course evaluations before they are presented to the SB.

The following courses were evaluated in the autumn semester 2015 and presented to the SB:

- *Economic Development in Africa*: High degree of satisfaction with this course.
- *Nature, Population and Society in Africa*: Positive evaluations.
- *Thesis Seminar*: In general very satisfactory. A relative large percentage answered that the 'open slot with former students' were unacceptable.
- *Alternatives Approaches to Economies in Africa*: One student has evaluated the course. Not sufficient.
- *Elites and Power in Africa*: Two students have evaluated the course. Not sufficient.
- *Helping Africa?*: General positive.

- *Human Rights and Violence in Africa*: Very positive.
- *Kiswahili I*: Very positive.

The SB was satisfied with the evaluations and found that the feedback in general was very positive. The students were in general happy with the curriculum and teaching. The SB noted that the response rate was too low for two courses with few students registered and thus the SB wasn't able to conclude anything. The SB found it critical and not acceptable with the low response rate for two courses.

9 Evaluation: update from the working group in relation to the procedure for course evaluation

SJ updated on the work in the group. The group is meeting next week and will discuss how to proceed with the work.

SJ informed that he is linked up to a pilot-project on mid-term evaluation at the Faculty of Science linked to UCPH's 2016-initiative. SJ informed that he has been in dialogue with Jan Sølberg (associate professor from Department of Science Education) and he will invite Jan Sølberg to the next meeting in the SB.

The new procedure is valid from September 2016. But we will start to evaluate *Thesis* and *Internship and Field Study* this spring semester.

10. Information on minor issues

All the items below were postponed to next meeting (19 April) because there was no time left to discuss the item.

- a.) **The Study Boards template for course descriptions**
- b.) **MA thesis**
- c.) **Revision of the Study guidelines for the Professional Master**
- d.) **Reports on internationalization and student counselling**
- e.) **Evaluation of the Teaching at the Faculty Spring semester 2015**

11. Points of discussion raised on behalf of MA students

The student representatives had no further points for discussion at this meeting.

12. Other business

No other business.