

Study Board CAS



**MINUTES**

16 JUNE 2021

**Forum** Study Board CAS

**Meeting held** 16 June 2021

**Place** 6B-0-36

**Minute taker** Stephan Reinemer

**THE STUDY BOARD AT THE CENTRE  
FOR AFRICAN STUDIES**

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**Present**

Associate Professor Stig Jensen (chair), Student Representative Sissel Rosenberg, Student Representative Monika Grinschgl, Assistant Professor Toke Møldrup, Head of Studies Marlene Ringgaard Lorensen, Head of Section Karen Lauterbach, Director of Studies Maj-Britt Johannsen, Study Board Secretary Stephan Reinemer

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**Agenda**

**Ad 1) Approval of the agenda**

Approved with minor changes to the order of the items.

**Ad 2) Approval: Minutes from last study board meeting**

Approved – with an addition to item 6.

**Ad 3) Matters arisen from approval of minutes**

None

**Ad 4) Applications to the Study Board**

None

**Ad 5) Urgent applications processed since last meeting**

PAGE 2 OF 5

One ruling regarding an exemption from the period of internships.

**Ad 6) Discussion/decision: Action plan in the education area**

Based on the programme evaluation 2021 the Board discussed and suggested possible initiatives to The Head of Studies

The Board based its discussion on the report and recommendation from the external experts.

Theme 1: Branding and Admission of students

The Board suggest a continuation of the work which is also proposed from the experts:

A presentation of the subject, which clarifies the programs unique learning content.

A branding of African Studies as a master's program that also extends beyond KU.

A visibility of work-related competencies that students can acquire in addition to the classic academic qualifications of a master's program.

A revision of the educational profile and descriptions was proposed, including improvement of the information on the home page. Also improved information about the possibility of internship

Theme 2: Evaluation of studies, study environment and curriculum

The curriculum must make it clear that the education offers many choices and the students must independently find their specialization - thematically and / or geographically - within a wide field.

That descriptions of the program provides concrete examples of the diverse employment opportunities after completion, which is not necessarily related to Africa and therefore also is based on individual training and competence profiles.

That an example of a study development may be added which illustrates the individual profiling on the basis of the general, very broad and scientific presentation of subject in the curriculum.

The students own involvement in creating a personal profile, must be communicated and discussed in the introductory course to African Studies in the first semester.

Requirements for special profiling of the students could be included in Method-courses in the second semester.

An enhanced use of African guest lecturers (perhaps via zoom) and more African sources could be included in the curriculum. It is

important that students learn to take a critical stance on the broad selection of literature, theory and methods that are presented.

PAGE 3 OF 5

A main component is the double diversity, and most importantly the very large spread in the students' academic competences. A mean to alleviate this is a diversification of the education, which will provide possibilities for the more competent student. Another suggestion is more use of group work. Since work in groups mostly is not part of the exam, some students may be hard to motivate.

It was suggested to revise the Study Curriculum within the coming year (before September 2023).

It was suggested to contact TEACH with regard to strengthen the centers ability to handle a diverse student population / different academic competences.

The Board discussed if an introduction of academic tutors (mentors), and a stronger connection between first and second year students could be beneficial.

### Theme 3: Branding of CAS

More structured presentation of African Studies as a possible "overbygning" to for example political science, geography, sociology, history etc.

Branding of African Studies at Danish universities in general  
Regular presentation in Danish media (through teacher, students and alumni).

Presentations/participations in different study environments with participation of former graduates.

The board discussed how to achieve a more significant presence/profile, in order to attract applicants.

It was suggested to have lecturers propose guest appearances/lectures at other faculties.

Also joint courses with other educations (e.g Global Development, area studies) was proposed.

A former agreement with SAMF was mentioned. They used to pre-approve courses from CAS for their own students. The courses would therefore be visible for the students at SAMF.

More possibilities for internships or field studies in the private sector related to Africa.

Student jobs in the private sector related to Africa (perhaps with the help of the alumni network)

Support for building soft skills (especially presentation / communication skills and independent knowledge acquirement) through different types of exam forms (term-paper; synopsis lectures; short essays; reports, etc.).

Introduction of short compulsory presentations in the individual courses which strengthen the students' communication skills as part of the course curriculum.

Presentations must be adapted to the individual course and can therefore take place in different ways, such as a discussion of different texts, students' own interpretation of a text, or students' presentation of a topic in the current public debate.

More focus on reaching out to local actors, networks, businesses which already are in Africa, and could be interesting for the students internships.

The development of Soft Skills, and joint productions was emphasized.

It was suggested to arrange a thematic course with a broader focus on Soft- / publicational skills.

More focus on the possibility of writing the thesis in cooperation with external partners.

Regarding "Progression": the numbers show a small margin to the threshold. A continuation of the work.

Regarding "Completion Time": The Board will continue the work for preparing the thesis process earlier, earlier appointment of thesis guide, the improvement of the guide for thesis writing

**Ad 7) Information: Censor chairmanship**

Presentation of the Annual meeting with the censor chairmanship  
New censor chairman by 2022.

**Ad 8) Information: Study-start**

The Student counsellor presented the preparations of the Study Start 2021 (Guide, program, Study Start Policy. It has been considered that the international students may not be present. A program has been made for 2nd and 3rd September 2021.

**Ad 9) Discussion: Written feedback and exam complaints**

The Board discusses practice regarding post-exam feedback and exam complaints. For an example a guide for examiners, see:

PAGE 5 OF 5

<https://kunet.ku.dk/faculty-and-department/law/teachingandexams/exams/cheating-and-complaints/Pages/default.aspx>

The item was postponed.to the August meeting.

**Ad 10) CPHU model for digital education/formation**

The issue was discussed in December with a note for further discussion. The Head of Studies will follow up and give a presentation.

The item was postponed.to the August meeting.

**Ad 11) Discussion: Course evaluation of the autumn semester 2020**

The Board discussed key findings in the Course Evaluation for Autumn 2020, and relayed its comments to the Head of Studies. The use of Student Presentations was discussed widely in the courses. The students where very focused on exam. The inclusion of presentation is good initiative, but has had a disruptive influence. Online teaching may have enhanced this where there is less obligation than if present.

Hybrid lectures does not seem to work.

**Ad 12) Information on minor issues**

None

**Ad 13) Point of discussion raised by the Head of Studies**

No further issues

**Ad 14) Point of discussion raised on behalf of the student counsellor**

No further issues

**Ad 15) Other business**

Date for August meeting Thursday 5 august 9 - 11