

To the members of
CAS Study Board (2019)
Student Representative Georgina Nabwire Mwachiru
Student Representative Ra-Iey Samson Bobosha
Associate Professor Stig Jensen
Associate Professor Karen Lauterbach



NOTICE OF MEETING

14 JANUARY 2020

Forum CAS study board

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

Meeting date Monday 2 December 2019; 13-15

Place 6B-0-36

SOUTH CAMPUS
KAREN BLIXENS PLADS 16
2300 COPENHAGEN S

Agenda

1) Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved

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2) Approval of the minutes from the last study board meeting (annex 1)

The minutes was approved

REF: MBJ

3) Urgent applications processed since last meeting

None

4) Applications for dispensation and credit transfer

One student is applying for sick leave for a year based on a medical certificate. The student has passed the first year of study. The application for sick leave for a year has been granted. SB wishes, that the student in the SB decision will be encouraged to contact the Student Counselor to make a plan of how the study can be completed. The SB decision must

also include a guide of how to sign up for courses for the third semester after the end of sick leave.

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One student has applied for postponement of the hand in day of the thesis, 31 December, based on a medical certificate. The application is granted, and the thesis must be handed in 31 2020.

5) Planning: coming meetings in spring 2020

Next meeting will be held Monday 3 February from 12:30 until 14:30.

The Study Board Secretary is planning three other meetings in spring – March, April and May on Mondays from 12:30 until 14:30, and will send outlook invitations out to the members.

6) Discussion: Course evaluation for the spring semester 2019

The course evaluations were not sent out with the meeting material, which they should be from now on. The CAS VIP Group in the Study Board has looked at the course evaluations for the spring 2019. There was great variation in the number of evaluations received. Only few evaluations from internships and fieldwork have been received. The discussion focused mainly on the new compulsory course Advanced Research Methods.

The course is new and was completed for the first time. Some students had previously had methods training on similar topics on their bachelor and were uncertain about what the difference was between their prior training and this course. Other students had not had a method course before. Therefore it can be a challenge for the teacher to find the right level. The teachers will look into if more exercises and workshops can be included in the teaching. The objective of the course is to prepare students for both internship / field study in the third semester and to thesis writing and it therefore relevant to all students. This has to be made clearer in the introduction of the course. The teachers will include the discussion in their considerations for the course planning.

7) Discussion: Evaluation of the study start (annex 2 and 3)

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The evaluations for the study start was made by student counselor Sarah and was presented by the AC-counselor Anja Mee Foldberg.

The evaluations gave in general positive feedback.

Not many students participated in the matriculation ceremony because they were too tired. There were different comments to the social activities together with students from theology and religious roots. Three CAS students have joined the faculty football team. A student representative asked about a buddy-arrangement, but the AC-counselor explained, that most of the CAS students are in Africa for internships or fieldwork for their third semester, when the new students are starting the study programme. As part of the evaluation, some students asked for more study start information for international students. Friday morning the international students got separate information, and a lot of information can be found at the KUnet study information sites. The Student Counselor has also been available for a month prior to study start, so the international students have had good opportunity to get answers to their questions.

The Student Representatives in SB told that there was trouble with getting access to Absalon in August 2019. They did not all have access to Absalon two weeks prior to study start, and Absalon course rooms were empty. The Director of Studies will look into the case.

Prior to study start 2020 the Student Counselor is encouraged to write to the students to ask, if they have access to Absalon and the course material. The students can find some reading material for the courses on "kurser.ku.dk", but the detailed reading plan and curriculum is to be found in the course room on Absalon.

8) Letter from students regarding first semester course

Five students on first semester had written a letter about the course *Economic Development in Africa*. The letter was handed out at the meeting.

The Students Representatives informed, that not all the students agree

with the points raised in the letter. All students have seen the letter, but only five chose to sign. The students have different expectations, backgrounds and knowledge of economy and the five complaining represents a part quantity of the total group of students.

One teacher found the points raised in the letter very well argued and thorough, and highlighted the positive in the fact that CAS has engaging students, who will spend their time writing thorough letter of issues.

It should be looked into how the course is described in the Study Curriculum and on "kurser.ku.dk" to compare the points of criticism in the letter. The form of examination, where a country is chosen, should be evaluated, as there was also comments regarding this last year.

The VIP group will discuss the course and the letter with the Head of Centre and the concerned teachers. We will put the case on the agenda in February.

9) Discussion: Electronic course evaluation (annex 4)

Both Theology and African Studies have previously discussed electronic course evaluation. SB was worried if the percentage of answers would be lower, if the course evaluations become electronic. Currently, the course evaluations are handed out in the classes. HUM's electronic evaluations was in the meeting material. HUM uses the same questionnaire on all their study programmes, but there is room for individual questions. SB decides to invite an employee from HUM to represent their electronic course evaluations on a common meeting with the Study Board of Theology. The SB Secretary will contact HUM and set up a meeting. If SB decides to continue working with the course evaluations, it should happen in collaboration with one of the pedagogical educational centers at UCPH. All the courses are currently evaluated every time they are offered, and SB will consider whether the courses should only be evaluated every second time they are offered. SB will also consider if there should continue to be a mid and end evaluation.

10) Information on minor issues

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a) Implementation of new admission rule for English proficiency (annex 5)

The Study Curriculum is on the line with the legislation. The admission requirement for Danish and Nordic students is English B as it has been up until now, but now the requirement is, that English B must not only be passed, but it must be passed with a weighted average of 3.

b) Study Board conference feedback

Ray was the only one from SB, who attended the Study Board conference. On the conference, the strategy goals of research-based and research-integrated teaching were discussed. The Head of Studies, who is a member of the strategy group of research-integrated teaching activities, presented the strategy point and informed of the application round for the pilot projects with research-integrated teaching, where the deadline is medio January 2020 for courses placed in spring. There can, among other, be applied for fundings for organizing a master class; development of new teachings from research-based to research-integrated teaching; development of a process where the students finishes by writing a research article; development of existing courses; associating of Ph.D. students to the teaching; invitation of prominent researchers to attend the teaching etc. There will be another application round for courses placed in the autumn.

c) Edinburgh staff and student mobility

Head of the Study Board has been on a visit at the University of Edinburgh to talk about staff and student mobility. African Studies already has staff mobility, but also wishes to have student mobility. Edinburgh plans student mobility, which includes Ghana, which African Studies might be able to become part of.

11) Point of discussion raised on behalf of the Head of Studies (CSJ)

a) Commission for the workgroup regarding KA-RRE/Islamic Studies (annex 6)

Head of Studies told about the Religious Roots of Europe (RRE) program, which Aarhus University is now leaving. Theology has taken over the coordinator role for the program. On the Faculty we accept between 5 and 10 students on the program yearly. The Faculty is working on taking over the master study programme in Islamic Studies (IS) from HUM, and will look into the development of common courses in the two study programmes. A workgroup has been set, who must come with recommendations for the dean. The Faculty has also applied for fundings to develop a one year master-study programme on Abrahamic religions cf. new legislation, which makes this possible, and the work with this study programme will be in collaboration with the workgroup for RRE and IS.

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- b) *Fundings for research-integrated teaching activities (annex 7)* See point 10 b).

12) Points of discussion raised on behalf of MA students (Student Representatives)

Nothing came up.

13) Point of discussion raised on behalf of the student counsellor

Nothing came up.

14) Other business

Nothing came up.

Written information:

[The student ambassador newsletter for third quarter 2019.](#)