

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



## MINUTES

30 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Forum** CAS study board

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

**Meeting date** Monday 30 September 2019; 13-15

**Place** 6B-0-36

SOUTH CAMPUS  
KAREN BLIXENS PLADS 16  
2300 COPENHAGEN S

**Minutes-taker** Maj-Britt Johannsen

### Present

Karen Lauterbach (chair, associate professor), Stig Jensen (associate professor), Georgina Nabwire Mwachiru and Ra-Iey Samson Bobosha (student representatives) and Maj-Britt Johannsen (director of studies and secretary).

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### Agenda

REF: MBJ

#### Ad 1) Approval of the agenda

The study board approved the agenda with a new item 11) Course evaluation cover letter.

#### Ad 2) Constitution of the new Study Board

##### a. Appointment of new student representatives.

Welcome to the new student representative Ra-Iey Samson Bobosha. Rector has given a dispensation to new student representatives for the remaining of this election term. Student representatives have to remember to sign up on a list for the election to be appointed correctly.

Ra-Iey Samson Bobosha was elected as the new vice chair.

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**b. The work of the study board (annex 1)**

The chair introduced to the study board work and rules and procedures. The study board deals with course evaluation, approval of new courses, credit transfer, dispensation, hearings etc. All documents for the meetings are placed in the study board group room at KU-net. The study board work in confidence and are obliged to keep personal information secret. Dispensation cases are in a folder in the secretary's office and can be read in the office prior to the meetings. Students represent all students and should talk on behalf of all students at CAS. Meetings for handling cases may appear in between the study board meetings, and will be carried out by the chair and vice chair. Ra-Iey Bobosha has become a member of the theology student council.

**Ad 3) Approval of the minutes from the previous study board meeting (annex 2)**

The study board approved the minutes.

**Ad 4) Urgent applications processed since last meeting**

No applications.

**Ad 5) Applications for dispensation and credit transfer**

The study board decided to approve an application of credit transfer. The course "*Livelihoods and Rural-Urban Connections in the Global South*" from SCIENCE, University of Copenhagen will replace an elective component (7.5 ECTS) in the MA programme in African Studies.

**Ad 6) Discussion: Minor changes to the study curriculum**

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The study board changed the scope for the thesis, which was implemented on the meeting the 27th of August 2019. The study board would like African Studies to have the same scope as Theology.

The study board for Theology decided, on their last meeting, to keep both the lower and the upper limit for the extent of the thesis. The study board for African studies would like to keep the high limit of 180.000 characters, but is considering whether the lower limit can be reduced.

The Chair will write to the head of study board for Theology regarding their decision, and will contact the head of studies to see if it is acceptable to have a large span between the lower and the upper limit. The chair and the vice chair will afterwards decide whether the current scope should stay as it is now, or if there should be a new lower limit. The decision will be communicated to the secretary of the study board and the other members through e-mail.

Literature/curricula is currently on 2,000-3,000 pages. The study board decides that it shall be reduced to 1,800-2,800, and thereby they maintain the decision from the study board meeting the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

The study board implements the following changes to the current study curriculum:

The sentence "The MA thesis is written under the guidance of a supervisor and in a timeframe of six months" on page 24 is changed to "The MA thesis is written under the guidance of a supervisor".

The sentence "The students must register the group at the exam office." On page 25 is deleted.

The dean must hereafter approve the study curriculum.

External censors must hereafter be notified of the new model for the thesis, and made aware of the fact, that students from now on only have 4 months to write the thesis, and that this fact must be taken into account when assessing.

According to page 8 of the study curriculum, the courses must be taken in the sequence they are offered. In the study curriculum, it says that “It is a prerequisite that the student has passed 60 ECTS and has signed up for the exam of 30 ECTS before writing the MA thesis,” which shall stay as it is.

It was discussed, whether the examination form for the course *Advanced Research Methods* is explained in too many details in the study curriculum, but the study board decided to keep the existing text.

**Ad 7) Discussion: Feedback to students on course descriptions**

UCPH has focus on feedback to students. The course descriptions for the coming academic year must be filled in by the 1st of February 2020, and they must all contain filled feedback boxes. The teaching group will discuss this. It must be decided, whether the feedback form follows the course or the teacher. Once the teaching group has discussed this, they will bring it back to the study board, so that the study board can discuss this.

The feedback point must be included in the agenda for the study board meeting the 2nd of December 2019. The course evaluations from spring 2019 must also be included in the agenda for the meeting the 2nd of December, as the study board cannot discuss them earlier.

**Ad 8) Information: Implementation of the new thesis model  
(annex 3a-b)**

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The study board for Theology has decided, that they accept the same dates for entering the thesis contract as the study board for African Studies. African Studies has a *Thesis seminar*, and the students turn in a thesis research proposal as a part of *Advanced Research Methods* course.

The process for who will be appointed as the MA thesis advisor on which MA thesis' must be planned. The teaching group would like, that the process is started earlier, so that the teachers can better plan their semester. The teaching group would like, that the students are appointed the same advisor for internship/fieldwork and the thesis. Students who are not taking an internship/fieldwork must also be appointed a thesis advisor in good time.

It was discussed, whether the thesis advisor process could be linked to the course *Advanced Research Methods*. It would be ideal, if the student's priorities their wishes to a thesis advisor in the month of June, by sending their priorities to the person responsible for the course.

**Ad 9) Information and final discussion: UMV results (annex 4)**

The students have the option, of having influence on UMV through the students representatives in the study board. Students are happy for the initiative with the "water-hole". Students can apply for money at the theology student council to spend on decorating the "water-hole" or social activities like film screening, café coyness etc. CAS has a social mentor, and perhaps she has ideas for activities.

The students are encouraged to contact the social mentor, so that they together can come up with ideas for activities. Students are encouraged

to contact Amanda Hammer to get influence on the decoration of the “water-hole”.

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**Ad 10) Discussion: Erasmus+ Mobility with Partner countries (annex 5a-b)**

Stig Jensen is through the University of Ålborg in an Erasmus+ programme about sustainability and entrepreneurship, where many universities from the west and Africa is participating. He emphasizes, that it takes a lot of work to run. CAS has specific contacts in the University of Cape Town, but to run an Erasmus+ programme there must be put an extensive amount of work into a programme and partnership, and Cape Town must also feel ownership. Somebody must run it, both here and there. KU global has tried to get something up and running with University of Cape Town, but it has not been easy.

**New item added to the agenda:**

**Ad 11) Course evaluation cover letter**

*Discussion: The course evaluation can be anonymous*

Students can feel, that it is uncomfortable to evaluate while the teacher is present. The Theology study board has visited HUM, who has made the course evaluation electronic. They are considering to implement the same evaluation form at Theology. CAS SB would like to see the electronic questionnaire from HUM and discuss it (Maj-Britt Johannsen will try to get it). The chair of Theology study board has already contacted the chair of the CAS study board. It was discussed if course evaluations at CAS could also have an oral component. The mid-term evaluation is oral. CAS has a high percentage of students evaluating with the current paper evaluation form.

The course evaluation letter was accepted without comments. CAS continue with the existing evaluation forms and the work to get electronic evaluation together with Theology study board like HUM.

**Ad 12) Information on minor issues**

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Nothing came up.

**Ad 13) Point of discussion raised on behalf of the Head of Studies (CSJ)**

Nothing came up.

**Ad 14) Points of discussion raised on behalf of MA students (Student Representatives)**

Some students would like to bring in more teaching in the subject African history. In the current teaching there is only a limited focus on African history in the teaching (only Nigeria) with Niels Kastfelt in the course *Introduction to Africa*, but some students want more teaching on African history. Preferably African history before the colonization. Niels Kastfelt will be retiring summer 2020, and will be teaching for the last time this autumn semester. What plans do CAS have for teaching in African history for 2020 and forwards?

It was discussed if CAS could offer an elective course in history. Students can also ask the teachers in the other courses to bring up certain themes like African history in the course. CAS students can apply for money at the theology student council for an academic seminar in the spring 2020, where a historian from outside can be invited. For example Moritz, who they have previously invited. Students are welcome to ask the teachers for other ideas.

**Ad 15) Point of discussion raised on behalf of the student counsellor**

Nothing came up.

**Ad 16) Other business**

Nothing came up.