

Study Board of CAS



MINUTES

1 NOVEMBER 2024

Forum Study Board of CAS

**STUDY BOARD FOR AFRICAN
STUDIES**

Meeting held 1 November 2024

Place 6B-0-36, Faculty of Theology

KAREN BLIXENS PLADS 16
KØBENHAVN S

Minute taker Stephan Reinemer

DIR 45 35 33 14 42

Present

Stig Eduard Breitenstein Jensen (chair), George Kobina Ackom (vice-chair), Amanda Hammar (ViP), Abe Moedt (stud.), Nora Elisabeth Götzmann (stud.), Marlene Ringgaard Lorensen (Head of Studies), Maj-Britt Johannsen (Director of Studies), Stephan Reinemer (secr.)

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Agenda

1. Approval: Agenda (chair)

The Study Board approved the suggested agenda for the meeting, with minor adjustments of the order of the items.

2. Approval: Minutes (chair)

The Study Board approved the minutes from the last study board meeting, September 2024.

3. Discussion: Matters arisen from approval of minutes (sec.)

The Study Board discussed status of items decided on last meeting.

4. Approval: Applications to the Study Board (sec.)

The Study Board processes applications to the Study Board in closed session. No application at this meeting.

5. Discussion: Evaluation of the study start

The Study Board evaluated the study start for 2024 based on the report from the student counsellor. The study start activities were not quite finished at the time of the meeting.

The board noted that some students had issues getting visas in time, as has been the case in previous years.

The feedback from the students was very positive. This year, we had a social mentor again, which was a great help.

Students noticed that attendance could be better. Improved attendance might have helped with the information level of the students, such as during the library session. It may be helpful to provide information regarding the Danish exam system, especially for students coming from different educational systems. Perhaps some overall generic material on this issue could be provided.

It was noted that more students signed up for the study start than actually attended. We believe this is due to individual reasons.

The social interaction has been excellent, particularly the trip to Aarhus for the course on teaching in a diverse classroom.

Some students are struggling with the Danish bureaucracy and authorities. It was mentioned that universities are not part of the visa process, which means we do not get information on individual cases and cannot be of much help. Providing information on where to find details about various aspects of Danish society (e.g., borger.dk, Study in Denmark) could be beneficial.

The Board decided to continue focusing on the difficulties faced by international students

6. Discussion: Action Plan - Study Environment Survey 2023 (SMU23)

The Board discussed the faculty Action Plan regarding the Study Environment Survey 2023. The surveys were discussed in June 2024.

The committee for the study environment has formed the action plan. It was noted that the survey and action plan are mandatory. The board noted that the students were positive in the survey and that the action plan addresses relevant non-critical issues.

7. Discussion: Course evaluation of the spring semester

The Study Board discussed the results of the teaching evaluation for spring 2024 and proposed actions for the Head of Studies. The Board noted that most teachers did not hand in feedback. It was mentioned that the generic online survey cannot stand alone. Teachers can add their own relevant questions. It is also suggested that the survey be done in class and as a preface to a verbal discussion. Additionally, the mid-term

evaluation is considered very important in this process, as it provides an opportunity to adjust the course during the semester.

From the teachers' side, there is overall satisfaction with the new questions. The Board noted an improvement in evaluation responses for the thesis seminar. It was also noted that the course room in Absolon may need a better introduction, as it can be challenging for new international students. In general, the Board noted positive feedback, with some technical issues. The Head of Studies will call for a faculty-wide meeting to address best practices for teachers in the evaluation process

8. Discussion: Exam Statistics

The Study Board reviewed exam statistics from the previous academic year Winter and Summer exams (W23/24 & S24). The Board noted the continuing good level of grades.

9. Discussion: Program report (by the Head of Studies)

The Board discussed the draft for the CAS Program Report 2024 and proposed initiatives for the Follow-up Plan. The Head of Studies noted that most issues are progressing well and are in a good state. The Board observed an increase in the number of students from outside the EU and a significant decrease in the dropout rate. The Board addressed the "ViP coverage ratio" (Tenure vs. teaching), which is currently at 0.79, below the target of 0.90. The board noted that this is the effect of buy-out due to research projects and the necessity to cover the "Economic Development in Africa" program with external teachers. The program is awaiting the results of the academic master reform before addressing the issue of required in-house capacities.

10. Information on minor issues

KU-Election: Students has registered for the election.

The Final Censor Board Annual report 2023-24 was presented. A draft of the report was discussed at an earlier meeting.

The Board approved a draft for a certificate for student representatives.

11. Point of discussion raised by the Head of Studies

The Master Reform is well under way. there is hope for a manageable outcome for CAS.

12. Point of discussion raised on behalf of the student counsellor

None further

13. Study Board Calendar, Annual Cycle, Fall meetings

The Study Board visited the board calendar and revised the annual cycle

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14. Other business

None further