

Study Board of CAS



MINUTES

19 MARCH 2024

Forum Study Board of CAS

Meeting held 19 March 2024, 13.00 - 15.00

Place 6B-1-62, Faculty of Theology

Minute taker S.R.

**STUDY BOARD FOR AFRICAN
STUDIES**

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Present

Stig Eduard Breitenstein Jensen (ViP), George Kobina Ackom (stud.), Longxin Liu (stud), Marlene Ringgaard Lorensen (Head of Studies), Maj-Britt Johanssen (Director of Studies), Stephan Reinemer (secretary)

Agenda

Ad 1) Approval: Agenda (chair)

The Study Board approved the suggested agenda for the meeting, including consideration of one application for the board.

Ad 2) Approval: Minutes (chair)

The Study Board approved the minutes from the last study board meeting held in February 2023.

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

The Study Board discussed the status of items decided upon during the last meeting.

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

The Study Board processed one application to the Study Board during a closed session. The Board declined a change of exam form

and deadline but awarded an extra attempt and late registration for the exam if necessary.

Ad 5) Discussion: Course evaluation Fall 2023

The Board acknowledged a deficiency in the current thesis evaluation process and emphasized the need for improvement.

Course Evaluations:

Overall, the Board received highly favorable feedback on course evaluations.

Economic Development: A request was made by both students and instructors for an extended duration of the course, citing concerns of rushed content. Positive feedback was noted, and relevant changes were proposed by the instructor.

Climate, Sustainability, and Environmental Governance: The Board observed a relatively low response rate from students. Additionally, it was noted that the course attracted participants from outside CAS, including a significant number of international students.

Introduction to African Studies: The Board highlighted the positive impact of high attendance in this course.

Nature, Population, and Society, as well as Kiswahili I, received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Discussion on Thesis Evaluation Format: The Board engaged in discussions regarding the structure and format for thesis evaluation, aiming to enhance the efficacy of the process.

Ad 6) Discussion: Course evaluation Spring 2024

The Study Board reviewed the process and cover letter for the course evaluation for the spring semester 2024, which will be fully digital. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a form for teachers to report from evaluations, with a suggestion presented for evaluation form and emphasis on the importance of midterm evaluation. The Board approved the cover letter.

Ad 7) Discussion: Graduate survey 2023

The Study Board discussed the findings from the Graduate Survey 2023, conducted every three years. The following key points were discussed:

Participation Rate:

The Board noted that the number of respondents was comparable to other programs, with approximately 25% participation.

Particularly noteworthy was the participation of younger international female respondents.

Feedback on Required Skills:

The Board acknowledged that skills such as working in a structured manner and within teams received positive feedback.

Areas for Improvement:

Concerns were raised regarding the perceived lack of preparation for current job roles and the ability to apply knowledge and methods acquired during education.

Importance of Group Work:

Discussion ensued regarding the significance of group work in both the learning process and future employability.

Discrepancy in Acquired Skills:

The gap between the required and acquired ability to work on real-life issues and solutions was addressed.

It was acknowledged that bridging this gap is challenging due to the diverse employment positions held by the student population.

Role of Internships:

The Board recognized internships as a crucial element in securing employment, noting that our students already utilize them to a significant extent.

Overall Feedback:

Positive feedback was received, indicating satisfaction with the program.

However, there were identified areas for further development, highlighting the need for upcoming reform efforts.

In conclusion, the Study Board noted the overall positive feedback from the Graduate Survey 2023 while recognizing specific areas requiring attention and improvement. These findings will inform future initiatives aimed at enhancing the program's effectiveness and relevance to students' career aspirations.

Ad 8) Student Counsellor: Information of the career event, and preparations of the third semester meeting/event

The board expressed anticipation for more information regarding the career event and future study start preparation.

The Students Counsellor will provide a written statement for circulation to the board members.

Ad 9) Approval: The Faculty Action Plan 2024

Head of Studies provided an introduction and overview of the current status.

The Action Plan was deliberated upon, with particular emphasis placed on enhancing the efficiency of thesis writing, notably by reducing the number of attempts required. This improvement stems from specific program initiatives.

The Study Board engaged in a discourse regarding the affirmative utilization of AI as a valuable resource. Additionally, there was a recognition of the importance of examinations that effectively evaluate students' proficiency in the program's outcomes.

The topic of internationalization was addressed, exploring avenues such as virtual exchange programs in cases where extended stays in foreign countries may not be feasible.

The Study Board expressed gratitude for the opportunity to provide input and insights.

The Board concluded a consensus on the discussed matters. The Board looks forward to implementing the outlined Action Plan and furthering efforts in enhancing program quality and internationalization.

Ad 10) Approval: The Faculty Target Plan 2025 - 2028

The Study Board discussed the Target Plan, noting CAS' strengths and discussing strategies to broaden visibility. The Board expressed gratitude for the opportunity to comment.

Ad 11) Information on minor issues

The Study Environment Survey was finalized and will be discussed in future meetings of the board.

Ad 12) Point of discussion raised by the Head of Studies

The Head of Studies provided an update on the Master Reform.

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

No further points were raised.

Ad 14) Study Board Calendar & Annual Cycle

The Study Board reviewed the board calendar and noted that Course descriptions and teaching requisition will be approved in a written consultation.

Ad 15) Other business

No further points were raised.

Ref.: S.R