Centre of African Studies
Advisory Board

Minutes from meeting
Time: Monday 8 April 2013, 15.30-17
Venue: Centre of African Studies, Købmagergade 46, 4.
1150 København K., Room 455.
Note taker: Julie Oxenvad

Present: Knud Vilby (journalist and writer), Ole Winckler Andersen (DANIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark), Steffen Frølund Thomsen (consultant), Pernille Nagel Sørensen (PS Advize), Stig Jensen (Director, CAS) and Julie Oxenvad (Head of Administration, CAS)
Guest: Henrik Hansen (Department of Economics, UCPH)

Agenda:
1. Welcome by director, Stig Jensen
2. Approval of minutes from last meeting in the Advisory Board
3. CAS – news since last meeting
4. Feedback from the members in the Advisory Board
5. Hearing on the new MA programme – Global Development
6. Any other business

1. Welcome by director, Stig Jensen
Stig Jensen welcomed the present members of the Advisory Board and gave an update on the members of the Board. Knud Vilby and Ole Winckler Andersen informed that they will withdraw from the Advisory Board. Stig Jensen asked the members to make suggestions for new members of the board.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting in the Advisory Board
The minutes from last meeting in 2012 were approved.
3. **CAS – news since last meeting**

Stig Jensen informed about the different study programmes at the Centre of African Studies (CAS) and the different kind of students studying at the centre: MA students, professional master students, part-time students, credit students and international guest students. The tendency is that CAS admits a growing number of students every year and the number of registrations for courses is high. CAS had not been forced to cancel courses in the last year because of too few registrations (minimum 10 students). The study environment is very international because almost half of the students admitted to the MA programme are now international students.

Stig Jensen also informed about the collaboration agreement with Political Science on courses which means that students from CAS can take selected courses at Political Science and vice versa without applying for pre-approval.

Last year in 2012 the centre got two promotions films produced by a professional instructor. One film about the MA programme and one film about the professional master programme. The films are available at the CAS website.

Stig Jensen informed that two new Ph.D. students are employed at CAS from the beginning of the year 2013: Julie Sommer von Würden and Hannah Rose Elliot.

Stig Jensen concluded that the development at CAS in the last year has been positive.

4. **Feedback from the members in the Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board discussed how CAS views itself in relation to the new MA programme Global Development (presented under item 5) since both programmes are based on interdisciplinarity. The Board discussed CAS’s position and the possible collaboration between the programmes.

Ole Winckler Andersen said that he has the impression that courses on the same topic are offered several places at the University and he suggested that the faculties collaborate and offer joint courses instead.

Knud Vilby asked why there is no correlation between the growing numbers of students at CAS and more money allocated for CAS to appoint more researchers who can be responsible for the teaching so that CAS doesn’t have to employ external teachers.

The Advisory Board was concerned whether there are enough researchers at the centre to handle the research based teaching and that it is a fragile situation for CAS with many students but very few employees.
5. **Hearing on the new MA programme – Global Development**

Henrik Hansen from Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Science, was invited as a guest to the meeting to present the new MA programme, Global Development, to the Advisory Board. The new MA programme is about to be considered and evaluated in the accreditation process and therefore views and opinions from partners and employers, including selected Advisory Boards at University of Copenhagen, are important.

Henrik Hansen gave a short description of the new MA programme at University of Copenhagen. The MA programme Global Development is an interdisciplinary development programme within the field of social science. It is a cross-faculty programme and it involves both the departments of Anthropology, Economics, Law and Science and also the Centre of African Studies. The programme will to a large extent focus on methodology and will be a more practically-oriented programme.

The Advisory Board had a positive view of the new programme and agreed that it’s interesting and relevant.

Steffen Frølund Thomsen said that he finds the programme very ambitious and he expressed concern that the programme might be too broad. He asked for more information about the new programme’s relation to the programmes in International Development Studies at RUC and International Business at CBS. He did see a role for a new MA programme in Global Development; however he felt that more should be done in terms of describing the differences in the profiles. Henrik Hansen answered that such a description was in preparation as this seemed to be in high demand from several Advisory Boards. Henrik Hansen also explained that the MA in Global Development will have more focus on economics compared to the master programme at RUC, and less focus on business economics compared to the programme at CBS. And compared to other programmes there will be more emphasis on basic anthropological and economic theory and empirical methods in the MA programme in Global Development.

Pernille Nagel Sørensen also found that the programme is very ambitious considering that it is only a two-year programme. She said that she finds the focus on methods very positive and interesting. Her concern was if there are any jobs for the students after graduation.

Ole Winckler Andersen mentioned that the focus on qualitative and quantitative research methods is very important. He also stated that it is important that the programme is research based and the teaching is linked up to research and projects. Furthermore, Ole Winckler Andersen was of the opinion that because the programme is a cross-faculty programme, there also needs to be research collaboration between the departments.

Stig Jensen agreed with the members of the Advisory Board that the focus on methods in the programme is very positive.