Centre of African Studies

Advisory Board

Minutes from meeting
Time: Monday 16 April 2012, 16-17.30
Venue: Centre of African Studies, Købmagergade 46, 4.
       1150 København K., Room 455.
Note taker: Julie Oxenvad

Present: Knud Vilby, Ole Winckler Andersen, Jesper Tang Nielsen, Steffen Frølund Thomsen, Pernille Nagel Sørensen, Jakob Simonsen, Stig Jensen, Julie Oxenvad

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. Discussion of the new Study Curriculum for the MA programme at CAS
6. Other business

Ad 1)
Stig Jensen welcomed the present members of the Advisory Board. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Ad 2)
The minutes from last meeting in 2011 were approved.
Stig Jensen provided an update on new members of the Advisory Board and those who had resigned. Steffen Frølund Thomsen raised the question about the function of the Advisory Board and it was followed by discussion.

Steffen Frølund Thomsen also asked about the location of the Centre at the Faculty of Theology, and Stig Jensen explained the academic and administrative relations with the faculty. Stig Jensen informed about the collaboration with other departments and institutions, among these the collaboration on courses with Political Science at University of Copenhagen.

Stig Jensen also informed about other initiatives at the University and Faculties in relation to Africa. Ole Winckler Andersen said that for the employer it can seem unorganized that there are so many initiatives with focus on the same subject at the Faculties and other Danish universities. He asked for a more joint initiative on Africa. Stig Jensen said that he emphasizes collaboration across Faculties and departments.

The Advisory Board discussed the work situation for the graduates. Stig Jensen said that many of the graduates from CAS are employed and it is positive.

Stig Jensen informed that the accreditation process for CAS is postponed from 2013 to 2015. Jesper Tang Nielsen informed about the process and the criteria.

Stig Jensen informed about the admission process at CAS. The applicants for the MA programme are becoming more qualified and this year CAS received applications from students from many different countries. Additionally Stig Jensen informed about the different kind of students enrolled at CAS: MA student, Professional master students, part time and credit students plus international guest and exchange students. CAS has exchange agreements with foreign universities and Africa centres and institutes within Europe and Africa but at the moment there are not many students using these agreements.

Stig Jensen informed about the recent changes in the academic and administrative staff at CAS. In the last year CAS has developed its research profile and has increased its academic research capacity. The Advisory Board agreed that this development is positive.

Furthermore, Stig Jensen underlined that the public outreach is still very important for CAS. The Centre still receives many inquiries from for example journalist or the like and place great emphasis on answering all questions or referring the questions to the right person.
Ad 4)
This item on the agenda had to a large extent been discussed under Ad 3.
Ole Winckler Andersen mentioned that he finds it very positive that more teaching is managed by in-house lecturers and researchers. He also finds it very positive that CAS collaborates across Faculties and also that CAS had established its own research platforms.

Ad 5)
The Advisory Board discussed the new Study Curriculum revised per 1 September 2012. The Board discussed issues regarding the structure of the programme, specialization within the programme, internship/fieldwork, courses outside CAS and external supervision of the MA thesis.
Stig Jensen informed that it is a challenge for CAS that the students have different educational and academic background when they start at the programme, and it is a challenge to develop a common academic basis. Furthermore, Stig Jensen informed that CAS is working on developing a more clear profile for the students.