CAS Advisory Board

Present: Stig Jensen (SJ), Knud Vilby (KV), Mette Frederiksen (MF), Camilla Torp Olsen (CTO), Charles Kinga (CK)
Absent: Annette Aarestrup, Henrik Stubkjær, Theo Larsen, Jakob Simonsen, Keld Buciek, Ole Winkler-Andersen

Agenda:

1. Welcome by Center Director Stig Jensen
2. Approval of minutes from last advisory board
3. CAS lately
   - Development trends in terms of education and students
   - Current Staff Status
   - Research and development of a research strategy at CAS
   - CAS towards 2015 - what are the visions
4. Feedback from Advisory Board members.
5. Consultation on new graduate training - Global Health (see appendix) with guests
6. A.O.B.

Ad 1) SJ welcomed those present, who then introduced themselves. SJ apologised for those who had asked to be exempted and opened for suggestions for candidates to Advisory Board members.

Ad 2) Approval of minutes from last Advisory Board meeting
The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved. There were no comments.

Ad 3) CAS lately
   - Development trends in terms of education and students
SJ – Education is paramount to CAS. There is an increase in applications (up to 60 applications) with many from African countries who are not admitted due to financial constraints. About 60 students have been admitted which is a 20% increase. CTO asked whether this could be further increased if capacity was larger where SJ replied that CAS problem at the moment was space; thus considerations for parallel classes were an option but the optimal number is 30 to 40 students. There are however more international students than previously, positive dynamics in the study environment and a high pass rate. The Professional Masters course has enrolments (15 professionals) mainly form the labour market (journalists, military etc.) who have an individual
course structure and a study plan approved by the Study Board. The challenge for professional master students is that the academic context is not the same as practical daily life. Generally, there has been positive feedback from the students coupled with increased dynamics in the student environment.

There has been a decrease in the number of single subject students due to the lack of permission from their respective institutions. KV – CAS should be seen as positive economically for the Faculty of Theology. Quality development for CAS students was discussed – SJ stated that the quality levels have has been upgraded for the CAS candidates with mandatory thesis seminars. Issues about internal capacity and external lecturer were discussed and SJ mentioned that the Africa’s Economy course is a good example thanks to an excellent lecturer.

- **Current Staff Status**
  Amanda Hammar is now employed as the MSO Professor at CAS. She will be instrumental in formulating CAS research strategy. KV - should CAS not make it a goal to ask for more research staff capacity? SJ – CAS requires in-house capacity and synergy to accomplish this.

- **Research and development of a research strategy at CAS**
  A three front research strategy and organizational architecture revolving around distinct but interconnected research platforms:
  1. *Religion in Africa* – led by Niels Kastfelt
  2. *Environment and Change* – led by Stig Jensen
  3. *Soverignities and Citizenship* – led by Amanda Hammar

- **CAS towards 2015 - what are the visions**
  The Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Law will be moved to KUA (Amager) where there is limited space (5 offices against the present 9). The decision will be made within a year. KV asked about the accrediting process to which SJ replied that the institution does. The next accreditation is in 2014. CAS needs to show that students/graduates are gainfully employed after their masters. The Faculty of Theology will undertake it’s accrediting in 2011. The potential CAS financial factor was also discussed. Several mentioned the potential in closer cooperation between CAS and Social Science both in relation to research and teaching.

  MF - wanted to know in what sector graduates generally get employed and suggested that students should consider doing their fieldwork at Christiansborg. SJ – NGOs, the education sector and back to institutions and the trend is many more have found employment in the recent past. KV asked whether students were relatively older to which SJ replied that there has been a larger population of younger students which is both positive and negative. Those who start at CAS complete their studies – there is increased group work (which is CAS strategy) and student counsellors at the Centre. SJ also spoke a little about financing for PhD both internal and external.

**Ad 4) Feedback from Advisory Board members.**

Nothing
Ad 5) Consultation on a new Graduate Program in Global Health

The Panel members had received information on program objectives, competency profile, accessibility and structure before the meeting.

The Members were positive about the plans for the new graduate program, considering that there is need for the proposed training. It was pointed out among others things, that graduates with a social science background will have relatively good opportunities to find employment within the NGO sector.

It was also highlighted that the many climatic and social changes of recent years have had consequences on health conditions and therefore are of importance for the health sector in many countries; hence the need for graduates in Global Health who can see these perspectives in the big picture. Traditionally, people with similar skills have been primarily professional-graduates (e.g. doctors, nurses) who then later specialize in global / international health in the course of their work. It would be of advantage to have graduates who possess these skills already at the end of their education, instead of having to spend time to train and specialize in the field.

Further, the panel discussed the importance of having graduates who during their training, were equipped with a degree of economic and social understanding in order to defend and discharge positions which combine knowledge of health and economy.

Ad 6) A.O.B.

SJ was asked to find new members for the panel.