

Minutes of meeting of the Study Board of Global Development



MINUTES

13 FEBRUARY 2023

Forum Board of Studies at Global Development

Meeting held 9 February 2023, 10.00-12.00 AM

Place Room 26.0.22

Minute taker Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

SECTION FOR COORDINATION AND
PLANNING

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5, BUILDING

12, 1ST FLOOR, ROOM 12.1.01

POSTBOKS 2099

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Present

Christine Fast Lisby (CFL), Peter Hybschmann (PH), Augusto Gonzalez (AG)(arrived 10 min late), Sophia Featherston (SF), Agustina Alejandra Lopez (AAL), Atreyee Sen (AS), Christian Lund (CL), John Rand (JR), Ditte Marie Arbjerg (DMA) and Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm (SAE).

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved.

2. Constitution of the new board

The representatives and other attendees presented themselves.

Ad 1) Election of vice-chair amongst the student representatives

Decision: Peter Hybschmann presented himself as candidate for the position as vice-chair. The board agreed to nominate PH as vice-chair of the board.

Ad 2) Setup for sub-committee for credit transfer and exemptions

Decision: PH was chosen to represent the students in the sub-committee for credit transfer and exemptions. It was agreed that JR will continue as representative for the staff.

Ad 3) Approval of the rules of procedure

Decision: The board agreed to approve the rules of procedure.

3. Plan for the work of the Study Board the coming semester

Ad 1) Plan for the meetings in the spring semester

JR informed that the board usually has two meetings per semester. To plan the meetings in accordance with the Annual Cycle for the Study Board (Annex 2) JR suggested that the next meeting is held in April.

Decision: However, it was not possible to find a date during April, and the board agreed to meet Wednesday 29 March 2023 from 15.00-17.00. The board furthermore agreed to do hearings or online meetings if anything urgent comes up.

Ad 2) Overview of items that the board will work on during the next semester.

SAE informed that representatives should refer to Annex 2, if they are in doubt in regard to what should be decided upon in the board. She also stated that she will be responsible for the board sticking to the procedures.

Ad 3) Adjustment of the annual cycle in accordance to the frequency of meetings.

Decision: JR proposed that we postpone this item for the next SB meeting. This was approved by the board.

4. Curriculum (CUR)

Ad 1) Briefing on the status of approval of new curricula and major curriculum changes applicable from 1 September of the current year February.

• Change of course structure in the programme.

JR briefed the board that due to miscommunication amongst administration, management and teachers it is necessary to change the structure of the first and the second semester of the programme. This means, that with the beginning of the autumn semester 2023: *Global Development: Theories, Facts and Current Issues* in block 1 will have to move to block 2. *Global Business and Economics* in block 2 will have to move to block 4, and *Global Politics* in block 4 will have to move to block 1.

DMA and the student representatives noted that this change is an issue since students already have been planning their studies for the autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 and their study plans will possibly be affected by this change.

JR acknowledge the inconvenience of the change and adds that the administration will be quiet flexible in this regard. The change of structure is, however, a necessity since many teachers think that the change have already been implemented, hence, they are prevented in teaching if the change isn't being met. JR and SAE have examined how many students from the 2021 and the 2022 cohort will be affected by the change, and only a very small number of students will be affected. They will be met with different options to keep on track with their studies and CL added, that those who have planned to follow his course in Global Politics autumn 2023 could instead follow his course *Critical Development Studies* at IFRO. The course is almost equivalent to the course in *Global Politics* and it is being offered at the same time, as *Global Politics* - before the change.

Conclusion: The change of structure is a necessity, but the board has got to approve this change – either by a hearing or at the next Study Board meeting. JR and SAE will make draft of how to accommodate the students affected by the change, and this will be sent out to the board members prior to the hearing/meeting of decision.

- **New exam dates for the TANP.**

Briefing: This will be an item for the next SB meeting.

- **New exam form in the TFC (Global Development: Theories, Facts and Current Issues) will be an item for the next SB meeting.**

Briefing: It will be suggested that the essay will be dropped, so the student only have the individual exam plus as set of mandatory assignments during the semester (6-7 in total – one per week). This suggestion is based on feedback received during course evaluations. JR stressed that the exam form should generally not change from semester to semester and CL added that it's important that the students are aware of how their course evaluations affect the development of their programme. The student representatives responded that they appreciate how the board acts on the evaluations and they will inform their cohort on the effects of the evaluations in the decision-making in the board.

Decision: the student representatives will inform their fellow students of the power they behold when it comes to evaluating the courses and they should be encouraged to be aware of their responsibility in the course evaluations.

Ad 2) Briefing The preliminary work with ideas for new curricula/major changes is commenced (valid from 1 September of the coming year).

JR: No existing course will change curricula more than 25%.

Briefing: JR informed that teachers at GD requested a compulsory course with focus on climate and this has also been requested by the Advisory Board in December 2021. To accommodate their request for this new course it is proposed that the course *Economic Growth and Inequality* is removed from the programme. The change should take effect from September 2024. This change to study programme will be suggested and presented at the next SB meeting.

Conclusion: The decision on this change will be an item on the agenda for the SB-meeting in March and the board members will discuss the pros and cons in this regard.

5. Briefing from the Head of Studies

Ad 1) Orientation on the procedure of the appointment of external examiners for the Master Thesis exam.

JR informed, that the procedure of the appointment of external examiners has been changed to secure the interdisciplinary focus in the Master Theses. Previously, the supervisor chose the examiner for the Master Theses and it was quiet common that the supervisor chose an examiner from its own Study Field/department. This is, however, an issue since the programme is interdisciplinary.

The student representatives were curious on how the examiners will be allocated and AAL asked how the HoS and the Head of Examiners allocate examiners with knowledge of the topic covered in the Master Theses. JR responded that the examiner will be allocated from the official list of the relevant departments, and the examiner will always be allocated with the topic of theses in mind. CL added that an examiner could also be a professional with an expertise within the topic of the thesis in question and in interest in the further development of the programme.

Conclusion: From now on the HoS and the Head of Examiners will allocate an examiner from the official list of the relevant departments, and always with the topic of theses and the interdisciplinary aspect in mind.

Ad 2) Cooperation between the HoS and the Programme Coordinator

HoS informed that there will be a close cooperation between the SAE and JR to ensure the administration and the development of the programme. The students and the staff are very welcome to contact SAE as first point of contact, if they have any questions in regards to the study programme.

6. Briefing from the outgoing Vice Chairperson / the Vice Chairperson

Ad 1) A brief resumé of what work has been done in the Study Board the last year.

AAL (2021 cohort) pointed out that the student representatives have a lot to say and do in the Study Board and AAL encourage the new representatives to motivate and engage fellow students at GD. Furthermore, ALL encourage the new representatives to share information regarding the study programme with the rest of the cohorts of the programme. SF added that Juliette, former vice-chair of the board, shared a Facebook group to better represent the students but also to make people aware of their opportunity to engage in the programme.

PH informs that the 2022 cohort is both very active and very social. People are engaged and inclusive; this is important since GD is a demanding master's programme with big diversity in nationality and academic background of the students.

Student Guidance visit at the first semester

DMA asks how the visit from the Student Guidance has been received and the students generally agree that her visit was very welcome. The student representatives enjoyed the confidentiality and the relation created.

Conclusion: The timing of the visit (the ending of block one) was not the best, and the student representatives propose that a visit at the future new cohort should take place mid-October around week 40.

Intro week

Briefing: The 2022 cohort found the intro week amazing and AAL encouraged the new students' representatives to start planning the intro week of the next cohort well in advance.

Information on internships

Briefing: The 2022 cohort asks for more information on internships. DMA points out that it is up to the students to arrange such an event. If they do so, she'll gladly participate.

Conclusion: Students are encouraged to setup the event.

7. Briefing from the Student Guidance

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Knowledge of the Students Guidance

DMA informs that the GD students don't use the Students Guidance. Why is this?

JR confirms that many students contact him or the administration when they should in fact have contacted the Student Guidance. Student Guidance should always be first point of contact.

The student representatives are encouraged to encourage their fellow students to contact the Student Guidance with every question in regard to their study programme. SF suggested a general document on the services provided by the Student Guidance.

Decision: A general document is being drafted at the moment and the student representatives will inform their fellow students on the Student Guidance's multiple services.

Touch Base Thesis event

Student Guidance will arrange a follow-up event for the second-year cohort doing their Master Thesis. Rasmus from the Student Guidance will send out an invite for the event and it'll take place sometime during the last two weeks of February.

Graduation Day at GD

DMA and SAE are planning the 2023 Graduation Day at GD. Both first- and second-year students are invited and it'll take place 23 June in the afternoon.

Decision: SAE will send out a save-the-date notification before long.

Alumni-network at GD

The students asked for an organised way to gather information on what happens after the graduation. This could include a list of possible employers after graduation. JR responded, that due to GDPR we cannot make such a list, but he will make a list of companies that would find it interesting to hire or offer internships to GD graduates and students.

Conclusion: the students are encouraged to work on the alumni network. JR will work on a positive-list for GD graduates and students.

8. AOB

No other business.