



MINUTES

29 MARCH 2023

Forum Board of Studies for Global Development

Meeting held 29 March 2023

Place 26.0.22

Minute taker Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm

Present

John Rand (Chair), Atreyee Sen, Christian Lund, Christine Fast Lisby, Augusto Gonzalez, Peter Hybschmann (Vice-chair)

Attendees

Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm (Programme Coordinator) and Søren Hedegaard Sørensen (Head of Section, Student Affairs and Guidance)

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda / John

Decision: the board must decide whether to approve the meeting agenda.

The agenda was approved, and Søren presented himself for the board.

2. Adjustment of the annual cycle / John

Proposal: For the board to have a say in the HoS work on the Programme Report, the course evaluations of block 3 and the further process of the CUR, it is being suggested that the board plan the next meeting in early May.

Decision: The board must decide on whether to meet again during the beginning of May.

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SB decided to meet again 10 May from 1PM-3PM.

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3. **Discussion of the course evaluation of block 2 and fall 2022 / John**

- a. **Orientation:** *The board must review the results, and if any unsatisfactory conditions emerge, discuss action plans to remedy them (Annex 3.1-3.5)*
- b. **Discussion and decision:** *The Study Board must discuss and decide on the HoS suggestion for course categorisations.*

SB discussed the results of the course of the following courses:

Global Business and Economics

There are only few comments in the evaluation, but the overall evaluation is quite good. Students have been satisfied with the teachers and the seminars have been good. The response rate could be better, but it has been better this year than last year. The qualitative data show that the course progress too fast and takes for granted that all students are familiar with basic principles within the economics. HoS (Head of Studies) remarks that this is common feedback. John used to teach the course, and the academic content and level of economics cannot be any lower at a social science MA level. It was suggested to consider to prepare the students better for the course with e.g. introductory readings.

Conclusion: The board agrees on a B-rating.

Transnational Actors, Networks and Place Making

Response rate has been better, and the qualitative results shows a need for better management and coherence of the course. It was noted that the evaluation was made only halfway through the course which might have had a negative effect at the response rate. The students have been happy with the course content.

Conclusion: John will follow up on the management of the course. In regard to the response rate, it was suggested to make time for the evaluations in class The board agreed to a B-rating.

Master's Thesis

There was only 4 (out of 18) who had evaluated the course, and it seems to be an ongoing issue which is difficult to solve. However, supervisors were well evaluated.

Conclusion: SB decided on a B-rating for the course.

Academic Internship

The response rate was of 41 %. Many students were happy with their internship. Some comments from earlier years have been expressed. This goes for the wish of better communication between students and supervisors just as students ask for better information on the internship-part. Students also express difficulties to find time for the final report.

Conclusion: Teachers and HoS remark that students, being overwhelmed and enthusiastic about the internship, tend to forget that the report forms part of the internship itself, and they should allocate around 25 % of their time working on the report (cf. [the formal requirements for the academic internship](#)). Students were advised to keep a journal from day to day to facilitate the work on the report. Furthermore, Søren informed the board that the Student Guidance offer help with time management and the students and management are advised to make use of this offer. SB approves of a B-rating for this course.

Thesis Data Collection

Only one out of 5 responded to the questionnaire.

Conclusion: The board approved on a B-rating.

4. Supplementary questions for the evaluation of Thesis Data Collection, Academic Internship and Master Thesis.

Discussion and decision: the board must discuss and decide whether to add supplementary questions to the questionnaire for courses based on supervision. (Annex 4.1)

Decision: SB has nothing to add.

5. Status on minor and major changes in the Curriculum (CUR) / John

- a. Approval of minor changes, including course descriptions

- **New exam form in TFC**

Decision: SB must decide whether to drop the essay-part of the exam, and only have the individual written exam and the 6-7 mandatory assignments during the semester. (Annex 5.1)

Decision: The board approved the proposal.

- b. Specification of major curriculum changes (with effect from 1 September of the following year).

- **New structure of the programme and interim arrangement**

Decision: *SB must decide whether to approve of the new structure of the programme as well as the interim arrangement (Annex 5.2)*

Decision: The board decided to approve the proposal.

- **Replacement of Economic Growth and Inequality with new climate-oriented course**

Decision: *The board should decide whether to replace the course Economic Growth and Inequality with a new course on global development and climate (Annex 5.1)*

Decision: SB approved the proposal and John added that the change will become effective as of September 2024.

- **Discontinuation of Thesis Data Collection**

Briefing and decision: *HoS is proposing to discontinue the course Thesis Data Collection. The course has been evaluated poorly, and it will be difficult to make improvements that suffice. The board must decide whether to approve of this proposal.*

The board expressed a wish for doing field work as an extracurricular course instead of the course in Thesis Data Collection. HoS informed that this is already a possibility. Students asked if it was possible to do field work as part of the thesis process, and teachers informed that this is an option, but it can be very time consuming. HoS informed the board that a list of pre-approved electives is being made and the list has been significantly expanded.

Conclusion: with these remarks the board approved of the proposal to discontinue the course Thesis Data Collection.

6. News from the Student Representatives / Peter

Orientation: The Field Trip went well, even though many got sick during the stay. All things considered; it was a good experience that helped bringing students together. Students are looking forward to evaluating the course.

7. Global Development Graduation Day / Sidse

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Briefing and decision: Sidse will brief the board about the status of the Graduation Day. The board are welcome to share their thoughts on what to drink and eat. They are also welcome to come up with ideas on who to speak on behalf of the students.

Sidse informed the board on the process of the Graduation Day. Students asked for a good variety of drinks, and they wished for vegan options. They also stressed that non-alcoholic drinks should be offered.

8. News from Head of Studies / John

- a. **Briefing:** The HoS will brief the board about the key study data and exam complaints statistics.

There has practically been no complaints at GD; one complaint during winter 2021/22 and two during the summer 2022).

Key Study Data shows good results and GD is the only programme with all green numbers. The unemployment rate has dropped to 3,9% (4-7 quarters after graduating) and the drop-out rate is extremely low.

Bad thing: Faculty is revising their numbers for benchmark. Substantial drop in number of applicants from around 700 to 360 (including the USB, applicants from outside the EU). This might be a result of the new procedure at the Admissions Office, and it might just show that only people eligible for the programme are applying.

Christian noted that there might be a drop in the number of applicants, but all applicants that he has looked at are good applicants. He also states that he is not surprised with the low drop-out rate.

New exam dates for FLOWS

Proposal: At the last SB meeting HoS briefed the board on new possible new dates for the exam in FLOWS. HoS proposes that the future examination in FLOWS will be held in week 2 with re-examination in week 5.

Decision: The board must decide on whether to accept the new exam dates.

SB approved the proposed new exam dates for FLOWS.

- b. **Orientation for affected students, interim arrangement**

Discussion: *The board are invited to comment on the orientation for the possible affected students of the interim arrangement regarding the new structure of the study programme. (Annex 7.1)*

Students mention that they are happy with the arrangements made, and the interim arrangement was approved without remarks.

c. Criteria for the supervisor of Internships and Master Thesis

Orientation: *The HoS will brief the board on the new criteria for supervisor of Internships and Master Thesis.*

John informed the board that as of spring 2023 students can only make use of supervisors from one of the four departments involved in the programme; Economics, Anthropology, IRFO and ING. This is due to economic reasons.

9. Orientation about administrative exemptions Fall 2022 / Sidse

Orientation: *Sidse will update SB on the exemptions that have been given administratively throughout the fall semester.*

Sidse informed the board on the exemptions made during fall 2022.

10. News from the Student Guidance / Søren Hedegaard Sørensen

Orientation:

- 1) Student Guidance is now preparing study start for September 2023. Students Guidance are preparing the digital modules at (Søren, can you clarify which digital modules?) and they will plan the intro week (Wednesday-Friday week 35) in corporation with John.
- 2) Not a lot of GD students contact the Student Guidance, but important to know that there are five designated Student Counsellors for the international programmes. SG is making an effort to become more relevant to the international programmes.
- 3) SG has begun to work on the information on KUnet. The info on KUnet must be correct and well-written. The process will proceed during the next couple of months.
- 4) Request: If students or teachers experience students with serious issues, then do not hesitate to contact SG, and they will reach out.

11. AOB / John

John has made a huge effort to activate and expand the GD Alumni network and to bridge the gap between the graduates and alumni of

GD. As a result, alumni of GD will receive an invite for the following events: 1) Graduation Day 2) KU festival with a social event prior to the festival 3) Intro 4) Global Development Network Day. Continue with both official (KU homepage) and the unofficial (Linked-in homepage) GD Alumni Networks.