



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

Study Board for  
Chemistry and Bioscience

### Minutes from Study Board meeting on Wednesday 15.05.24 at 13.00 in Aalborg og Esbjerg

**Present from Aalborg:** Majken Pagter (MP),

Lars Haastrup Pedersen (LHP), Anders Emuel Olsen (AEO), Simon Abildgaard Hansen (SAH), Nicklas Bjørnmose Dupont (NBD)

**Observers:** Niels T Eriksen (NTE), Anne Sanggaard Sonne (ASO), Steffen Mariager Jensen (SMJ)

**Present from Esbjerg:** Morten E. Simonsen (MES), Martina Medini (MM)

**Cancellation/not present:** Mads Hyldgaard Henningsen (MHH), Mads Koustrup Jørgensen (MKJ),

#### Agenda:

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of minutes from meeting 17.04.2024
3. Student applications (confidential)
4. General information
5. Discussion
6. Curricula
7. Quality assurance
8. Budget
9. Any other business

#### 1. Approval of the agenda

Action

The agenda was approved with the following change: Item 7 moved up after point 4 – SMJ participated during this part of the meeting.  The Study Board ran out of time at the meeting; therefore item 5 and part of item 7 (the semester reports and steering group reports) will be postponed for the Study board meeting in June.	
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#### 2. Approval of minutes from meeting 17.04.2024

The minutes were approved.	
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#### 3. Student applications (confidential)

a) List of application cases processed since the last Study Board meeting	
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<p>The list has been noted.</p> <p><b>b) Application for 6th examination attempt</b> The Study Board grants dispensation for a 6th examination attempt due to documented illness.</p> <p><b>c) Application for 4th examination attempt</b> The Study Board rejects the dispensation since the student has not documented nor mentioned any unusual circumstances in the application.</p>	
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#### 4. General information

<p><b>a) Teacher of the year (Indstilling af Årets underviser) with NBD (appendix 24-090)</b> This year the student representatives made a survey which resulted in a lot more answers with in total 51 answers (indstillinger). Answers from both Esbjerg and Aalborg – around 20% of the answers from Esbjerg. This year the student representatives chose a phd. student; Bastian Stiem Kirkebæk. There was a very good description and feedback of why he should be Teacher of the year 2024. One of the student representatives will announce it at the graduation on 28<sup>th</sup> of June.</p> <p><b>b) Project exam plan 2<sup>nd</sup> semester bachelor Aalborg, appendix 24-066</b> Approved.</p> <p><b>c) Project exam plan 4th semester Biotechnology, appendix 24-067</b> Approved. LHP commented on the importance of the external examiner can understand and speak Danish on the bachelor level in Aalborg.</p> <p><b>d) Project exam plan Esbjerg, appendix 24-068</b> Approved.</p> <p><b>e) Plan for re-exams Esbjerg, appendix 24-069</b> Approved.</p>	
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#### 5. Discussion

<p><b>a) Conduct behavior at written exams, (Eksamensordningen 3.2), appendix 24-089</b></p> <p>Item postponed for Study board meeting in June.</p>	
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#### 6. Curricula

No items on the agenda.	
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#### 7. Quality assurance

<p><b>Semester evaluations, SurveyXact, fall 2023</b> <b>Attention points, appendix 24-070</b></p>	
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<p><b>Evaluation of study activities fall 2023, appendix 24-071</b> <b>Evaluation of study activities fall 2023 – semesters and projects, appendix 24-072</b></p> <p>MES explains that the semester coordinators in Esbjerg did not receive the comments from students in the semester reports before the meeting with the students to evaluate the semester. The reason for this is an exceptional situation with the quality coordinator occupied by external evaluation of educations in Esbjerg, general internal evaluations, and action plans on the agenda simultaneously.</p> <p>LHP: The study board requests that the semester coordinator should receive the report with comments also on projects and modules in the future in due time before the evaluation meeting.</p> <p><b>Points of attention</b></p> <p>Particularly, 14 issues from the evaluations were discussed.</p> <p>In general, students are requesting more information about electives (projects and courses) and options after completing their bachelor's degree.</p> <p>While there is a brief description in each curriculum, students would like additional information, especially regarding potential limitations based on their choices.</p> <p>NTE will create a diagram to guide students in making informed decisions based on their future plans. Additionally, LHP will provide concise instructions on electives and organize information meetings for relevant semesters, which will be posted on their website and Moodle.</p> <p><b>PBL-workshops</b></p> <p>The previously known format of PBL workshops will no longer continue in the future. Instead, it will be replaced by a new concept called "conference day" or "PRO-lab." This new concept has received positive feedback, allowing students from different educational backgrounds to network, exchange experiences, and explore various topics.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of courses taught by external instructors</b></p> <p>NTE: we will send feedback on courses from other departments to the respective lecturers (specifically in the Build department). SMJ will handle this process.</p> <p><b>Chemistry for Biologists</b></p> <p>LHP: Biology students are facing difficulties with chemistry ("Almen kemi").</p> <p>NBD: Biology students may find it less interesting and relevant compared to other courses.</p> <p>LHP: To address this, there should be more chemistry content in their semester project to demonstrate its relevance.</p> <p>NBD: Perhaps it's not clear to biology students why chemistry is important. Improved communication is needed to explain its significance.</p> <p>SAH: Some biology students perceive that biology is solely about animals.</p> <p>LHP: While we may not completely solve this issue, we will adjust the new curriculum to address it.</p> <p>SAH: A similar issue exists with "Calculus," where biology students are uncertain about its necessity.</p>	<p>NTE</p> <p>SMJ</p>
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Regarding “Grundlæggende organisk og fysisk kemi” (Basic Organic and Physical Chemistry), it poses a fundamental challenge for biology students. For them, it combines two half-modules into one, making it difficult to grasp topic differences during a 4-hour exam. Although the curriculum has already been updated to include separate subtests from 2023 onwards, students on the new curriculum haven’t reached that semester yet.

NBD: Providing an extra hour for the exam would be helpful.

LHP: **Agreed. We will allocate an additional hour for the exam in “Grundlæggende organisk og fysisk kemi” until the new curricula take effect.**

### **Calculus**

LHP: General comments about online teaching indicate that it doesn’t work well and the quality is subpar.

NTE: Calculus is also a minimum requirement for anyone aspiring to work as a schoolteacher in the future.

### **Inorganic and Organic Chemistry**

LHP: Despite discussing changes to the teaching materials with the organic chemistry instructor, both inorganic and organic chemistry receive the same evaluation this year as last year.

LHP: **We’ll wait for the semester report from the first semester master’s in biology to evaluate this semester further.**

### **Mental Study Environment (Psykisk studiemiljø)**

LHP: There have been a few comments regarding offensive behavior.

NTE: We have a few examples of offensive behavior, and it may be challenging to completely avoid it. It’s crucial for students to contact NTE, academic advisors, or student counselors for assistance so that we can provide help.

LHP: At AAU, we have a zero-tolerance policy for offensive behavior. If any students experience this, they should reach out to supervisors, semester coordinators, study administration, or study leaders for support.

### **General Remarks**

MP: In general, biology students tend to evaluate lower than students in other educational programs.

SMJ: On average, biology students receive lower grades compared to other fields of study.

NBD: Approximately 50% of new students are genuinely interested in biology and understand the content of the education. The other 50% primarily focus on animals.

### **Action plans for educational evaluation**

#### **Follow-up on Physical Study Environment, appendix 24-088**

LHP: Suggestions for improving study and working spaces: CAS (Campus Service at AAU) will address these issues, including adding more electric plugs and enhancing furniture for use as workstations.



<p>Regarding students requesting video material, the study board encourages teachers to provide relevant videos, if possible, but it is not mandatory—it's at the teacher's discretion.</p> <p>Regarding PDF files for dyslexic students: Poor-quality PDF files can be challenging to scan with reading programs for dyslexia. However, this seems like a minor issue since most new PDF files are of good quality and easily readable.</p> <p><b>The remained parts of item 7 will be postponed for the Study board meeting in June:</b></p> <p>Semester report 1st semester bachelor fall 2023 Aalborg, appendix 24-073 Semester report 5th semester bachelor fall 2023 Aalborg (Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology and Environmental Science), appendix 24-074 Semester report 1st semester Chemistry/Chemical Engineering fall 2023 Aalborg, appendix 24-075 Semester report 1st semester bachelor fall 2023 Esbjerg, appendix 24-076 Semester report 3rd semester bachelor fall 2023 Esbjerg, appendix 24-077 Semester report 5th semester bachelor fall 2023 Esbjerg, appendix 24-078 Semester report 1st semester Chemical Engineering fall 2023 Esbjerg, appendix 24-079</p> <p><u>Semester minutes/ steering group minutes</u></p> <p>Steering group report 3rd meeting, 2nd semester Aalborg, appendix 24-080 Steering group report 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, 6th semester Aalborg, appendix 24-081 Steering group report 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 6th semester Aalborg, appendix 24-082 Steering group report 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, 2nd semester Chemistry Aalborg, appendix 24-083 Steering group report 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 4th semester Chemistry Aalborg, appendix 24-084 Steering group report 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 4th semester Esbjerg, appendix 24-085 Steering group report 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 2nd semester Chemical Engineering Esbjerg, appendix 24-086 Steering group report 2nd, 2nd semester Bioengineering Esbjerg, appendix 24-087</p>	
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**8. Budget**

<p><b>a) Study Board grants</b> No items on the agenda.</p>	
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**9. Any other business**

<p>No items on the agenda.</p>	
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**AALBORG UNIVERSITET**

Louise Kiilerich Pratas  
Referent

\*AI was used for translation of the minutes from Danish to English.