



**AALBORG UNIVERSITET**

**Study Board of Language and  
International Studies**

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**Study Board Secretary**

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Dato: 26-04-2019

**Approved Minutes of 1/2019 of the Study Board for Language and International Studies**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019**

**Place: AAU, Ks1, room 5.228**

**Present:** Ben Dorfman (BD chair of the study board), Kirsten Jæger (KJ faculty representative for LISE), Inga Ernst Andersen (IEA study board secretary), Karina Freimanis Sørensen (KFS; student representative for Spanish), Ofelia Gravesen (OG; student counselor for Spanish), Liza Maria Daniel van Biesen (LvB; student representative for LISE), Bolette Halkjær Skov Sørensen (BHS; student representative for LISE), Flavia-Gabriela Sandu (FGS; student representative for LISE), Laura Høvring Møller (LHM; LISE student Counsellor), Susanne Hald (SH), Oscar Garcia Agustin (OGA; Spanish coordinator)

**Not present:** Robert Chr. Thomsen (RCT), Bent Boel (BB; faculty representative for LISE), Ana Maria Macias (AMM; faculty representative for Spanish)

**Referent:** Student counsellor Laura Høvring Møller



	Redegørelse/vurdering	Evt. opfølgning
<b>1. Welcome, approval of agenda and presentation</b>	Ben would like to move point 5 to before point 2. Agreed. Agenda approved with this alteration.	
<b>2. Election of Student Vice Chair of the Study Board</b>	Bolette Halkjær Skov Sørensen elected as the vice chair of the study board.	



<p><b>3. Evaluation Fall 2018, both LISE and SIS</b></p>	<p><b>OGA and BD presented the evaluations of SIS.</b></p> <p>There were very few respondents; however, the overall sense of the program from those who responded was positive, with general satisfaction surrounding both teaching and supervision.</p> <p><b>BD presented the evaluation of LISE (see the evaluation).</b></p> <p>In regards to this issue of too much information/communication: Forced subscription to semester forums even after finishing the semester - we will look into that and change it (Inga and Susanne).</p> <p>In regards to the sit-down and “forced” attendance: There were some issues with execution. But more students show up to exams and in the long run students are likely finish the program more on time.</p> <p>In regards to amount of information: BD is not sure how to deal with it as there is a choice between students being informed of issue or not; comments and suggestions from students are welcomed.</p> <p>In regards to project writing: There were issues with a few supervisors this semester. Certain problems can still be generated by the relatively large number of supervisors LISE uses from across department and who sometimes only engage the program for small amounts of supervision, wherein they can sometime be unsure of what the students are by whom they are confronted.</p> <p><b>Supervision reviews:</b></p> <p>LHM mentions that groups are always welcome to contact the student counsellor if they have problems with the group work (not the academic content of the project work). Student counsellors are more than happy to help. The supervisors are very welcome to inform the students about this possibility.</p> <p><b>Course reviews:</b></p> <p>Generally, there is a sense among students that teachers are investing serious work in their course material and presentation to the students.</p>	
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<p><b>4. Approval of Semester descriptions Spring 2019, both LISE and SIS</b></p>	<p>Circulate SIS semester descriptions during the coming week for approval.</p> <p>LISE: Approved.</p> <p><b>Note: it was discussed that the issue of the description of the precise breakdown of projected hours can cause confusion among students (“x number of hours for this; x for that”). This will be taken up in the context of evaluating the quality evaluation system, to which the study board chair and vice-chair are invited.</b></p>	
<p><b>5. Status of language issue (LISE) (Moved to right after point 1)</b></p>	<p>BD presents a status of the issue with language in LISE.</p> <p>We received a notice from the rector’s office that we can largely do “business as usual”. The PBL module in 1st semester will be noted as being in Danish. There is a dispensation right; the meaning of that vis-à-vis PBL will need to be investigated. KJ points out that it might be possible to have lectures in Danish and workshops in English.</p> <p>Some other modules in 1st semester will be noted as Danish <i>and</i> English. 1<sup>st</sup> semester students will have the right to choose in what language they want to write their exams. Besides these changes, the rest of the program will be the same vis-à-vis language.</p> <p>The deadline for the new curriculum is unclear, but it seems most curriculum revisions will be made in relation to revisions that have to do with initiatives regarding PBL.</p>	



<b>6. News from students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One 2<sup>nd</sup> semester instructor does not have long enough breaks. BHS should encourage the students to ask her to keep the breaks.</li><li>- A student wanted more classes on economics - there will be an elective on International Political Economy.</li><li>- Can teachers provide examples of previous papers that received 7, 10 and 12? This will be up to the individual teacher? Previous students would have to give their explicit permission.</li><li>- A couple of students feel that some classes spend too much time going off topic (based in students raising concerns during class, which will generate a discussion that steers away from the main focus).</li><li>- A student asked if it is true that grammar and language errors are insignificant in the first two semesters? BD states that this is incorrect information and definitely not the case.</li><li>- 6th semester: tape over the attendance list as soon as it has been signed. BD will send around a note that indicates that cheating on attendance is cheating on an exam. BD will also send an email to the teachers letting them know that this is going on and that they should be aware and possibly take some measures to prevent cheating (using tape e.g.)</li><li>- 6th semester: Will there be a semester/BA intro? Yes, Feb. 21 2019.</li><li>- 6th semester: Graduation party? If Connect Intl. would be in charge of planning, it might be possible to find a few thousand DKK. Do not call it "graduation", rather "end of year"-reception. Important to find a space very soon. Conclusion: Students will be in charge, the study will most likely be able to find funding for it. Students can contact LHM as a student counsellor as well.</li><li>- SIS students would like the dates for their exams. OGA has a meeting on this later today.</li><li>- SIS students would like more information about the budget cuts. BD will send out a notice.</li></ul> <p><b>Note: "News from Students" is an extremely important part of the study board meeting. Certain points, e.g., general notices regarding potential cheating on attendance or SIS students' concerns about cutbacks can be addressed on a general scale. Many points concern the comments of single students, however, and will have to be approached pragmatically.</b></p>	
<b>7. News from student counsellors</b>	Reminder to find new student counsellor for LISE before next meeting. Masters programs - tell people to see Ben during office hours. Ben can help with this. There is also the Open House.	



<p><b>8. Addenda</b></p>	<p><b>Forcing students to be in groups - project writing</b></p> <p>There will be an increased pressure to force students to form groups of four.</p> <p>SIS: Level of Spanish and compromising of topic. 3 would be better.</p> <p>LvB: Prefers working in groups of four, because you can go in depth with a topic, but important to continually be able to choose your own groups. In the academic council, they are working on guidelines regarding project writing and group size.</p> <p>FGS: Students in her year will most likely complain, because they do not like to be forced into anything.</p> <p>SH: Works quite well in other programs to have a minimum requirement. It will always be possible to ask for a compensation. Many benefits: e.g. more supervision.</p> <p>BD: The bachelor will be an exemption (all degree-completing projects must be).</p> <p>OGA: Different demands for different semesters. Make flexibility possible in some semesters.</p>	
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