Study Board meeting Tuesday 17 of January 13.00-15.00

Aalborg: Kroghstræde 3 room 5.228

København: A. C. Meyers Vænge 15 (CPH) - 2.1.022

Participants: Steen Fryba Christensen, Wolfgang Zank, Ane Bislev, Robert Chr. Thomsen, Xing Li, Danny Raymond, Minodora Palaghia, Sausan Mersoumi, Kathrin Holm, Nita Stine Schaub, Katrine Sandø Larsen og Anne Vestergaard Larsen (ref.)

Not attended: Susanne Hald, Bjørn Møller og Le Udsholt

Agenda

1. Accept of the agenda
2. Welcome and presentation of new members
3. Constitution of a new vice chairman
4. Accept of minutes from last study board meeting
5. Oral exams at Aalborg section
6. “Traffic lights”
7. Course evaluations – fall 2016 – DIR/ES/GRS (coordinators present evaluations on the basis of a written report)
8. Student members of SNIF: Recruitment
9. Planning of coming meetings – should we plan for half a year at a time or rather send out a Doodle for each meeting?
10. Miscellaneous

Minutes

1. Accept of the agenda

Accepted with no comments.

2. Welcome and presentation of new members

Minodora Palaghia (MP) ES - Romania

Sausan Mersoumi (SM) ES - Denmark
3. Constitution of a new vice chairman

The new vice chairman is: Sausan Mersoumi

4. Accept of minutes from last study board meeting

RCT: Five comments – the corrections are included in these minutes.

5. Oral exams at Aalborg section

The problem is, that it is not easy to find rooms for the exams. We discussed how to deal with the problem. The students prefer to have the exams right after classes as it is now. We also discussed the possibility of changing the exam period. Some exams – RIR - will change to a written exam in the future. On this background we decided to maintain the exam period in the hope that this will allow us to carry out the oral exams without the problems we experienced in the fall semester. The student representatives will discuss with their colleagues which time period students prefer. And the study board may discuss this issue in a future study board meeting.

6. “Traffic lights”

DIR No problem – A couple of students has an individual study plan, most of them are following the plan. However, two students have fallen behind. We will make new arrangements with them.

ES – No problem. The students who have an individual study plan are following them.

GRS - No problem.

7. Course evaluations – fall 2016 – DIR/ES/GRS (coordinators present evaluations on the basis of a written report)

DIR: The general feedback from the course evaluation is fairly positive despite a few specific criticisms. The general picture and situation of our course lectures, seen from the assessment, is
improving steadily. The course “political development” receives good comments from the students, which is a leap forward comparing with two or three ago. One overwhelming criticism seen from the students’ comment is that many students have difficulty in understanding the oral English language of one of the teachers, and this problem is being dealt with by the study board and the school. Another criticism, seen from the students’ comments, is directed toward the course of “social science method”, especially with regard to the “quantitative method”. The issue has been discussed with the relevant teacher who will take student feedback in consideration when preparing the teaching the coming year.

ES: The courses have generally been evaluated positively. Only a very small percentage disagreed that the learning outcome of the course “External Role of the EU” and the course “Regional Integration and Regionalization” was good. “Theories of International Relations” presented a 16 % disagreement – so more dissatisfied students for this class. The main reason was difficulties understanding the English language of one of the teachers. Some students found that the course on “methodology” was not sufficiently clear on how to use the knowledge gained in the part on quantitative methods (although the teacher had in fact explained this point in the first lecture). Evaluations showed that students are quite unhomogenous due to the different BA backgrounds they come with. This means that some students find a course too easy and others find the same course too difficult. This problem is difficult to completely solved.

GRS: **Thematic courses, method courses and introduction courses**
Most students, around 65 percent responded. This is higher than in former evaluations. This was achieved through the implementation of a new procedure for sending out evaluations to students.

**Thematic courses generally positive evaluations**
- International Organizations and International Law seen in a Refugee Perspective: Positive evaluations in all aspects.
- Political Change and Development Theories: Most aspects were evaluated positively. However, communication with students could be improved.
- Theories of International Relations: Positive evaluations in all aspects.

General comments: the level of all courses except one was good. The coordinator has talked to the relevant teacher about how he/she could improve the teaching by keeping down the speed in presentations and by not using overly complex language and words.

- The course literature was good for all courses.

- There were small problems regarding a few texts, since they were difficult to read (in the spring semester, student workers will look the literature through to spot these kinds of texts).

- Students were satisfied with the form of teaching (a combination of study group activities and lectures). Problem Based Learning, PBL, is now a fixed component in the pedagogical thinking of all courses.

**Very good evaluations of all method and methodology courses**
• Social Science Methodology: Qualitative Methods: Students very satisfied regarding all aspects.
• Social Science Methodology: Mixed Methods: A good level of satisfaction with the course, though there is room for a few improvements.
• Social Science Methodology: Philosophical and Historiographic methods: Students very satisfied regarding all aspects.

Preparatory introduction courses:
Generelly very positive evaluations on the introduction course.

Introduction to Development and Humanitarianism in a refugee perspective: Students very satisfied regarding all aspects.

8. Student members of SNIF: Recruitment

The school will inform about the study board and the election in good time before the next elections. The new student study board members mentioned that it had been hard to get this information this time.

9. Planning of coming meetings – should we plan for half a year at a time or rather send out a Doodle for each meeting?

We will send a Doodle, with four dates in mid-March, mid-May, mid-September and mid-November, so we can plan 2017.

10. Miscellaneous

Teacher of the Year – the students will send names and text to Anne.