Study Board Meeting Tuesday the 14 of March 13.00-15.00

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

Not attende: Susanne Hald

Aalborg: Kroghstræde 3 lokale 5.228
København: A. C. Meyers Vænge 15 (CPH) - 2.1.022

1. Accept of the agenda
   The agenda was accepted.

2. Accept of minutes from last study board meeting
   The minutes were accepted with one comment regarding point 5, which has been included.

3. Wish to accept more new students at GRS.
   Danny argued that GRS would like to be allowed to take in 70 students, since there is a wish amongst students for a larger student body. Also, GRS now has the adequate manpower in terms of teacher/researcher resources to accommodate 70 students. According to decisions on “dimensioning” GRS is allowed to take 60 students per year.

At the moment the study board is allowed to take in 214 students per year, but since DIR takes in fewer students than the education is allowed to this limit is not reached. Danny said that GRS would like to be allowed the extra 10 students for the following two years where DIR plans to take in fewer students than allowed. The reason for this is that DIR as well as ES are to be cut to a lower number in the future due to the dimensioning that has been implemented due to relatively high unemployment figures. The unemployment issue is behind SNIF’s and DIR’s preference for taking in less students than allowed in 2017 and 2018. In 2019 and
2020 where the allowed number falls substantially SNIF and DIR wants to take in the allowed number. It was agreed that the study board supports that GRS can accept 70 students in 2017 and 2018 (but not in 2019 and 2020) if it is also fine with the authorities that would have to allow this. GRS is aware that a reason for the allowed 60 students at GRS also is related to high unemployment figures for GRS candidates. However, Danny argued that GRS is working to solve this problem.

4. Possible integration of the “method” and “methodology” courses. This was suggested by Li Xing who also provided a document with the suggestion. The study board agreed with the suggestion to integrate the method and methodology courses in the module at the first semester on “Theories of Social Science and Methodology”. This would require only very small changes in the study syllabus. Robert argued that the changes were so small that it would probably be possible to make the change soon, so that the new formulation would be integrated before the coming fall semester. In practice this means that the non-ECTS based course in “Methodology” taught in the spring semester will be taught in the fall semester in the future along with other courses in method and PBL.

5. Oral presentation by students at project exams. Many students would like a description of a procedure for the oral exams in terms of student presentations at the exams. They find that supervisors have different views on what is a good presentation.

Steen, the chairman of the study board, will make a short written guideline which should be approved by the study board before sending it to supervisors and uploading it on Moodle for the students.

GRS in Copenhagen have a seminar where students can ask about exam. At ES and DIR in Aalborg there is a similar event, called “Meet your coordinator”, where students can also ask about exam related questions. It was agreed that the “Meet your coordinator” event should be explained to the students, so they are made aware of what the purpose of the event is. This would most likely mean that more students came to the event.
6. Communication and information – improvements
Student representatives would like more information regarding Internships. It was discussed that this could be part of the “Meet your coordinator” event. Student representatives also suggested that there should be more information about guest lectures than is sometimes the case. It was agreed that information should provide some details about contents and the guest lecturers themselves.

Guidelines for exams should be improved. This issue was based on some lack clarity in a specific written exam in the fall semester 2016. This issue has been addressed by the study board making a clearer definition of responsibilities amongst those involved in the exam information and formulation.

Student representatives mentioned that the information provided to students at the start of the study regarding IT programs was insufficient. This is not the responsibility of the study board, but it was agreed that the study board would ensure that this information is provided in the welcome letter sent to new students.

Regarding IT help in the “canteen”.

Students were interested in having exam dates in April earlier. This is not possible, though.

This was suggested by students and supported by the study board. It would be an idea to for instance invite a guest lecture or have an event with presentations and debate about the EU. It would be welcomes if students present a suggestion for the event and include a budget in the application. The study board has the means to support it.

Bjørn Møller offered to participate in such an event and to make a presentation.

8. Semester descriptions were sent out to the members of the study board who approved by email. The descriptions have been uploaded to Moodle. (was send and accepted by email)

9. Miscellaneous: Steen informed about a “Career Day event” on April 28th. A former student of European Studies and a former student of Development and International Relations will tell about their experiences in the job market after
finishing their education. They will comment on the competencies from the education that have been useful in their experience and about how they experienced the job search. A person from the Career Center will tell about the job situation for ES and DIR candidates and comment on competencies gained/not gained from the study programmes and give more general career counseling.

Students commented on the recent Simulation Game. There was a wish to make simulation games every semester in the future. This possibility will be studied and discussed by the teachers/researchers attached to the study board.