

The Study Board for the Professional Masters' Programme



## MINUTES

29 NOVEMBER 2023

**Forum** Study Board for the Professional Masters' Programmes

**STUDY BOARD SERVICES AND EXAM**

**Meeting held** 29 November 2023

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Place** Maersk Tower, room 7.15.122

BLEGDAMSVEJ 3

2200 COPENHAGEN N

**Minute taker** Merete Evald

DIR 45 35 33 37 83

### Present

Study Board: Katharina Bucsits (MDMa), Peter Furu (MDMa), Lene Jørgensen (MRA/MIND), My Catarina von Euler-Chelpin (MPH), Pernille Holst (CACS)

merete.evald@sund.ku.dk

Guests: Kristian Lautu, Søren Vernegren Kirk, Jørgen Kurtzhals, Tina Lewis, Janine Traulsen, Tine Alkjær, Mathias Westermann Møller, Jonas Bukhave Spenner

Administration: Mette Bergenser, Mariel de Guia Britanico, Christine Gulstad, Lisbeth Lyng, Merete Evald

### Agenda

1. Visit from Prorector of Education Kristian Lautu
2. Visit from Vice-Dean for Education Jørgen Kurtzhals

#### Ad 1) Visit from Prorector of Education Kristian Lautu

Kristian Lautu presented himself and the main points of his agenda at the meeting, i.e. life-long learning in the perspective of the new UCPH strategy and guiding principles, and the master's reform (kandidatreformen).

In his presentation, he focused on core values of being a university, stressing the need to consider societal relevance while maintaining research

as the backbone. He also noted the lack of a shared direction in previous reforms, emphasized the complexity and long-term perspective of education policies, and presented the current master's reform as an occasion to consider what we want to change anyway.

Additionally, he focused on learning and well-being and how it is part of UCPH's guiding principles and new strategy to help build learning communities; the study boards will receive a report with applicable examples in the coming year.

Lastly, he invited input from the Study Board members regarding their needs and challenges. The following discussion focused on the challenges regarding the structure of the study board, student involvement, marketing of the programmes and competition with private companies.

Peter Furu and Lene Jørgensen talked about the challenge of having a study board that represents eight different programmes with very different subjects and content with only the administration in common. Lisbeth Lyng highlighted the fact that there is only one student representative elected to the Board, and together with My von Euler she emphasized the distinction between students of professional masters' programmes and undergraduate students as the former generally have very different personal circumstances, e.g. full-time work and children. Kristian encouraged more student involvement, but not necessarily through study board participation.

Janine Traulsen brought up the issue of the need for better marketing of professional masters' programmes at UCPH as the effort appears very uncoordinated. Kristian acknowledged the issue as professional masters' programmes only represent a small quantity of UCPH's activities, but he assured the Board that there is a central commitment to the programmes now.

Concrete wishes from the Board and the administration were the possibility to pay by card and a better solution for ID cards for students. Pernille Holst made the argument that their students are customers, but are not treated as such, and that private competition is more accessible. Kristian emphasized that professional education *is* different, but that UCPH does not have to compete with private companies at all costs; the aim is to maximize knowledge.

He finished the discussion talking about the master's reform and its relevance to the masters' programmes calling it a "free" ECTS engine for the programmes.

**Ad 2) Visit from Vice-Dean for Education Jørgen Kurtzhals**

Jørgen Kurtzhals presented himself and the sustainability working group who was there to talk about sustainability in education, the relevance to different programmes and how the working group can provide some tools. Peter made a presentation on sustainability and planetary health, explaining the need to spend time on the issue. He put great emphasis on how to prepare students to solve tomorrow's problems today, and that our research can lead to sustainable development in society.

Our health systems impact the environment adversely, and ill health of the individual also affects sustainability through that individual's choices. Additionally, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and greenhouse gasses would also be beneficial to people's health along with the environment. Hence, there is a chance of health co-benefits in working with sustainability, and health issues can no longer be understood as separate from the environment; there is a need for a holistic approach to sustainability.

Peter concluded that all this is important information for our students – both to influence their behaviour, but also for them to influence other stakeholders. He finished his presentation by acknowledging that if sustainability needs to be implemented in the current curricula, something else may need to be taken out, and that a key principle is to still do research-based education.

Jørgen posed the questions “What can you do for us?” and “What can we do for you?”. He asked the Board to consider what aspects of sustainability and climate change are relevant to their programmes, and how the working group can assist with tools.

Mette Bergenser clarified to the working group that the professional masters' courses must be demand-driven, and the demand for e.g. pharmaceutical sustainability courses is unclear.

The Board and the working group agreed that there is a need to teach the teachers and the academic environment behind the programmes so that they can put the knowledge into their courses and pass it to the students. The Board asked the working group for assistance in finding good examples and tools for getting started.

Lene encouraged the working group to make the requirement of sustainability in the programmes as flexible as possible as the programmes are very different.