

Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health



## MINUTES OF MEETING 77

15 JANUARY 2024

**Forum** Meeting in the Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health, meeting 77

**AUS, STUDIENÆVN OG EKSAMEN**

**Meeting date** 9 January 2024 – 14:45-16:45 pm

BLEGDAMSVEJ 3B

**Place** CSS, Room 5-0-22

KØBENHAVN N.

### Present

Signe Smith Jervelund, Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl, Dan Wolf Meyrowitsch, Torben Heien Nielsen, Terese Sara Høj Jørgensen, Bruno Fernandes (online), Karoline Møgelvang, Clara Lundmark Appel, Sofie Caroline Falkenberg Holm, Tove Pedersen (adm), Ditte Krofa (adm.).

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### Not Present:

Long Nguyen, Inge Kryger Pedersen, Mads Kamper-Jørgensen, Beatrice James Kraljii, Anna Sofie Ginty, Ayesha Mushtaq, Sandra Helene Andersen, Marie Tolver Nielsen.

REF: CVK113

CASE: [SAGSNR.]

DOC.NO.: [DOKUMENTNR.]

### Observers (GH students):

Arunima Raghav, Julia Anna Miller, Tamara Naomi Inauen.

### Agenda

- **Approval of the agenda**  
Agenda approved.
- **Approval of the minutes from the last meeting (Annex 1)**  
Torben noted that an aspect regarding AI/LLM was missing: it is important that the course leaders and the study board discuss the exam format in the light of the availability of AI/LLM. Questions such as ‘how we assess the students’ and ‘how we avoid diluting the assessment’ are relevant. Ditte Krofa will ensure that the aspect is included in the minutes.
- **Orientations**  
1) *Action plan on how to integrate sustainability in courses*  
On behalf of Jørgen Kurtzhals, the chair of SUND’s working group for

climate and sustainability in education, the Heads of studies Signe Smith Jervelund and Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl have been requested to draft a plan on how to integrate sustainability in courses. Signe and Britt have initiated a mapping of courses that will be available to the SB members before the February meeting and serve as a foundation for our discussion and response to the working group.

## 2) *AI/LLM update*

- Signe Smith Jervelund encouraged the SB to participate in the AI/LLM event 23 January 2024, which has been forwarded by e-mail. Signe informed that she, unfortunately, is unable to participate.
- Signe Smith Jervelund informed the SB that the MSc programme in Health Science (cand.scient.san) has chosen to adapt the AI/LLM formulation decided in this SB to be used for courses that allows AI/LLM as an aid in the exam.
- The SB meeting in March 2024 will be extended with an hour to allocate sufficient time for the discussion of AI/LLM in exams, and particularly the need for rethinking exam formats in the light of AI/LLM.
- All Heads of studies at SUND will discuss the topic of AI/LLM at a seminar Monday 29 January 2024. Key points from the discussion will be presented at the SB-meeting in March.

## 3) *Capacity for PHS bachelor programme*

Signe Smith Jervelund informed that she has received a recommendation for the capacity number for the PHS bachelor programme 2024. Deadline for response is 23 January 2024. The SB discussed the capacity and agreed to follow the recommendation.

## 4) *Ditte Krofa has resigned her position*

Signe Smith Jervelund informed the SB that Ditte Krofa has resigned her position in favor of a position at DTU. Ditte will leave at the end of January. The administration is working on both a temporary and a permanent solution for the secretarial function of this SB. The SB thanked Ditte for her work.

- **Discussion and approval of request for change in the PHS MA mandatory course 'Spørgeskemakonstruktion'**

The course leader Mogens Grønvold was invited to elaborate the reasons for requesting to change the assessment form from 7-point grading scale to passed/not passed for the study year 24/25 in the course 'Spørgeskemakonstruktion'.

Mogens Grønvold provided a review of the history of the course and its grading format. Mogens explained that the course has faced challenges, as students tend to opt for easier topics due to their straightforward conceptualization, leading to higher grades. As a result, Mogens concluded that the current grading (7-point grading scale) has a negative impact on student's choice of topic, discouraging creativity and originality, and potentially hindering the learning outcomes.

The SB suggested exploring the possibility of changing the examination process to address concerns about uniformity in topic selection. The idea was to introduce grading criteria for originality and creativity and as a result encourage and reward students to explore more diverse and challenging topics. Students mentioned that an exploration of the possibility of changing the exam may be inspired by how the exam is planned in the course 'Qualitative Methods' (course leader: Morten Skovdal). The course could benefit from a dual examination system, where students engage in both generating their research questions and reflecting on them.

Mogens expressed reservations about modifying the exam and was generally concerned with how to maintain high learning outcomes.

Members of the SB proposed investigating the option of making other courses graded to provide students with more choices.

Signe Smith Jervelund thanked Mogens Grønvold for the elaboration.

Following the visit of Mogens Grønvold, the SB discussed the topic and agreed to:

- Approve the course leader's request to change the form of exam assessment from 7-point grading scale to passed/non passed.
  - Strongly encourage the course leader to reward creativity and originality by including it as additional assessment criteria alongside providing feedback to the students, similar to how it is provided in the course 'Qualitative Methods'.
  - While incorporating creativity and originality as assessment criteria in the course it is important to align learning goals, content, and assessment.
  - The course leader must evaluate the effect of the changes in the next academic year and provide the SB with the results. If assessing creativity and originality proves challenging, consideration should be given to splitting the exam into two parts.
- **Orientation from the exemption and credit transfer committees**  
(Annexes 2 and 3)  
Tove participated in the meeting and provided a status from the exemption and credit transfer committees. The cases are handled on an ongoing basis and no specific updates were shared.

The members of the SB were asked to review a specific case of a principal character. The case concerned two GH students applying to write their internship report together. The case is considered confidential and was therefore only sent to the ordinary members of the SB prior to the meeting.

The administration recommends the SB that the decline of the complaint is maintained based on several arguments. The case was discussed at length. The SB decided to follow the recommendation of the administration and decline the complaint.

- **PHS – Discussion and approval of course descriptions for the study year 2024/25 (Annex 4)**

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The SB was asked to approve three elective course descriptions:

- 1) Occupational Health in a Public Health Perspective: request to change title and exam format.

The SB noted that the changes are conducted based on student evaluations. The changes were approved.

- 2) Pharmacoepidemiology: a new elective course. The SB approved in September 2023 that the course is offered as an elective course in Fall 2024.

The SB had the following comments:

- The description in ‘Content’ is short. It is difficult to understand what the course is about. The SB asks the course leader to elaborate on the content including providing a definition of ‘pharmacoepidemiology’.
- In the description ‘Learning Outcome’ in the sub section ‘Skills’, the second bullet ‘Communicate and present’ – some text is missing?
- Should the course be open to students from other educational programmes? If yes, what are the formal and recommended requirements, if any?

Provided that above comments are considered, the course is approved. Signe Smith Jervelund will approve the amended course description on behalf of the SB.

- 3) Health and Human Rights: a new elective course. The SB approved in September 2023 that the course is offered as an elective course in Fall 2024.

The SB had the following comments:

- ‘Skills’: to some extent the course appears more relevant for students of Medicine rather than PHS students (use of forensic photography, interview of traumatised victims, etc.)
- ‘Skills’: It is unclear from the description if the students themselves must interview traumatized victims. It is assumed that this is not the case. The SB suggest changing the text in a way illustrating a focus on students obtaining knowledge of theories and methods on how to interview traumatized victims to avoid students thinking that they must interview victims themselves.
- GH students would be very interested in the course.
- Should the course be open to students from other educational programmes? If yes, what are the formal and recommended requirements, if any?

Provided that above comments are considered, the course is approved. Signe Smith Jervelund will approve the amended course description on behalf of the SB.

The SB agreed that all FSV elective courses should be open to students from other educational programs, yet priority should be given to students from the educational programme that offers the course

- **Discussion of maximum ECTS points on BA level courses at PHS/MA level**

The SB was asked to discuss if a maximum number of ECTS should be put on courses at BA level at MA. There may be cases e.g. where a PHS student on MA level will have 40 ECTS points from the compulsory courses, 20 ECTS from an internship and 30 ECTS from BA level courses + 30 ECTS from MA thesis.

Signe Smith Jervelund and Caroline Møgelvang, members of the PHS credit transfer committee, presented cases to the SB highlighting potential issues where students might end up with a significant number of ECTS from bachelor courses.

Clara Lundmark Appel raised a point about the challenge of finding Master level courses abroad while on exchange visit due to academic requirements that could not be met. She emphasized the importance of flexibility for students in choosing courses relevant to their academic field and interests.

Caroline Møgelvang added that setting a maximum limit could be beneficial, but there was also apprehension about creating potential obstacles, especially for students going abroad.

In conclusion, the SB discussed the importance of maintaining flexibility for students while encouraging them to seek universities with diverse Master courses. The students encouraged more formal collaboration agreements since such agreements ensure more relevant courses for the specific educational program. The students also asked for more clear information on KU net regarding exchange visits.

- **Distribution of quote 1 and 2 students in the PHS bachelor programme (Annex 5 and 6)**

In February 2024, the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science will request UCPH to report the quote distribution for all bachelor degree programmes. PHS Head of studies, Signe Smith Jervelund has been asked to indicate the distribution latest by 23 January 2024. To provide a basis for discussion, Signe Smith Jervelund had asked the administration for statistics on how quote 2 students are doing in the study programme (grades, dropout rates, completion time, etc.) in comparison with quote 1 students. Unfortunately, statistics are not available with such short notice, yet relevant statistics will be available in the autumn 2024.

The SB discussed the quote distribution and decided to maintain quote 2 admissions at 10%. The decision is based on the available knowledge and available data from the veterinary and pharmaceutical field as examples. Furthermore, it has been concluded that there has been no significant loss of talents with the current 10 % quote 2 admission process.

Upon receiving the requested data in autumn 2024, a more comprehensive and informed basis for decision-making for the year 2025 will be available.

- **Orientation from the student group**

GH:

- Bruno Fernandes informed that the requirement of an oral defence for students initiating their thesis 1 February 2024 is not reflected in the course description. Ditte will ensure that the course description includes the requirement [the course description was updated following the meeting]. Bruno asked if the requirement applies to students submitting a new thesis contract as their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> exam attempt after 1 February 2024. The following general rule applies: if the students have initiated their thesis period before February 2024 the oral defence is not a requirement. Tove Pedersen will investigate the specific case and inform the outcome to the students and the GH Head of studies.
- Julia Anna Miller noted that for many of the guiding session invitations, the location is missing. Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl asked to send an e-mail referring to the sessions in order to investigate the problem.
- Students experienced misinformation from The Study Guidance regarding information meetings prior to one workshop. The Study Guidance are aware of the issue and will ensure to solve it.
- Julia Anna Miller provided course feedback to the SB on the course 'The Anthropology of Global Health'. The course responsible wish to change the exam form. It is not clear to the students what is expected from the exam and the students were only informed how it would look like, one week before the exam. The students have mentioned it in the course evaluations.

PHS:

- Students are under a lot of pressure with exams currently.
- Caroline Møgelvang informed that some students had their application for admission for PHS/MA elective courses rejected due to that the courses were full. Other PHS students and students from other educational programs were admitted. Signe Smith Jervelund asked that the students write to the Teaching team ('Undervisning') from the department for Student Affairs with Signe in copy.
- The students that postponed the course 'Statistics' were very pleased with the improvement of the teaching materials (PP slides) and generally expressed that the course has improved a great deal and is more pedagogically planned.
- Caroline Møgelvang informed that two PHS students that have not been part of the SB previously was elected as SB members as of 1 February 2024: Karoline Huber Pedersen og Anna Aastrup Poole.

- **Orientation from Head of studies**

PHS: One course evaluation meeting has successfully been moved until after the exam. It is preferred that all course evaluation meetings are moved to after the exam has taken place (in February), despite that it may be difficult to arrange the meeting due to the students' teaching schedule. Signe Smith Jervelund asked for the opinion of the SB. The SB agreed that all evaluation meetings are moved to after the exam and noted the importance of the evaluation not only covering the teaching. Also, the students noted that the meetings only require participation of two students, which should be possible to arrange.

GH: Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl informed that while looking at the level of sustainability integration in courses the course leaders are also looking at how digitalization is integrated, since it has not been highly prioritized previously.

- **AOB**

Caroline Møgelvang will no longer be a part of the SB. Signe Smith Jervelund thanked Caroline for her great contribution to the SB and the valuable work in the sub committees.