

Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health



MEETING 81

10TH MAY 2024

Forum Meeting in the Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health

Meeting date 7th May 2024 13:00-15:00

BLEGDAMSVEJ 3
KØBENHAVN N.

Location CSS 5-0-22

DIR 35 33 58 01

Minute taker Julie Yndal

julie.yndal@sund.ku.dk

Present

Signe Smith Jervelund, Terese Sara Høj Jørgensen, Long Nguyen, Torben Heien Nielsen, Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl, Jane Brandt Sørensen (observer), Anna Sofie Ginty, Karoline Huber Pedersen, Sandra Helene Andersen, Julia Anna Miller, Arunima Raghav, Marie Tolver Nielsen, Anna Aastrup Poole, Tamara Naomi Inauen, Swathi Suresh (observer), Bruno Fernandes (observer), Iggi Juhl Petersen (adm.), Kristrun Lind Helgadóttir (adm.) and Julie Yndal (adm.)

Not present

Dan Wolf Meyrowitsch, Agoritsa Axarli

Agenda

SIDE 2 AF 6

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting (Annex 1)

The minutes from meeting 80 were approved.

3. Discussion of Study Environment Survey- PHS Fall 2023 (Student Counselling and Career Guidance attends) (Annex 2)

4. Discussion of Study Environment Survey- GH Fall 2023 (Student Counselling and Career Guidance attends) (Annex 3)

Items 3 and 4 were combined into a single item.

Iggi Juhl Petersen from the Student Counselling attended this item. Iggi presented results from last year's Study Environment Survey. Iggi mentioned that the Student Counselling is currently visiting SUND's Study Boards to present the survey results. The survey and inputs from the Study Boards will form the basis for an action plan to improve the study environment at SUND, as well as specifically for individual programs. Iggi presented relevant highlights for the PHS programs and GH programme. He then requested inputs from the Study Board.

Highlights from the Study Environment Survey:

Both programs:

- Follow the overall trends in responses from SUND.
- Perform well on the dimensions of community and meaning in education.
- Perform better than the SUND average on the dimension of balance in student life.

Questions about boundary-crossing behavior:

- A smaller proportion of students in Public Health Science report experiencing boundary-crossing behavior compared to SUND.
- The same or a larger proportion of students from Global Health report experiencing boundary-crossing behavior compared to SUND. This is particularly marked in questions about experienced discrimination, offensive comments about appearance or gender.

Comments from PHS:

SIDE 3 AF 6

Students in the Study Board feel that fellow students are less comfortable actively participating in class, possibly due to doubts and negative thoughts. Efforts can be made to make the learning environment more inclusive. Torben Heien Nielsen commented that this issue can be addressed through the individual course evaluations.

The Study Board briefly discussed the possible causes of this issue. It was mentioned whether people feel judged when raising their hands. For the electives taught in English, there might be a fear of speaking English in front of other students.

The Study Board will discuss this topic further at the June meeting.

Comments from GH:

Students mentioned that it can be challenging for international students to come to Denmark. There are many things they must figure out on their own. The university could be better at assisting international students. GH students will collaborate on a list of specific areas where they could use assistance.

During his presentation of the study environment survey, Iggi Juhl Petersen mentioned that some GH students have experienced discrimination. A GH student emphasized the need to address this issue.

Students expressed a wish for first-year students to have a buddy from the second year to seek help from, rather than having to find someone each time they need assistance.

The study environment survey is publicly available and can be found at the following link:

<https://kUNET.ku.dk/arbejdsomraader/uddannelsesstatistik/Sider/Studiemiljoundersogelse.aspx>

The survey is available in an English version and can be found at the following link: <https://kUNET.ku.dk/arbejdsomraader/uddannelsesstatistik/Sider/Study-Environment-Surveys.aspx>

5. Discussion and approval of the recommendation to the Deanery regarding the organization and representation in the Study Board for PHS, GH and Health and Informatics (Annex 4)

Signe Smith Jervelund reported that there have been many negotiations before the three Head of Studies could agree on a draft recommendation to the Deanery.

The Study Board discussed the representation in the new Study Board. It was mentioned that the Study Board has the option to delegate tasks to other students and academic staff. PHS has a student programme council (fagråd) where help can also be sought. GH does not have a student programme council. PHS students mentioned that the student council (studenterrådet) assists in establishing student programme councils. The PHS students will invite the GH students to a student programme council meeting for inspiration.

The Study Board approved the recommendation to the Deanery.

6. Discussion and approval regarding whether to permanently cancel the Summer course “Global Health Solutions” (Annex 5)

The course coordinators wish to permanently cancel the Summer course “Global Health Solutions”. It has been canceled several times due to insufficient student enrollment.

The Study Board approved the permanent cancellation of the course.

7. Discussion of what the ABC- categories mean on PHS - Study Board consensus on definitions (Annex 6)

Signe Smith Jervelund has drafted guidelines for the use of ABC categorization. The guidelines are intended to serve as a common understanding at PHS. Signe asked if there were any inputs to the draft. Signe will ask Ellen Schrøder Hansen from the administration to share the guidelines with all participants before the next ABC categorization meeting. Signe is also working on onboarding new Course Coordinators on how to conduct meaningful evaluations.

Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl noted that it is good to have a common understanding among students and the scientific staff. For dialogue evaluations, some courses may appear problematic if individual comments come to represent the entire group. Students added that it can be difficult to evaluate courses when GH, for example, has many guest lecturers during a course.

The Study Board discussed several proposals for improving evaluations, including hand raising to indicate agreement with a comment and online,

anonymous feedback. Students would like a combination of qualitative and quantitative evaluations. The administration will investigate if this is possible.

SIDE 5 AF 6

PHS's guidelines need to be translated so GH can use them as inspiration.

8. Discussion of and possible comments to planned changes in the High School level A math curriculum (Annex 7)

Signe Smith Jervelund has drafted a response to the consultation based on inputs from the course leaders of courses drawing on mathematical skills, mainly from Torben Heien Nielsen. Torben Heien Nielsen presented that changes will be made to make high school students more robust in basic mathematics without computer. The Study Board welcomes the changes.

The Study Board approved the draft.

9. Orientation from the student group (10 min.)

GH:

There isn't much to report from second-year students. They soon have deadline for their thesis. First-year students have three portfolio assignments in one month during May, which is stressful. They asked if the process could be structured differently and spread out over April and June. They also requested if the portfolio assignments could be open to students earlier. Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl will follow up on this.

PHS:

Some BA students from PHS would like to postpone some courses, which would mean starting their MA before completing their BA. After speaking with the Student Counseling, they understood that it could be done by applying for exemption. Now the students have been told that it is not possible, and they are in a difficult situation. The students in the Study Board highlighted that there has previously been a practice in the programme where this has been possible.

Signe Smith Jervelund and Torben Heien Nielsen commented that all courses must be passed before advancing to the master's programme. Signe encouraged the concerned students to contact the Student Counseling. It should be very clear on the study information page on KUnet that this is not possible. The administration will ensure that clear information is provided.

MA admission

Some PHS students have been reviewing applications for the MA admission. It has required a lot of work, and it has not been an optimal process. It is a lot of

work for 5-10 vacant positions. The Study Board wishes to tighten and clarify the requirements for applicants. GH has had 500 applications. There needs to be a discussion on how to distribute the workload and whether the requirements should be changed. The Study Board will revisit the discussion at the August meeting.

10. Orientation from Head of Studies (10 min.)

GH:

The deadline for study choices has been extended. AUS has given students more time to consider. Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl will ensure it is a comfortable process for students. There needs to be a way for students to know what is required and where to find information. Almost all cases are special cases. Britt would like help from the Study Board to create a good process.

The GH section wants to be visible when new students start after the summer break.

PHS:

No orientation.

11. AOB