

Study Board for Public Health Science and Global Health



MEETING 82

27. JUNI 2024

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

Meeting date 18th June 2024 09:00-11:00

BLEGDAMSVEJ 3
KØBENHAVN N.

Place CSS 5-0-22

DIR 35 33 58 01

Referent Julie Yndal

julie.yndal@sund.ku.dk

Present

Signe Smith Jervelund, Britt Pinkowski Tersbøl, Long Nguyen, Torben Heien Nielsen, Jane Brandt Sørensen (observer), Anna Sofie Ginty, Karoline Huber Pedersen, Julia Anna Miller, Arunima Raghav, Marie Tolver Nielsen, Anna Aastrup Poole, Tamara Naomi Inauen, Tove Pedersen (adm.), Christina Natalie Stigaard (adm.), Kristrun Lind Helgadóttir (adm.) and Julie Yndal (adm.)

Absent

Terese Sara Høj Jørgensen, Dan Wolf Meyrowitsch (present at the first three items), Sandra Helene Andersen and Agoritsa Axarli

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

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

The minutes from meeting 81 were approved.

3. Approval of changes to the ViP representation for Global Health in the Study Board. Dan Wolf Meyrowitsch is to be alternate, and Jane Brandt Sørensen is to be the ViP representative.

The Study Board approved the changes to the ViP representation for GH in the Study Board.

4. Orientation regarding possibilities to take MA courses without a complete BA degree (Tove Pedersen attends)

Tove Pedersen from Student Affairs explained that students can apply for dispensation to take master's courses before completing their bachelor's degree. There are specific requirements to meet for dispensation, which are well-described on PHS's study information page on KUnet ([Bachelor i folkesundhedsvidenskab - KUnet](#)).

Students must seek dispensation to ensure they meet the requirements. The rules and requirements for this practice have not changed, but instead of being handled by the Study Board, it is now handled by the administration.

Tove Pedersen will investigate whether the same can be done for summer courses upon request from the Study Board. This could provide flexibility for the students during the semester.

Tove Pedersen thanked the GH students for a good process regarding their study tracks. She would appreciate feedback from the students.

5. Discussion about student counseling and presentation of survey (The Student Counseling attends)

Students from PHS have made a brief survey about student counseling, which they have shared with their fellow students. They wanted to share the survey results with the Student Counseling Team. The students highlighted themes from their survey:

- a) Occasionally they find it challenging to receive specific guidance about PHS
- b) They feel unable to get guidance regarding other master's programs than PHS
- c) They wish for objective guidance when presented with different options

- d) They wish for the possibility of having in-person meetings with a counselor

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Christina Stigaard from the Student Counseling thanked the students for their efforts. She noted their points of criticism and would address them within SUND's Counseling Team.

- a) Christina Stigaard explained that all counselors can advise on all programs. She added that there has been changes in the Counseling Team in the past year, and that it takes time to learn about each program and its specific aspects.
- b) While Student Counseling can advise on other master's programs within SUND, seeking guidance for programs at other faculties or institutions requires contacting the relevant Counseling Service.
- c) Christina emphasized that the Counseling Team aims to inform students about all their options so they can make informed decisions.
- d) There has been a period where it has not been possible to book personal meetings due to the counselors' workload, but this is temporary. There are three main topics where it is possible to book in-person appointments. The three topics are exemptions, well-being, and SPS. Everything else takes place via phone or email. During phone calls, students can express a preference for switching to Zoom if they want to see the counselor.

Recently, Christina Stigaard held a meeting with Signe Jervelund and Anna Ginty to discuss how the Counseling Team can support the students. Some of the mentioned ideas from the meeting were:

- a) More frequent visits from the counselors in classes
- b) A seminar on exchange programs
- c) A more user-friendly and personalized website for the Student Counseling.

Britt Tersbøl emphasized that it affects the programs, the students, their performance, etc., when there are limited resources for student counseling. This led to a discussion about the upcoming administrative reform at KU. The students in the Study Board expressed a wish for more information about what to expect when the reform takes effect. It was mentioned that Uniavisen covers the topic, and their articles are also available in English: <https://uniavisen.dk/en/>. Additionally, KU has two student representatives on the KU Board whom students can contact to discuss any issues. Signe Jervelund will inform Jørgen Kurtzhals about the need to inform all SUND/KU students about the administrative reform and how it will affect

them when the reform has been finalized. The information needs to be in both Danish and English.

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Britt Tersbøl mentioned that the GH section tries to interact with the students several times a year, e.g. regarding elective courses. Not all students always attend these meetings. Many students only seek information when they need it rather than gaining an overview in advance. Christina Stigaard acknowledged that timing is always an issue.

6. Approval of evaluation plan for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 for PHS (Annex 2)

- a) *Are there any courses in the schedule that have been canceled?*
 - b) *Have any courses been assigned a C categorization in this academic year, and therefore need to be reported again next year?*
 - c) *Is there anything else the Evaluation Unit should be aware of?*
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- a) Two courses have been canceled due to no or too few registrations. These are “Occupational Epidemiology” and ”Medicinsk STS (Science and Technology Studies): Kvalitativ Analyse og Skrivning”.
 - b) No courses have been assigned a C categorization for the academic year 2023-2024.

The Study Board would like clarification on why some courses are marked for reporting while others are not before approving the plan. The Education Coordinator will follow up with the Evaluation Unit and send the evaluation plan for written approval.

7. Approval of evaluation plan for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 FOR GH (Annex 3)

- a) *Is the elective course Sustainability and Climate Change in Global Health and Health Care Systems - From Global Systems to Community Action offered by the Global Health department and therefore evaluated by Global Health, or does the course belong to another program where the elective is open to Global Health students?*
 - b) *Are there any courses in the schedule that have been canceled?*
 - c) *Have any courses been assigned a C categorization in this academic year, and therefore need to be reported again next year?*
 - d) *Is there anything else the Evaluation Unit should be aware of?*
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- a) The course is offered by the GH-section
 - b) No
 - c) No courses have been assigned a C categorization for the academic year 2023-2024.

The Study Board would like clarification on why some courses are marked for reporting while others are not before approving the plan. The Education Coordinator will follow up with the Evaluation Unit and send the evaluation plan for written approval.

8. Time schedule for curriculum changes study year 2025-2026 (AUS)

The Course Responsibles will receive an email in June to determine if they want to make changes to the course descriptions. They have a deadline of November 1st. The Study Board will decide whether to approve the changes in November, December, and January. If the Study Board approves the requests, they will be processed by the Dean's Office in March 2025.

9. Approval of changes in the re-exam forms in the course descriptions for PHS (Annex 4 – Annex is in Danish) (AUS)

There are nine courses where the Course Responsibles have wanted to change the re-exam to a different form for ten or fewer students. The Study Board approved all the changes but requires feedback on whether the oral re-exam in SFOK23001U Advanced Statistics, lasting 60 minutes, is too long.

10. Approval of changes in the re-exam forms in the course descriptions for GH (There were no Annex) (AUS)

GH needs more time to review the exam formats. Britt Tersbøl will send material to the Education Coordinator as quickly as possible. Subsequently, the Education coordinator will send the desired exam formats for written consultation to the Study Board. The students from GH emphasized that they want the opportunity to comment on the proposed exam formats.

11. Possible dates for meetings in the Study Board in the Fall

Wednesday 25 September 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 22 October 13:00-15:00

Tuesday 19 November 12:30-14:30

Tuesday 10 December 12:30-14:30

Tuesday 21 January 12:30-14:30

The Study Board will revisit the dates at the meeting in August, once the students know their schedules.

12. Orientation from the Student Group

GH:

- The students will make a survey about the study track process.
- They have had positive experiences with the oral exams.

PHS:

- Many of the students in The Study Board have been busy with exams.
- Several of the students from PHS will participate in this year's AMEE conference in August.

13. Orientation from Head of Studies

GH:

- Jane Sørensen and Britt Tersbøl are working to ensure better access to courses for the GH students.
- The GH website is continuously updated to attract international students.
- The course 'SGLK24002U Sustainability and Climate Change in Global Health and Health Care Systems - From Global Systems to Community Action' has few applicants. After the vacation, a decision will be made regarding whether it should be held and whether the ECTS should be changed to 7.5.

PHS:

Programme evaluation

The PHS BA and MA programme were evaluated in May. Signe Jervelund highlighted some of the recommendations from the external experts who participated in the evaluation, e.g.

- a) It is advantageous to work towards having more students to participate in research projects during their studies.
- b) Consider creating a short BA course that introduces students to the programme.
- c) There is a good opportunity to integrate the S&I programme and the PHS programme.
- d) Reconsider the branding of the programme to attract a more diverse student group.
- e) A broad MA programme is viewed positively.

Quota 2

The Quota 2 Committee has reviewed applications. The process has worked well to differentiate between the applicants.

MA uptake

Signe Jervelund suggested sharpening the criteria for admission to the MA programme for non-KU-FSV-students. Signe will prepare a suggestion for these changes to be discussed at the Study Board meeting in August.

Introduction to the statistical software R

To help the students, Jørgen Holm Petersen will make an introductory course to the statistical software R.

English for students

Britt Tersbøl and Signe Jervelund have met with the Centre for Internationalization and Parallel Language Use (at KU), which offers English language initiatives for students. In the fall, a workshop will be held on how to read academic texts in English. The workshop is open to everyone but is particularly aimed at BA students. Another workshop will focus on spoken English, and all are welcome to attend.

The course Occupational Epidemiology

Signe Jervelund requested input from the Study Board regarding the lack of registrations for the course SFOK24005U Occupational Epidemiology. Signe asked whether the course should be broader to attract students. The Study Board did not believe the course needed to be broader. It is important to offer more narrow electives in the light of the more broad BA programme. It was mentioned that many students use their ECTS credits on exchange.

Changes to oral exams

Signe Jervelund has investigated whether Course Responsibles for four selected courses would be positive to change their exams to oral exams as part of further training of the students' oral skills. On two of the courses (Sociology and Prevention), the Course Responsibles are immediately positive about changing the exam form.

Global Health Day 2024

A Global Health Day will take place in September with presentations, keynotes, and interactive elements about an exciting global health topic. While it couldn't be made mandatory for the PHS programme this year, Signe Jervelund will inquire whether Peter Kjær Mackie Jensen can coordinate with Morten Mechlenborg Nørulf to schedule it for the students on 3rd semester next year.

PHS Sustainability workshop

On June 19 PHS will hold a sustainability workshop. Selected Course Responsibles (in Sundhedsvæsenets struktur og funktion, Miljø og Bæredygtighed, Sundhedsøkonomi og Demografi), other Course Responsibles, student representatives, and an external expert will participate. They will discuss relevant sustainability elements that can be integrated in the courses.

Course evaluations

The Evaluation Unit in AUS has informed that it is not possible to use both dialogue and surveys in the course evaluations. The Study Board decided to continue with the dialogue evaluations.

14. Discussion and approval regarding adjustment of the first-year exam for PHS (Annex 6):

The Study Board discussed and approved that the first-year exam should consist of the exam in SFOB20007U Demography (5 ECTS) and the exam in SFOB20006U Statistics (10 ECTS).

15. AOB.

Relevant contacts for the Study Board in the department for Student Affairs

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Function	Email
Student- and career guidance	guidance@sund.ku.dk
Questions regarding courses, e.g., registration for courses	courses@sund.ku.dk
Questions regarding exams	exam@sund.ku.dk
Administrative processing of and guidance regarding exam appeals	eksamensklage@sund.ku.dk
Dispensation applications, e.g., for additional exam attempts or extended study time	dispensation@sund.ku.dk
Questions regarding admission as credit transfer student	meritstuderende@sund.ku.dk
Administrative support of the Study Board If you write to this email, you will usually receive a response from Krístrún or Julie. You can write to us if you have questions regarding issues for the Study Board.	uddannelseskoordinering@sund.ku.dk

Via the following link you can find email addresses on all the sections in the department for Student Affairs:

<https://healthsciences.ku.dk/about/organisation/administration/student-affairs/>