

REFERAT Studienævnet for Internationale Studier d. 16-12-2024

Mødedato Mandag d. 16. december 2024 kl. 09:00

Mødested 14.2-023

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Punkt 1: Members present

Beslutning

Members present:

VIP

Laura Horn (chair) (online)

Thomas Paster

Line Engbo Gissel

Lone Riisgaard (online)

Johan Fischer (alternate)

Paul Austin Stacey (alternate, present from 09:20)

Student representatives

Vilte Maldziute (vice-chair) (online)

Sofie Würtz

Sophie Loiwersheimer

Head of Studies

Markus-Michael Müller (GDS)

Sune Haugbølle (IS)

Laust Schouenborg (IPG)

Absent with notice:

Liliana Calisto

Absent without notice:

Aleksander Fløystrup Nielsen

Punkt 2: Approval of the agenda

Beslutning

The agenda was approved without comments.

Punkt 3: Approval of last month's minutes

Beslutning

The minutes were approved without comments.

Bilag

November 24.pdf

Punkt 4: F25 intake offers (09:05-09:10)

Nomination:

The study board is asked to inform themselves of the figures for number of offered places to students in connection with the winter intake. Please note, that the students still need to accept the offer, so this is not the finale F25 intake numbers.

Appendix:

- Mail-thread containing the relevant numbers as well as info on applicants background.

Beslutning

The board was informed of the number of places offered in the last winter intake on GDS.

The chair stressed, that these are not the final numbers, as some will not except the offer and some will not show up.

There was focus on project 2 and the number of students doing it, and the Head of Studies was asked to put the project responsible and the chair in touch in order to ensure proper coordination,

Bilag

VS_ Oversigt over tilbud om kandidatoptag F25.pdf

Punkt 5: Course registrations (09:10-09:15)

Nomination:

The board is requested to familiarize themselves with the number of students registered for courses.

Appendix:

- *The registration data will be distributed in writing after meeting as the deadline for sign up is the 15th of December.*

Beslutning

The study board discussed the enrollment numbers for methods and specialization courses, focusing on courses such as **"Gender as a Method"** (14 students), **"Latin America in the World"** (16 students), **Quantitative Text Analysis for Social Scientists** (15 students, which is not relevant to this board), and **Surveys and Experimental Methods** (3 students, which is not relevant to this board).

- **Threshold for Course Viability:**

The board debated whether a threshold of around 25 students should apply and agreed to consult with Vice Dean Bodil for clarification on the threshold and how other study boards handle similar situations.

- **Post-Meeting Update:**

After the meeting, Vice Dean Bodil clarified that the much-discussed "25-rule" is no longer a strict rule. Instead, it nominates courses for a discussion and assessment on whether to keep them on offer. This means that all courses with fewer than 25 registered students will be reviewed to decide their viability, as there may be valid reasons to keep such courses open.

- **"Gender as a Method" Course:**

Despite low enrollment (14 students), the board decided to keep this course due to:

- It is generally well-evaluated.
 - Its relevance for students writing theses on gender-related topics, indicating a strong interest for gender-topics.
 - The absence of alternative gender-focused courses.

The board remains open to reconsideration if Vice Dean Bodil provides strong arguments for its cancellation. After the meeting Bodil agreed that the course should stay on offer.

- **"Latin America in the World" Course:**

The course was retained for reasons of fairness to all the extraordinary administrative work put into it, diversity in course offerings, and its unique focus on regional perspectives. It was also a consideration, that cancelling this course would put more strain on the two other, already big specializations courses. Bodil agreed to keep the course.

- **Future Coordination:**

The board recognized the need for stronger cross-program coordination, especially regarding language alignment, and tasked the Heads of Study to lead these efforts.

Punkt 6: Follow up on HoS action plans (09:15-09:30)

Nomination:

The heads of studies for GDS and IPG are asked to present their action plan from the head of studies reports to the study board and go through how they work with the different points in the action plans. As IS does not have a separate action plan the head of studies is asked to give a status on what they have been and will be working on within the education.

Appendices:

- IPG Head of Studies report with progress in comments
- GDS Head of Studies report without progress comments

Beslutning

The board thanked the heads of study for their updates and ongoing efforts regarding the action plans outlined in their Head of Studies reports. Their work and dedication were acknowledged and appreciated as essential to addressing the challenges and priorities identified.

Global and Development Studies (GDS):

1. Preparation and Communication:

- The Head of Studies for GDS highlighted concerns about insufficient information from the study board and the outgoing Head of Studies regarding the existence of the report and action plan. The board agreed that a more standardized handover process should be implemented moving forward to ensure consistency and reduce dependency on individual contributions. These discussions are ongoing with the vice-dean.

2. Study and Career Guidance:

- The board emphasized the need for a more targeted approach to study and career guidance, avoiding a "one size fits all" model.
- Data-driven decision-making was highlighted as essential to tailor guidance effectively.

3. Study Environment and Dropout Rates:

- Concerns were raised about the absence of dropout rate data for 2022, which is critical for assessing the study environment.
- There was agreement that study environment initiatives need regular evaluation to ensure they align with the stated goals and that progress is being made.

4. Accreditation Issues:

- It was noted that the accreditation panel identified two key challenges for GDS: **retention** and **employability**. These remain focal points for improvement efforts.

International Public Administration and Global Studies (IPG):

1. General Feedback:

- The Head of Studies for IPG reported no additional comments or updates apart from the ones made in the report.
- The board acknowledged and appreciated the ongoing efforts being made to address challenges within the program.

2. Employability:

- Employability was noted as a recurring concern that could be revisited in future discussions.

International Studies (IS)

The Head of Studies for International Studies informed the board that initiatives to improve students' sense of belonging are underway. Discussions with the new Study Environment (SMT) are scheduled.

Bilag

Studielederrapport for IPG 2024 - with progress of actions for Study Board (Oct 2024).pdf

GDS.pdf

Punkt 7: Consultation on the Future Landscape of Master's Degree Programs (09:30-09:40)

Nomination:

The board is asked to review and take note of the final consultation responses to be submitted to the university leadership latest on the 16th of december.

Appendix:

- Hearing reply from IS SN in template
- Working document with comments: [IS SB Hearing on MA reform.docx](#)

Beslutning

The board discussed the current draft of the hearing response. Laura reviewed the draft, and members agreed it effectively represented the key points. The structure, particularly in the beginning sections, was well-received.

There was a debate about including comparative data for programs such as IPG, SV, BAL, and PF. Concerns were raised about comparing different programs directly using the salary data, as the board did not want to hold one program over others. Ultimately, the board decided to retain the salary comparison to underline IPG's alignment with other programs.

A member of the board suggested refining the document by using concise language and formatting changes to improve readability. It was proposed to use bolded sentences to summarize key points in each section.

Thomas volunteered to review the document for clarity and structure by emphasizing key arguments in bold. Signe coordinated and ensured the final draft was ready for submission. The hearing response was completed by the end of the 16th of december to meet the deadline.

Bilag

Høringssvar IS SN KA-reform.pdf

Punkt 8: AI-declaration in projects (09:40-09:50)

Nomination:

The board is requested to note the rules regarding the declaration of the use of AI in student projects, which students have been reminded of.

Appendices:

- **Mail Thread:** An explanation of the matter, providing context for the rules and the communication with students.
- **Presentation on AI**
- **SAB and SIB Memo:** Details on the implementation of AI guidelines

Beslutning

The board discussed the possible implementation of AI declaration in projects. It was noted that this practice is already in place in other study boards and there was a consideration of whether it should be adopted for future projects in the study board. The board decided to revisit this matter in one of the upcoming meetings for further discussion and potential implementation.

Bilag

VS_ AI- deklaration .pdf

oplæg om GAI_ udvidet 09.12.24.pptx

2024 - memo on the implementation of GAI guidelines - SIB.pdf

2024 - SAB - retningslinjer for implementering af RUC GAI guidelines i projektarbejdet.pdf

Punkt 9: Course offer (09:50-09:55)

Nomination:

The study board is asked to approve the course offer of specialization courses at MA-programmes and methods courses at BA- and MA-programmes of the study board.

Appendices:

Proposed course offer for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026

- GDS & IPG
- IS

Beslutning

The board approved the proposed course offer for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

The IPG Head of Studies will discuss with the other Heads of Study the possibility of offering a quantitative methods course in the fall of 2025.

Bilag

GDS-IPG-E25-F26.docx

IS-E25-F26.docx

Punkt 10: Approval of changes to the study regulation (09:55-10:05)

Nomination:

The Study Board is asked to review, comment and approve the remaining submitted study regulation changes for the Study Board's programs.

Orientation:

Change in Requirements Regarding Language Proficiency and Grammar in Projects

The Study Board is requested to take note of the following decision made by the Examination Committee and approved by the Rector:

- It is no longer permitted to set requirements for language proficiency and grammar in projects, except for bachelor projects and master's theses.
- This decision is based on the availability of technological tools such as ChatGPT and similar AI tools (which students have free access to), which effectively fulfill this role. The Examination Committee assessed that such requirements are no longer meaningful.
- Although some study boards opposed this decision, it has not been altered and we will therefore need to follow through.
- The necessary changes to the study regulations will be made by the secretariat.

Appendix:

- Proposed changes to GDS project 1, 2 and 3 made by Johan Fischer and Lone Riisgaard

Beslutning

The Study Board decided to approve the proposed study regulation changes for GDS Project 1, 2, and 3, provided the following revisions are made:

- Ensure consistency in language usage, as the current text is a mix of American and British English. Revise to align with the variant specified in the curriculum.
- Replace terms like "make," "create," and "generate" with "collect data," where appropriate.
- Remove the term "edited" before "book chapter" in project 3.

Bilag

Revisions GDS SR projects 13.12.24.docx

Punkt 11: Break (10:05-10:15)

Punkt 12: Scheduling Spring Semester Study Board Meetings (10:25-10:30)

Nomination:

The board is requested to decide on dates for study board meetings in the spring semester. Members are reminded to bring updated calendars, including course schedules and teaching commitments, to facilitate finalizing the dates.

The secretary has proposed the following schedule:

- **February**
 - **Short Constitution Meeting:** 05/02, 11:30-12:00
 - **Ordinary Meeting:** 26/02, 10:00-12:30
- **March**
 - **26/03:** 09:00-11:30 or 12:00-14:30
- **April**
 - **24/04:** 09:00-11:30 or 12:00-14:30
- **May**
 - **28/05:** 09:00-11:30 or 12:00-14:30
- **June**
 - **18/06:** 09:00-11:30 or 12:00-14:30
- **August**
 - **27/08:** 09:00-11:30 or 12:00-14:30

The board is asked to discuss and confirm the final dates and times during the meeting.

Beslutning

The board approved the suggested dates for meeting, but will revisit once the new board is set in february.

Punkt 13: Evaluation of project formation (10:30-10:40)

The Study Board is asked to review the evaluations of the project formations for the following projects:

- Project 1 linked to Sustainability, Development and Inequality
- Project 3 in Current Global and Development Challenges

The study board is asked to consider the evaluations of the project formations and, based on these, decide whether there should be further follow-up from the head of studies.

The teachers have been sent the evaluations and have had the opportunity to submit comments to the study board, which are then attached to the meeting material, if any.

The evaluations of the projects can be accessed in Power BI: <https://app.powerbi.com/groups/me/apps/b3db53a3-e378-4a14-a6ff-b83a018ca2e7/reports/4dc18105-2fe5-4297-af33-ec8346f1cfe0/6ee83053f23ed6f09451?experience=power-bi>.

Beslutning

The board ran out of time and decided to process the project formulation evaluations in writing as a decision made by the chairpersons.

Punkt 14: Students item (10:40-10:55)

Nomination:

The board is requested to discuss the status of two ongoing student-related items raised in previous meetings:

- **Lacking Supervisor Catalogs for Thesis Supervision**

The board will receive an oral update on the progress made in addressing the issue of incomplete or delayed supervisor catalogs for thesis supervision.

- **Qualitative Interview Methods Course**

The board is asked to note the response from the legal department regarding the complaint about the Qualitative Interview Methods course.

Appendix:

- Answer from legal department

Beslutning

The Study Board discussed the ongoing issue regarding the complaint raised about the exam process and the subsequent responses from the legal department, who would not be taking the case further. The board expressed regret over the process and the outcome, feeling that despite their best efforts, the matter had not been resolved as expected.

Key points raised:

1. Timeline and Delays:

The board emphasized that they had done everything within their power to address the issue promptly and did not believe they had caused any delays. However, the delays in response times from both the legal department and the Study Board's monthly meetings had compounded the difficulty in addressing the issue in a timely manner.

2. Quality Control:

It was noted that this situation raised broader concerns about quality control in courses. The board has discussed this issue in several previous meetings, and it was highlighted that there should be a greater awareness among the Heads of Study and the teaching body to ensure such issues do not arise again in the future. The board emphasized the importance of improving internal communication and collaboration to prevent similar incidents.

3. Appropriate Timeframe for Action:

A question was raised regarding what constitutes an appropriate timeframe for addressing such concerns. The board noted that the Study Board only meets once a month, which can lead to delays in addressing urgent matters. There was also a sense that the current system may not be up to the task of handling complaints in a timely and effective manner, as the time lag between meetings and response times from the legal department has hindered progress.

4. Handling Course-Wide Concerns:

The board also discussed how to address situations where there are concerns about an entire course, rather than just one exam. There was uncertainty about how to approach these issues within the existing framework and whether there are options for dealing with broader concerns in a more effective manner. This should be raised with the legal department,

5. Student Communication:

It was agreed that Sophie would follow up with the individual responsible for the case and communicate the outcome to the students involved by referring them to the minutes for further clarification to ensure clarity and transparency.

6. Future Actions:

The Study Board agreed that further steps should be taken to ensure the process is more transparent and that the necessary changes are made to improve communication and handling of such issues in the future. The board will continue to advocate for better procedures and clearer processes to prevent delays and ensure a timely resolution for future complaints.

The above procedural follow-up and feedback were sent in a letter to the legal department for further consideration and improvement in handling such cases in the future. The letter emphasized the need for a more streamlined process, clearer guidelines, and quicker response times from all parties involved to ensure that similar issues do not arise again.

Bilag

Sv_ Klagesag - IS SN (RUC 9923022).pdf

Punkt 15: Any other business (10:55-11:00)

Gløgg and æbleskiver.

Beslutning

No other business.