

Study Board of Sociology
Draft



MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2023

Forum Study Board of Sociology

Meeting held 5 December 2023

Place Room 16.1.55

Minutes taker Troels Claus Baagland

Present

Jonas Toubøl, Mengni Chen, Lasse Suonperä Liebst, Asmus Oliver Lewis, and Dagmar Engelbrecht Henriksen, and Nina

Guests

Merlin Schaeffer, Signe Staun Kelly, Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard, Kristian Lautau and Tine Klovborg Schou

Absent

Jens Lange

The closed meeting was cancelled due to sickness.

Troels gave a short overview of the exemption cases dealt with by the Study administration in 2023 altogether. The board noticed that the Study administration had processed 31 exemption cases and only one application was rejected. Most of the applications concerned exemptions for the deregistration period.

Open Meeting

1) Approval of the agenda and Minutes from 30. October 2023.

Approved

2) Curriculum Revision – BA-Project

The Study Board discussed a proposal to change the required number of ECTS passed before starting up with the BA project. The current requirement is that students must have passed 165 ECTS credits before starting the BA project. The proposal would change this to 120 ECTS credits, and thereby lead to a more flexible last study year and less stress among the students.

The Study Board approved the proposal, and the decision is implemented from the new Academic year 23/24.

3) Curriculum Revision – Introduction of Written On-Site Exam

The Study Board discussed a proposal to:

1. Introduce Written On-Site Exam in the Exam Catalogue in general,
2. In specific introduce Written On-Site Exam in the course “*Sociological Theory in a Historical Perspective*” (p.t. portfolio exam).

Lasse suggested introducing the exam form, since it could be argued that this is the strongest tool to deal with Open AI.

The students argued that the Written On-Site Format is considered stressful, and that the complications in “*Sociological Theory in a Historical Perspective*” is not a question about changing the exam form.

The students suggested that the teachers should attend a meeting in “Fagrådet” to discuss if a Written On-Site Exam form should be introduced. It was emphasized that the students’ well-being/stress should also be taken into consideration.

The study board decided that the teachers should have a talk with Fagrådet (Study Council) about the topic. Alternatively, Fagrådet could also attend a study board meeting.

4) Guiding Principles for Education

Prorector for Education, Kristian Lauta (KL) visited the Study Board. First, he argued that it is necessary to rethink our educations and this is the background for developing the guiding principles. He emphasized that we think long-term, that is 10-20 years ahead – what type of education do we think that the labour market needs in the future? What type of learning spaces should UCPH create to stay relevant and generate as much learning as possible?

KL said that UCPH had benefitted from “the good name” and its location in the centre of CPH, which means that it has not been necessary with a proactive recruitment strategy. Also, 70 percent of the students come from The Greater Copenhagen Area, there is a lack of diversity in the student population, and it is not always the most talented students we recruit. UCPH is currently too much of a village.

KL addressed the lack of common practice across the faculties. E.g. it is difficult to take courses across the university due to sign-up periods and exams forms that differ. Therefore we must standardize and harmonise things a lot more.

KL believe that UCPH should focus intensively on how to become a life-long partner for the outside community, by highlighting the importance of the feeling of *belonging* to UCPH, also after graduation.

Janus, Lasse, and Merlin pointed out, that the many big reforms combined are putting too much pressure on the administration, which leads to instability. It was suggested if the Administration reform could be postponed one year ahead. Merlin gave as an example that three different persons had been account officers for the Study Board during 2023.

KL said that the Administration Reform was decided by the University Board. He defended the decision since the purpose of the reform is to get things harmonised and standardised across the university. As an example, he mentioned the high number of exam forms, 127 Different forms, which make things far too complicated. But a centralised administration would become less personalised in some ways, but also less fragile to absence since more employees could take over for each other. Also, things appear more professional in general if the administrative service is the same across the university – students get the same answer on the same questions across the programs. KL said that the Board had noticed the lectures worries that thing becomes too centralised, and this is also taken into account. He would not rule out, that some things could be decentralised again in the future, and that things, in a period, becomes a bit more complicated.

The Lectures asked to the relocation of Social Science to Southern Campus. KL answered that it is estimated that there is enough space for Social Science at Southern Campus and he referred [to an interview](#) with Dean for Humanities, Kirsten Busch Nielsen. He acknowledged that students shouldn't commute between CSS and Southern Campus but underlined that the economy is a crucial factor.

KL oriented about the universities are negotiating how the Master Reform should be implemented. He said that the negotiations are tuff but there is

a common sense in the negotiation Rector committee, that things would be landed. KL guessed that the models could be ready in January.

5) Curriculum Revision – Philosophy of Science

The Study Board discussed a proposal if the section (p. 62) on philosophy of science should be removed from the curriculum:

Den studerende må endvidere i bachelorprojektet kunne anlægge relevante videnskabsteoretiske betragtninger omkring, hvorledes det valgte perspektiv på problematikken øver indflydelse på analysen).

The section currently requires students to demonstrate an understanding of the philosophy of science. The Study Board approved the proposal to delete the section from the curriculum.

6) Curriculum Revision – Integrated Exams

The Study Board discussed a proposal to disintegrate the Integrated Exams in Elementary Qualitative Methods and Knowledge, Organization and Politics/New statistical analysis strategies. The Integrated Exams cover two different courses, but the exam form poses some challenges e.g. because the two courses are not sufficiently integrated academically and some students have already taken one of the courses elsewhere.

The proposal would split the integrated exams into separate exams, each of which would cover only one course. The Study Board approved the proposal.

7) Curriculum Revision – Sociological Project Design

The Study Board discussed a proposal to remove the requirement that students must have passed 60 ECTS credits before starting the Sociological Project Design course.

The current requirement is in place to ensure that students have a strong foundation in sociology before taking the course, but the requirement makes things inflexible for the students.

The proposal would remove the requirement, allowing students to take the course at any point in their studies. The Study Board approved the proposal.

8) Coordination between Study Council (Fagrådet) and Study Board

The Study Board discussed ways to improve coordination between the Study Council and the Study Board. The Study Council is a student-led body that represents the interests of students to the Study Board.

The Study Board agreed to share a longer-term meeting plan with the Study Council, but it would not be possible to have an agenda prepared earlier than currently, which is 7 days ahead of a Study Board meeting.

9) Master Reform

Merlin said that the Master reform is a major change to the structure and content of the master and BA-programs. The Study Board agreed to hold a meeting with students in February to inform them about the status of the reform.

10) Information from the Study Advisory

Nina mentioned that the situation in the Study Advisory is poor due to colleagues who have got new jobs elsewhere.

Annmette Have Worbech will take over as new head of the Study Advisory for Søren Hedegaard, who will also leave in January. Two more colleagues have left due to new jobs, and one is going on parental leave.

11) Information from students

Nothing

12) Information from Head of Studies/Head of Study Board

Nothing

13) Any Other Business

TCB announced that the next meeting will take place in the first half of February, and the first item would be to constitute the new Study Board.

Merlin and Lasse thanked the retiring board members for their good efforts in 2023.