



Minutes to Programme Committee for Master Program in Biomedical Sciences meeting (IV)

Time: 6 November 2025, 12:30 – 14:30

Place: Seminary room 6A132A, 6 floor, BBB

Attendees:

Mathias Ziegler, Karianne Fjeld, Henriette Aksnes, Odd Helge Gilja (Teams), Ingvild Olerud, Ingrid Agedal.

Administrative coordinator: Toma Christako, Susanne Meidell.

Agenda

Comments on meeting invitation and Minutes from the last meeting	
For last Minutes see attachment 1	
<i>No comments</i>	
Please welcome the new member	
9/25	Master's Thesis (BMED395) Guidelines – Decision item Please review the final Master's thesis guidelines and either send your comments in advance or bring them up during the meeting. The committee must provide feedback if any changes are required. If no changes are suggested, the guidelines will be considered approved and subsequently shared with the students. Attachment 2 --- <i>Received final comments on the guidelines. It was agreed to make the necessary changes and share the final version with students and supervisors. It was also recommended to share the guidelines again during the spring semester, closer to the thesis deadline, as a refresher.</i>
Orientations	
1	Adjustments to the course description - BMED330 (Cell Communication and Intracellular Signaling) Suggested change in course description: <i>The course will give an odyssey of major signalling events in the vertebrate cell across cellular space and time— starting at the cell surface and ending up in the</i>



	<p><i>nucleus— and from the developmental period of an organism to individual cell death. The course aims at giving the student an overview of cellular interactions with the cellular microenvironment and the signalling events resulting from these interactions. Moreover, it will be discussed how cells respond to physiological cues such as hormones and neuronal signals. The therapeutic implications of all these signalling events will be briefly discussed in a separate lecture. The course will be in the form of lectures, given by researchers active in the field they are teaching. To follow up and consolidate the material taught, each lecture will be accompanied by a review article that students will read and discuss in connection to the lecture.</i></p> <p><i>Key words from the course: Principles, Molecular Switches, Signalling Currencies, Developmental Signalling, Immune Signalling, Cadherins and Integrins, Proteoglycans, Neuronal Signalling, Receptor Kinases, Mitochondrial Communication, Death Signalling, Therapeutic Implications.</i></p> <p>Present full description can be found here: Cell Communication and Intracellular Signaling UiB</p>
2	<p>Adjustments to the course schedule - BMED322 Python course (Fall 2026)</p> <p>It is proposed that the Python course hours be distributed across the first part of the semester, up until students begin their laboratory projects. Sessions would be held in 2–3 hour blocks, and only some of these would be mandatory. This would allow to concentrate support on students with limited programming experience, while ensuring that all students complete required exercises or tests throughout the course.</p> <p>The rationale behind this adjustment is based on student feedback: many found the current format—five consecutive days of programming—too intensive. They also noted that they have more flexibility earlier in the semester, with fewer competing academic obligations. Spacing out the sessions would give students more time to work on exercises between gatherings and improve overall learning outcomes.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The proposed schedule could be beneficial, but it was suggested to present a more organized structure and timeline to ensure clarity about what students will cover in each meeting. The sessions should include systematic introductions and carefully selected data sets for students to work with.</i></p> <p><i>Feedback from both first- and second-year students indicated that the first three days of the 5-day Python course were easy to follow, and a good introduction to the program. However, after that point, the content suddenly became too complex and challenging.</i></p>



3

Evaluation Reports

- **Annual evaluation of BMED330 (Cell Communication and Intracellular Signaling):**
- For whole document see attachment 5.
- 11 students (8 MED, 3 NT-fak)
- Key Changes from Previous Year:
 - New course coordinator due to sabbatical leave.
 - New topics introduced (e.g., death signaling).
 - Evaluation of a new edition of the textbook Cell Signaling for future use.
- Student Feedback (Response Rate: 54% (6 students)).
 - New lecture topics were well received.
 - Article presentation format appreciated.
 - High educational level and good organization.
 - 80% rated learning outcomes as good or excellent.
- Plans to:
 - Provide practice questions in future iterations.
 - Consider starting the course later (3rd–4th week of January).
- **Annual evaluation of BMED331 (Tumor Biology):**
- For whole document see attachment 3.
- Heterogenous group of 23 students (12 MED, 11 NT-fak)
- Key Changes from Previous Year:
 - Improved consistency in scheduling.
 - Clearer guidance on textbook chapters to focus on.
 - Early communication about rescheduled lectures.
- Student Feedback (Response Rate: 43% (10 students)).
 - Engaging and well-prepared lectures.
 - Expert guest lecturers.
 - Fair and relevant exam.
 - Appreciated clinical relevance and research insights.
- Plans to:
 - Improve communication on Mitt UiB.
 - Rebalance exam content.
 - Increase lecture depth.
 - Adjust scheduling to avoid conflicts.
- **Annual evaluation of BMED370 (Computational methods for drug design):**
- For whole document see attachment 4.
- 14 students (10 MED, 4 NT-fak)
- Key Changes from Previous Year:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added a new introductory lecture on the drug discovery process, which helped contextualize the course content.• Student Feedback very low response (1)• No major changes planned.
4	<p>Graduation Ceremony for Master's Students – Spring 2026</p> <p>Auditorium 1 has been booked for Friday, 5 June.</p> <p>We currently have two first-year students who have volunteered to join the organizing committee.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Additionally, one student from Nucleus will be present to ensure oversight.</i></p>
5	<p>Master projects for new students - overview</p> <p>A total of 25 master projects have been submitted for allocation.</p> <p>Of these, some projects are suitable for two students each, allowing for a total of 31 student placements.</p>
From the students	
	<p><i>All is going well. Nucleus is helping to connect the students. First-year students have their own Messenger group where they communicate.</i></p>
<p>Next meeting</p> <p>February 20th</p>	