



**Minutes from the meeting in
Programme Committee for Global Health
Monday 6 February 2022 at 2.30 – 4.10 p.m.**

Attendees:

Sven Gudmund Hinderaker (head); Cecilie Gjerde (IKO); Bente Moen (Head of CIH); Tehmina Mustafa; Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy; Thorkild Tylleskär. Student representatives Rafael Duran, Justin Pruitt and Fernando José Jerez Pietropaolo and Penias Tembo. Programme auditor Anna-Karin Hurtig

Secretary: Linda Karin Forshaw

I Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

II Minutes from the Programme Committee meeting on 12 December

The minutes were approved.

III Matters arising from the minutes

None

Subject 1/23 Matters of information

Next meeting

Due to a PhD defence the scheduled meeting 20 March must be moved to 6 March.

Master Programme profile

The profile of the Master was discussed in the CIH staff meeting 9 January 2023. Many non-Norwegians residing in Norway are not able to find employment in Norway after graduation. The Committee thinks this is mainly because they do not speak Norwegian. There are job opportunities if they know they do, e.g., public health coordinator, work in charitable organizations and NGO's. Our masterprogram is primarily a degree in research. It does not focus on working skills. This is the reason why the track with an internship was implemented. The course description must be clearer. From a student perspective perhaps they expect to get practical working skills which will secure them employment. Another point made was that employability depends on a license to work in Norway if you are a medical doctor, nurse, dentist etc. One student pointed out that many of the students did not know the difference between global health and public health.

One suggestion was to change the name to “Master in Global Public Health”.

This is an important subject which needs to be discussed more in depth. The Committee will address this at its Strategy meeting before Easter. One suggestion was to first have a pre-meeting with the students.

Number of participants elective courses

The course coordinators should decide on a minimum and maximum number of participants for their elective courses. We will soon send an online form requesting this information. This must be registered in the system (FS).

Introduction to anthropology in global health

This is a newly established course, which will run for the first time in April this semester. There is one course on master level (INTH345), one on PhD level (INTH945) and one online version (INTH345O). The one on PhD level was originally planned with 10 ECTS credits but the course coordinators wished to reduce the number of credits to 5. The Faculty has asked for an explanation. Here it is: *“The planning of the course has been done in collaboration with the Norwegian Research School for Global Health (NRS GH). Their feedback was that similar courses offered through Norwegian Research School for Global Health (NRS GH) do not yield the same number of credits. In addition, we received questions from the administration here at UIB about why the course (which is offered to both Master and PhD students) gives more credits to PhD students (10) than to MA students (5) when the work requirements are approximately the same. We had intended that the essay, which is submitted as a work requirement on both levels, should be more extensive for the PhD candidates, but we realize that we missed the mark when we doubled the number of credits for this group. We have also taken into consideration University of Bergen’s wish that the number of credits should be divisible by 5. After discussion we end up with 5 ECTS credits for both groups”*. Online 3 ECTS credits.

Programme Committee seminar

The Faculty will organize a seminar for the Programme Committees 15 March. You will soon receive an invitation.

Quality reporting 2022

The Faculty requests the Program Committees to prepare a short, written self-assessment of 1-2 pages by 17 March 2023. The head and secretary make a draft before the next meeting.

Applications for leave of absence

Two students from the 2021 cohort, have been granted leave of absence for spring semester and autumn semester 2023.

Application for extension of enrolment

One student from the 2021 cohort has been granted an extension of his enrolment.

Subject 2/23 Admission requirements Master Programme in Global Health

The Division of Student and Academic Affairs (SA) has the main responsibility for admission to the Master Programme in Global Health. They have made a working list with the requirements for admission, incl. a list with bachelor's degrees which qualify for admission and which ones do not. When they are in doubt the Admission Committee at CIH must evaluate the applicants' educational background. The list will be continuously updated.

Many of the members were concerned about admitting students without any health-related topics in their bachelor's degree can become a problem. They need some basic knowledge to take the compulsory courses. Another concern was about the inter-disciplinarity, do we know for sure who is doing poorly? This should be mapped properly so there are no assumptions without proof, and we should analyze performance by background.

The Admission Committee had suggested a specific requirement – minimum 60 ECTS credits within a topic of relevance for health.

Another point is that even though the applicants do not have a health related bachelors' degree, they might want to branch out to global health.

We need to communicate clearly enough what the programme is about.

Decision: The Committee decided to continue the discussion at the meeting in March.

Subject 3/23 Evaluation of INTH315

The exam results for the course *Methods in Global Health Research* (INTH315) were on average lower than expected, unfortunately with nine students who did not pass. The course coordinator Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy has suggested to increase the length of the course with two weeks at the expense of the course *Global health - challenges and responses* (SDG303). The ECTS credit distribution will have to be altered. The Committee should discuss this.

There will be a new exam for the students who failed at the end of May.

The course coordinator Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy said this is the third time she has coordinated the course. The results have been poor all these years. There are too many topics being covered in too little time, which is very demanding for the students. There was more time before we reorganized (three courses merged to one). In her opinion there are two solutions:

- To extend the length of the course (invested time in doing exercises etc.)
- Reduce the weight of the exam

As matter of fact *Proposal development* (INTH330B) has taken one week of the autumn semester and continues in the spring. This has reduced the time

available for INTH315. *Global health - challenges and responses* (SDG303) runs week 33-41, 9 weeks, INTH315 (“Methods”) runs week 42-49, 8 weeks.

Splitting the course into three is not an option. This would have pedagogical challenges. We want student to see the link between the different topics and have to mature. The merger has not been a disaster, but we could do better.

Comments from the student representatives:

- Not enough time to digest the content.
- The statistic course is challenging.
- More quizzes would be very helpful. They should be compulsory and be graded.
- Many students did not have time to complete the exam in 4 hours
- The article which many of the questions were based on was not available at the start of the exam.
- English is not all the students’ first language, and it took more time for them to digest the questions.
- Many thought they worked hard during the course but did not have enough time to perform on the exam.
- Small amount of the assignments – work during the course more accountable towards the final grade.
- Most students more of the work during the course should count towards the final grade.
- It would be beneficial to have an extra week INTH315
- It would be doable to do SDG303 one week less. Specialized topics could have been condensed. They will send suggestions on which topics that can be reduced.

Comment from the course coordinator: There could be exercises during the course that are more relevant to the final exam, especially on philosophy of science. The length of the exam could be extended from 4 to 6 hours. She is going to revise the course description.

Decision: The course coordinator will revise the course description.

Subject 4/23 *Self-assessment of courses autumn 2022*

The course coordinators of the following courses have carried out self-assessment of their courses annually:

- SDG303 – Global health - challenges and responses, report not yet submitted.
- INTH315 - Methods in Global Health Research, report not yet submitted.

Subject 5/23 **Report from the student representatives**

Most comments on INTH315, not more to add.

Subject 6/23 **Any other business**

Strategy for organisation of INTH328B and other elective courses.

There has been a problem with the learning platform *Mitt UiB*. Student were not able to open the links. We have to find out what the cause of this was and try to avoid similar issues in the future.