



Program Board Meeting - English

Date: 15 April 2020, 12:15-14

Zoom Meeting

Present:

Dagmar Haumann (coordinator), Randi Koppen (coordinator), Laura Saetveit Miles, Joseph Tabbi, Hild Elisabeth Hoff, Jalaludeen Ibrahim, Sigrid Ørevik, Aud Solbjørg Skulstad, Zeljka Svrljuga, Lene Johannessen, Jerzy Nykiel, Kevin McCafferty, Tormod Lilleårstein (student representative), Clara Debus (student representative), Anja Eriksen (student representative) and Hanne Svanholm Misje (secretary)

10/20 Approval of agenda

Approved, no comments.

11/20 Approval of minutes from last meeting - 22 January 2020

Approved, no comments.

12/20 Information items

Corona updates:

1. All school exams this semester have been changed to home-exams, and one hour is added to all the exams. This concerns ENG114, ENG115, ENG221, ENG222, ENG223 and ENG224. All course descriptions have been changed and an announcement has been posted to Mitt UiB for each individual course.

2. All students have been given a two-week extension for submitting their MA-thesis. The new deadline is 29 May, 13:00. It is still possible to submit on 15 May, 13:00, so please encourage your students to e-mail Hanne if they want to submit by the 15th.

13/20 Redesign-project

1. Student involvement on learning outcomes?

It was agreed that student involvement in the proposed learning outcomes is a good idea. Corona might put a stop to anything happening this semester, and we might want to try for something in the fall semester. Perhaps a combined event with Fagutvalget?

The student representatives were in favor of this and will help with student involvement.

2. Draft – overall program learning outcomes

No comments in the meeting. The learning outcomes are still work-in-progress and can be changed as need be.

3. Insentiv-søknader

The English Faculty is sending several applications for funds from UiB (insentiv), and the redesign project is sending an application for funds to hire two students to help develop a digital learning tool for lower level courses in linguistics. The application deadline is 4 May (extended from 15 April) and the application will be forwarded to the linguists before submission.



14/20 Student evaluation

The online survey

We discussed the form of the student evaluation of our courses. Currently, the end-of-term student evaluation is sent out as a digital form where we send out the same form for all courses. This means that students are answering the same questions for all the courses they are signed up for, and they are sent out around the same time – this means three identical surveys at the 100-level this semester. This might be one explanation for the low response rate. One form per discipline or one form per semester would be ideal.

Should we include questions about corona in the survey this semester?

It was agreed that it is wise to ask students to comment on the corona situation but keep questions open, differentiate between what works and what does not work. Questions should be about how this situation affected their learning outcomes and learning processes.

It was also discussed if we should ask if students want some of the digital teaching to continue even after we are back to normal teaching. This received mixed reviews and some staff members urges caution before opening that door.

Student representatives assured us that students do not want full digitalization as the norm, but that it is nice to ask them questions about the digital shift to learn if there is a way of combining this in the future. This is also wise to keep in mind for the redesign project, if we learn what has worked this semester and what has not worked.

The following questions were suggested in the meeting and all agreed that they could be used:

“What aspects of digital teaching helped you learn?”

“What aspects of digital teaching were challenging or difficult for you?”

Should we have a student evaluation of ENG350?

It was agreed to send out a student evaluation of ENG350 as soon as possible this semester and ask questions about both supervision and the work-in-progress seminars.

Lene, Dagmar and Sigrid offered to help with the questions.

15/20 Report from external examiners (last batch from 2019)

Literature report:

The external points out that there is a difference between the two courses in terms of student workload. As this is unfortunate, it was suggested by the literature section that course offerings should be discussed in a meeting before they are announced, instead of just circulating the course descriptions between staff members.

In the spring semester 2019, 222/262 also included students from BA in Comparative Literature (KVIK223/KVIK203). These students managed our English-syllabus just as well as our English BA-students (if not better). Comparative Literature-students managed theory at a much higher level, and we might consider introducing theory at an earlier stage in our BA-program. Attendance is also important, plus obligatory activities.



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Linguistics report:

ENG345, spring 2019: external examiner notes that school exam is not the best way to assess this course. The course instructor agrees (as does everyone else) but this is fixed in the course description.

Dagmar's comment to both literature and linguistics:

It was also commented that the combination courses we have (both literature and linguistics) have very general course descriptions and course titles. This is also the case for all master level courses. It was agreed that we will start working on changing this. One solution is to create a pool of courses with more specific titles, course descriptions and assessment forms that work. We will start working on a system in the fall semester.

Each program coordinator writes a comment that will follow the reports to *Studiestyret*. Send the comments to Hanne.

16/20 Grading scale on exams, spring 2020

It was discussed if we should consider changing the grading scale from A-F to pass/fail because of the corona situation. The consensus was no.

Decision

The program board has decided to keep the grade scale A-F for all exams in the spring semester 2020.

17/20 Other business

No other business.

21.04.20/HSM

Comments? Send Hanne by 28 April