



**Minutes from the meeting in
Programme Committee for Global Health
Monday 18 September 2017 at 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.**

Attendees: Karen Marie Moland (Head of Programme Committee); Cecilie Svanes (Coordinator for INTH302); David Lackland Sam (Coordinator for INTH316); Bernt Lindtjørn (Coordinator for INTH301); Tehmina Mustafa (Coordinator for INTH330); Bente E. Moen (Head of CIH, observer); two student representatives: Ingrid Mork Sletta and Hannah Regitze H. M. Kristensen

Secretary: Linda Karin Forshaw

I Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

II Minutes from the Programme Committee for Master's programme in International Health and Master's Programme for Oral Sciences' meeting on 24 April 2017. Approved by the previous Programme Committee.

(The minutes were approved by the former programme committee and are enclosed here for information to the newly appointed committee about issues discussed in the spring semester)

III Matters arising from the minutes

None

Subject 1/17 Matters of information

Introduction of members of the new Programme Committee for Global Health

Programme Censor appointed

Maria Emmelin has been the Program Censor for the Master's programmes in International Health and Oral Health for several years. Upon request, Maria Emmelin has agreed to continue as Programme censor for the Master's Programme in Global Health.

Admission autumn 2017

Self-financing International applicants: The Admission Committee offered admission to forty-one applicants, incl. two StAR candidates (Students at Risk), whereof twelve commenced their Master's studies this autumn. Two have been granted deferral until next year.

Self-financing Norwegian applicants or international applicants with a valid residence permit in Norway: The Admission Committee offered admission to eighteen applicants (incl. some from a waiting list), whereof eight commenced their Master's studies this autumn. One has been granted one-year deferral.

Project students: Three Ethiopian students were admitted through the project “Disease Control Priorities” funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (supervisor Ole Frithjof Norheim).

Suggestion: The Committee suggested that the Admission Committee makes a longer waiting list for next year’s Norwegian admissions.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Please refer to the mandate for the Programme Committees at the Faculty of Medicine: <http://www.uib.no/med/66123/mandat-programutvalgene> (unfortunately only in Norwegian).

Subject 2/17 Program Censor Guidelines

The Committee should discuss how to effectively make use of the Programme Censor, see guidelines for UiB:

<http://www.uib.no/studiekvalitet/78179/retningslinjer-programsensor-ved-universitetet-i-bergen>

Decision: The Master’s theses should undergo quality assurance to ensure that the level is correct i comparison with other universities, both nationally and internationally. The administration will confer with the Faculty of Medicine to see if there is an existing system that can be implemented.

The Master’s programme should undergo external evaluation on a regular basis (this has not been done since the 1990’s). The Committee suggests a kind of Midway evaluation, which will be carried out by the Programme Censor in cooperation with CIH partners in LMIC and a representative from the tropEd Network for Education in International Health.

Subject 3/17 Routines for censorship

The deadline for censorship at all educational institutions in Norway is three weeks from the exam date. There has been many delays at CIH; one of the reasons pointed out was implementation of the new digital examination system Inspira Assessment.

Censorship guides are required and should be published after the censur results have been announced (Lov om universiteter og høyskoler, § 3- 9. Eksamen og sensur)

Decision: Two examiners should be appointed in advance (either two internal or one internal and one external) for all the courses. The exam questions must be quality assured by the examiners. The course coordinators should always provide Censorship guides.

Subject 4/17 Organization of autumn courses.

Students and the Programme Censor have raised a concern regarding the sequence of the subjects in the core courses. Theory of science; Qualitative research methods; Basic literature search and referencing are subjects that are introduced late in the autumn semester in the course “Basic Research Tools and Theory (INTH301).

Bernt Lindtjørn pointed out that the historical reason for the sequence of the courses was that the students often had problems with abstract concepts and critical thinking and had to be gradually eased into this. Theory of science is often too theoretical for students. This is the reason why the course “Major global health problems” (INTH304) was the first of the compulsory courses. Another point is that students should be introduced to reference management programme Endnote earlier, preferably during the 304 course on Global health problems so that they can use it writing essay in the “Health systems” course. , however it must be research oriented (one type of problem solved with two different research methods).

Decision: From the autumn semester 2018 to implement one week of qualitative methods before the course in “Epidemiology” (INTH302). The course should be Introduction to qualitative research and get a separate course code. In addition introduction to Endnote should be integrated as part of the course content of “Major global health problems” (INTH304).

Subject 5/17 Student progress

The deadline for submitting the Master’s thesis is 15 May. However, this year only one student submitted within the deadline and three more submitted in time to defend in June. The trend in recent years has been that almost all the students have been granted extensions, which results in unequal conditions among students and master’s exams having to be organized throughout the year. One suggestion was to introduce two submission dates for the Master’s thesis (15 May and 15 October), however the Committee thought this be an excuse for some students to postpone their work.

The slow student progress is partly related to students arriving late back from fieldwork. Additionally many of the students feel left to themselves after they return from fieldwork. The Committee should discuss how to improve student progress and predictability for both students and the administration.

Decision: This subject will have to be discussed at the next Programme Committee meeting.

Subject 6/17 Internationalization at the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

The Faculty requires that one of the members of the Programme Committee should especially be assigned to internationalization.

Decision: Karen Marie Moland will represent the Programme Committee for Global Health in matters regarding internationalization.

Subject 7/17 Schedule for elective courses, spring 2018

The schedule for the spring courses has to be announced on the tropEd webpages ASAP. In addition, the deadline for registering everything FS (UiB student database) is 15 October.

Decision: The Committee agreed on a final schedule.

Subject 8/17 Schedule for Programme Committee meetings autumn 2017

Decision: The Committee agreed on the following dates: 30 October and 11 December at 14.30-16.00

Subject 9/17 Report from the student representatives

One issue was that in general none of the courses so far have scheduled a reading day on Wednesdays. The students need to have a day of study to digest all the information. The academic level of the courses is very high and the teaching days are long, and students need more time to read the course literature and work with the assignments. The students have very different backgrounds; for those with little or no experience from research, the courses are very demanding. They also need time to read before the exam.

Another issue was that most of the students need time to work in summer vacation/weekends in able to afford to take the master's program.

Subject 10/17 Any other business

None