



**Minutes from the meeting in
Programme Committee for Global Health
Monday 23 August 2021 at 14.30 – 16.00 p.m. (on Zoom)**

Attendees: Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy (Head); Sven Gudmund Hinderaker; Ingunn Marie S. Engebretsen; Bente Moen; Tehmina Mustafa; Thorkild Tylleskär

Secretary: Linda Karin Forshaw

I Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

II Minutes from the Programme Committee meeting on 31 May 2021

The minutes were approved.

III Matters arising from the minutes

None

Subject 29/21 Matters of information

New student representatives

The new students will have to select two representatives before the next Programme Committee meeting.

Admission to Master programme in Global Health

The administration of admissions has been centralized, which means the Division of Academic and Student Affairs at UiB administers the admissions with input from the Admission Committee at CIH.

Self-financing International applicants: Of 38 who accepted the offer of admission, 21 commenced their Master studies this autumn (most online due to quarantine on arrival in Norway).

Self-financing Norwegian and EU applicants: Of 38 who were admitted, 19 commenced (some online).

NORPART students: There are four NORPART students this year.

StAR student: There are two so called *Students at Risk* this year.

In addition, one student who was granted one year deferral last year commenced.

We need to have a meeting to plan how to organize the Master projects due to the large number of students. One suggestion was to offer fewer admission next year. Kirsti Nordstrand will set up a meeting with Division of Student and Academic Affairs to find out how this happened and how we can avoid

the same happening again next year. We must mobilize potential supervisors. External supervisors who have never supervised a master student in Global health before need an internal co-supervisor, who must take responsibility for ensuring that the formal requirements are fulfilled. Further ideas for how to make this manageable were discussed under subject 32/21.

Subject 30/21 Elective courses Spring 2021

How did the change to online teaching go? The Committee should discuss the challenges and lessons learned.

How will we use our acquired digital competence to improve access and quality of teaching and learning in the future? Will any of the elective courses be run as online courses in the Spring semester 2022?

Decision: Follow up with those who were not present. INTH328B will be online as usual; INTH321A will be on campus and/or blended (Thorkild will be on sabbatical in South-Africa and will give the course as a blended course there); INTH325A will be online; INTH310A and ELMED229 (MOOCs) will run as usual. INTH360 will be on campus. INTH356 may be on campus or online. INTH323O must be cancelled because the course coordinator is on sabbatical leave unless we can pay someone else to hold it. The secretary will convene a meeting on 20 September to plan the details.

Subject 31/21 Literature review projects

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic many students have chosen literature review projects. Ingunn has suggested that two Master students can cooperate and write their Master Thesis together. The Committee should discuss the suggestion.

Decision: The Committee members were positive to collaboration between students but thought they ought to write separate Master theses. We will find out more about the possibility for students to collaborate and write a joint Master thesis. Ingunn will contact Professor Jutta Dierkes at Department of Clinical Medicine regarding their experience with literature reviews. Some of the staff at CIH have taken a course on literature review at *Folkehelseinstituttet*, but most staff at CIH need more knowledge about the method before they supervise students. We will find out how many are interested in taking a course on literature review and find out if it is possible to make a tailored course for supervisors.

Subject 32/21 Establishing thesis writing support groups

At CIH supervisors spend a lot of time on individual supervision of students. This makes many feel that supervision of master students is a burden, and now that it looks like we will have a very high number of master students in the programme the next 2 years, we need to find ways to work more efficiently but still ensuring that the students get proper support during the writing process. We should therefore discuss whether we to establish writing support groups where students who use similar methodology (quantitative, qualitative, systematic literature review, laboratory study) can share their

drafts with each other and get and give inputs on draft texts. The students' supervisors can share the chairing of meetings between them and will not have to come every time. At each meeting 2-3 students could share drafts of a section of their thesis (Introduction, Methods, Results or Discussion). Two students will be tasked to be reviewers for each text (i.e., if 3 students share texts, 6 students will act as reviewers). Such a system where students do not only get feedback from their supervisor, but also from fellow students and possibly another supervisor, and where they get several opportunities to see how others write and what advice they get, will reduce the need for individual supervision and will also ensure that those who have external supervisors who have never supervised students in our master programme will be given guidance on what expectations we have in our programme. Each group could meet once or twice per month, depending on the size of the group, and the aim could be that each student shares texts for times, so they get feedback on each section of their thesis.

If we want such groups, should they be compulsory? And should we also offer such groups to first year students when they come to writing their proposals in the Spring semester?

Decision: Attending such a writing groups should be compulsory if it is to work. We would like to establish such groups for the first year students from the Spring semester, first for proposal writing and later for thesis writing. Ingvild will find out from HEMIL how they have organized similar groups and make a written suggestion that is circulated via email to the Programme Committee members within the next 2 weeks.

Subject 33/21 Report from the student representatives

No student representatives present.

Subject 34/21 Any other business

None