



**Minutes from the meeting in  
Programme Committee for Global Health  
Monday 27 April 2020 at 14.30 – 16.00 p.m. (on Zoom)**

**Attendees:** Karen Marie Moland; Thorkild Tylleskär; Cecilie Svanes; Bente Moen; Tehmina Mustafa; Stein Atle Lie (IKO); Sven Gudmund Hinderaker; Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy; student representative: Pierina Benavente Velando

**Secretary:** Linda Karin Forshaw

**I Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**II Minutes from the Programme Committee meeting on 16 March and extraordinary meeting 31 March**

The minutes were approved.

**III Matters arising from the minutes**

*Contingency plan for the autumn semester* (Extraordinary meeting, see Subject 34/20)

*Self-assessments from the Programme Committees at the Faculty of Medicine 2020/21* (Subject 25/20)

*Graduation ceremony* (Subject 26/20). CIH has previously decided to have a graduation ceremony for all the graduating Master's students. The Committee agreed that an online graduation is a nice way to mark the end of the journey for the students. This should be organized in June.

**Subject 30/20 Matters of information**

***Admission to Master's programme in Global Health, autumn 2020***

*Self-financing Norwegian applicants:* The application deadline for Norwegian applicants (or international applicants with a valid residence permit in Norway and a Norwegian ID number) was 15 April. 665 applications have been submitted.

The administration will contact the Division of Student and Academic Affairs regarding admission of international students.

***Crisis fund for international students***

International centre at UiB has set up a crisis fund for international students who fall outside of Norwegian Loan Fund scheme and other scholarship schemes, and who have experienced financial difficulties as a result of the corona measures in Norway. However, we have received conflicting information from them and need clarification on what they mean by international students and on how the students can apply.

**Subject 31/20 Course coordinator for INTH321A**

Follow up of from meeting 16 March (Subject 24/20). Karen Marie Moland has discussed the matter Halvor Sommerfelt, the head of CISMAC. He and his team seem to be positive to coordinating the course. He had several ideas on how to organize the course, with more online teaching and implementing blended learning (combination of online and on campus teaching, both at CIH and at partner institutions (hubs)). The Committee should discuss his suggestions and whether these can be implemented for other elective courses as well.

Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy is willing to take on the responsibility for the course next spring. However, she does not think there is enough time to reorganize the course and is not motivated to make a full online course at this point due to preparations of the course INTH315 this autumn, which she will coordinate. She will discuss this with Thorkild Tylleskär.

**Decision:** The Committee agreed to appoint Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy as course coordinator of INTH321A in the spring semester 2021.

**Subject 32/20 Plagiarism**

Follow up from meeting 17 February (Subject 14/20). Karen Marie Moland has made a draft for standard guidelines for cases of plagiarism. The Committee should discuss and decide on implementing these guidelines.

**Decision:** The Committee decided to implement the drafted standard guidelines for cases of plagiarism at CIH.

**Subject 33/20 Information to external and internal examiners**

The Department of Biomedicine has written an information letter to their external and internal examiners regarding assessment during the corona virus pandemic. The Committee should discuss whether this is relevant for CIH's examiners and if a similar letter should be sent to them, this is especially relevant for those with laboratory studies/projects.

**Decision:** The Committee decided to draft a similar letter to the examiners of students who have laboratory projects, even though not may will be effected since they should have completed their laboratory work by now.

**Subject 34/20 Contingency plan for the autumn semester**

Continuation of discussion from extraordinary meeting 31 March: Due to the uncertain epidemiologic and economic situation with the COVID-19, the Programme Committee should make a contingency plan for the autumn semester.

A working group has been set up to work on this, the members are Karen Marie Moland, Bente E. Moen, Thorkild Tylleskär and Bjarne Robberstad.

There are four scenarios; run the programme 1) on campus; 2) online; 3) with blended learning; 4) cancel this year.

Scenario 1. There are still a lot of uncertainties, there have been signals that be up to 20 – 30 students in a class room will be allowed, but this is not yet settled. If we only have up to 25 students this can be possible (incl. medical students taking GLOBALTHEORY), however some teaching will need to be online.

Scenario 2) The Faculty of Medicine has informed the head that it is too late to organize this from the autumn since it takes about a year to get the necessary approval, however, it might be a possibility in the future.

Scenario 3) There are different perceptions of blended learning; the elective course INTH323BL used blended learning which is a combination of on campus and online teaching (for students at UNZA). All students should be on campus, but organized in smaller groups, and online teaching for all the students.

Scenario 4) Cancel due to no international students being able to come due to borders being closed, the Committee was especially worried about project students from partner institutions. Bente Moen said it is not an option because the Programme Committee do not have the mandate cancel, only the University Board can make this decision. Another aspect is that we are dependent on students (funds allocated by production of ECTS credits, completed grades etc.). Regarding field work and data collection, there are several alternatives even though students cannot travel, e.g. work on previous collected data ....?

Regarding cohort 2019; they all have to be prepared to have projects based in Norway, both laboratory work and labs and field work, one suggestion was COVID study instead, because one should still expect restrictions the rest of the year and it is very unlikely they will be able to travel this autumn. We should inform them and the new cohort about this.

If international students are unable to come, we should recruit students from/residing in Norway. Concern was raised that it is difficult for them to find employment in Norway (NGOs based in Norway do not have unlimited positions). One should think about designing the program to also cater for these students. One response to this was the existing programme is very relevant in the health sector among nurses for more research based positions. They can return to employment at hospitals but will then benefit from changed work descriptions.

Another suggestion was to offer an elective course in health promotion, perhaps in collaboration with HEMIL, who has experience with teaching Norwegian students in this subject, it is also very relevant for international students. Bente Moen informed about ongoing cooperation between the faculties on which courses can be shared between them. Siri Gloppen has just been employed as a coordinator, we will receive more information in the autumn.

**Decision:** The Committee decided to prioritize applicants with health backgrounds (if possible) and remove the alternative with an internship in combination with a 30 ECTS credit Master project. One should open up for public health projects.

**Subject 35/20      Report from the student representatives**

When are the Master exams? Reply from Committee; there is no specific date, they are organized throughout June. However, if the students apply for extensions beyond 29 May, they will not be organized before August.

The students would like to have seminar about COVID-19, these could be organized online on Zoom, like the Research seminars.

**Subject 36/20      Any other business**

The Faculty has weekly meetings with all the heads of the Programme Committees. Information from the last meeting; when organizing Oral exams on Zoom, there should be administrative support before and during the exam. The administration should set the exam up in Zoom using “waiting room” for students and supervisors while the examiners are discussing the Master thesis and oral exam.