



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN
Department of Foreign Languages

Minutes - Program Board Meeting – English

Date: 07 February 2024, 12:15-14:00

Room: 216, HF building

Present: Randi Koppen (main coordinator, coordinator literature), Astrid Haas, Henriette Rørlien, Jerzy Nykiel, Mona Hosseini, Tijana Przulj, Christine Fagg (student representative), Ronja Johannesen (student representative), Aud Solbjørg Skulstad, Sigrid Ørevik (coordinator didactics), Mari Eide, Lene Johannessen, Jerzy Nykiel, Laura Miles, Dagmar Haumann, Elin Huckerby, Bente Hannisdal (coordinator linguistics), Eleni Solstad (secretary)

01/24 Approval of agenda

Approved, no comments.

02/24 Approval of minutes from meeting 21.11.2023

Approved, no comments.

03/24 – Information items

- Department guidelines for program boards – membership and voting practice.
- New *programsensor* for English (linguistics and literature): Professor Merete Brendeford Andersen, UiT (new contract attached)

For the next period, 2024-2027, there will be only one *programsensor* to assess both linguistics and literature courses. As these reports do not focus on the content of the courses, but how the program and its various elements are organised and how information reaches the students, there will not be a problem with that.

-Status so far: teaching and student numbers (attachment 4)

ENG110: At the first lectures the number of students was over 100, later it went down to about 75, still a high number. We will know more when the deadline for the first obligatory assignment is due, but we are optimistic.

ENG345: 3 students registered, only 2 participating, reduced teaching hours is an option (in accordance with the regulation). We should discuss this and have a plan for those occasions.

ENG225/261/265: 17 students for BA- thesis, active students, good attendance.

ENG228/268: 22 students registered in total, 12 will submit their BA Thesis. The group is active and is going quite well so far.

ENG335 starting this week, 17 registered.

ENG336: 17 registered and 14 are active. Some of the L students have asked to take this course, even though they cannot attend all lectures.

ENG337 18 students registered (this is the course L students can take)

Extra session for thesis writing/WiP in literature: 15 students attended and found it helpful. The students are interested in extra sessions for potential thesis statements. It is left to each discipline to decide whether/how to offer such sessions.

Didactics courses: fewer DIDA courses in the spring semester.

ENGDI201 23 students, large group this year.

ENGDI301 has only 13-14 students this spring, fewer than what they used to be.

-Åpen Dag 12 February

All coordinators have contributed to the material, Sigrid and Randi will lead the 2 sessions. 28 pupils are registered in total, a good number.

- New regulations for mid-term (new) exams (ENG122/125/110/120)

Four of our courses do not have a regular re-sit, but a new exam for the students with legitimate absence. The new regulation allows the students who did not pass or interrupted the exam, to sit the new exam together with the ones who had legitimate absence. Only these students will have that possibility, not the ones who did not show up/submit a paper. One of the reasons for this new regulation is to help the students who did not pass finish their studies quicker.

Comments:

This is not an equal treatment of the students.

It gives the students room for speculation, they can choose to skip the regular exam and wait for the re-sit, in courses with a large group of students.

-New announcement deadline for teaching and exams (schedule and reading list): 1 July

New date for announcing the schedule for teaching, exam dates, and reading lists 01 July. We do not know if the internal deadlines will change, they are the same for now. Eleni has started working with the schedule for fall 2024, she will contact the coordinators soon.

04/24 Items for Discussion

-Self-assessments for autumn 2023 (attachment 1)

No comments.

-One-year assessment report for BA and MA

No comments.

-Three-year assessment report ENG331/332/333 and ENG339/341/343 (attachment 1)

No comments.

-Reports from program-sensors: Literature (4 years), Linguistics (4 years), One-year assessment report for BA, MA, English Didactics in *Lektorprogrammet* 5LU, and VID-MAUENG” (attachment 2; VID-MAUENG: Eleni will circulate it when we receive it)

Each discipline will write a note on the reports from the programsensors. Eleni will send out the form.

Linguistics: The most important suggestion by the report for linguistics is the introduction of obligatory attendance.

Didactics: The sensor assessed the whole lector program, and interesting information came to light. Some students chose the program to come to Bergen, looks like Bergen has a good status as a student city/the university has a good rumor.

Comment: We should have a historic element in English, or a philosophical one since there is much interest in history and philosophy.

-Brainstorming session for MA students to present supervisors’ areas of interest and discuss potential topics for theses. Repeat of last year’s afternoon session (held on 6 March in Ad Fontes)?

Ad Fontes: late enough so that the L students can attend after the praksis. It should start at 17.

Date: 7 March?

Comment from student representative: All disciplines should come with information in advance, so that the students understand what this is about. Good idea to have a couple of sessions/information before the seminar, so that they have an idea. They feel that they get so little information and they do not know what to write about.

Comments:

Someone must communicate to the students that they need to come with something, even though it is brainstorming and they do not need to prepare that much for the session. The supervisors can inform and inspire when they talk about the topics they have supervised. They have personal responsibility as well to find theses to read and understand what they have to do.

L – students may have more information because of the mini master thesis/essay they write in ENGD1301.

We may have to find another venue; Ad fontes is closed, we must check if we can book it or find something else.

05/24 Items for Approval

ENG100 proposals:

Approved with the following comments:

Is assessment form too much? The question is: do we want to give an essay in the end, one for both disciplines?

OBLIG: Is the essay a pass/fail?

Is it approved/do they have to retake it? Possibility or re-submitting?

Lots of resources are used in that case.

If the bar is set relatively low, I suppose we would be safe.

Should they have a second chance? We should have an agreement between the disciplines.

Are the proposal / the changes approved?

ENG110 and ENG120:

Obligatory for both, 75% attendance. This applies to both lectures and practice sessions; they are equally important.

Approved

06/24 Other business

Programsensor – what kind of information do we give them: should they have access to PPT? should they be invited as observers in MittUiB, students: privacy?

PDF: copyright

There are students selling teaching materials. This is the reason why the programsensors should not have access to mittuib. They are assessing how the information is given to the students. We can share the documents about the term plans and dates etc, but not the PDF.

If the sensor needs more information, they can ask for it.

MittUiB recipients of updates about some courses:

More that the registered teachers receive updates. Eleni will take this further and try to fix it with IT.

Students re ENG336:

Good topic for teacher training, but they cannot take it/collision with praksis. The students wish that Lektor relevant topics and courses are adjusted to Lektor schedule.