

Agenda

Subject	Advisory board meeting for Environmental Engineering
Date and time	May 7, 10-12
Location	Zoom
Invited	Mette Smedegaard Hansen (NGF Nature Energy), Jan Thrane (Odense Renovation), Tina Maria Lund Kristensen (Fjernvarme Fyn), Mogens M. Møller (Nyborg Kommune), Per Haugsted Petersen (Rambøll), Vivian Andersen (Odense Kommune), , Birgitte L. Sørensen (SDU, Lektor, Uddannelseskoordinator), Morten Birkved (SDU, Professor MSO), Gang Liu (SDU, Lektor), Mette Smølz Skau (SDU, Studiekoordinator) Jakob Kjær Rasmussen (SDU, Student)
Cancellation from	Tina Maria Lund Kristensen, Mogens M. Møller, Per Haugsted Petersen
Moderator	Birgitte L. Sørensen

mskau@tek.sdu.dk
T +4565501984

Welcome

Welcome

Discussion points

1. The new normal after corona

Morten pointed out that it in his experience works well to have the students in very small groups. The students feel isolated and miss the study environment, so they need to feel a connection. Therefore supervision-based courses are very valuable under corona-restrictions.

The students complain that they don't know each other. This is especially the case for the new students, who have never met each other physically.

It is important for the student to have some social network, not least for the foreign students.

Social activities can be organized outside the university. It can just be walks around town, which is a corona friendly activity that allows the students to mingle with each other.

Jakob stated that breakrooms with quizzes and social content can work well as well.

Kahoot and general engagement of the students in the courses are good way to heighten the motivation. There can be held outdoor question hours, where several of the teachers can be available and have a booth each, where the students can come and meet them.

2. Language barrier for foreign students after graduation

Some of the students are not Danish speaking, which leads to a high unemployment rate, after graduation. It is very difficult for non-English speakers to get employment in Denmark. If they can't afford the Danish courses or simply don't have the time, it becomes a barrier.

The programme could have a buddy programme but that would not substitute the language courses.

Due to corona, most of the current students are Danish so perhaps the problem is decreasing.

41 % of the graduates are employed in Southern Denmark, 41% are employed outside Denmark.

3. LinkedIn community

There is a challenge in improving the network with companies. It has earlier been discussed to have meeting but due to corona restrictions this has not been done.

Birgitte presented the programmes new LinkedIn page and asked for the panel's input for improvements.

Jan said he found it to be a very good idea. It is a good platform to promote the project the companies are working on and ask for inputs.

It is a concrete way to take stock of the graduates of the programme.

Gang stated that current students can reach out to previous graduates and improve their network, and to the companies and create collaborations regarding master thesis, In-company projects etc during the programme and employment after graduation.

The page will take a bit work (1-2 posts per week) to get it active. The new post doc, Joshua has promised to work on this.

4. The student perspective (Jakob)

Jakob stated that the teachers had been generally very good at adjusting to the situation and that they had been very flexible and easy to contact. This has made a big difference.

Monthly meeting to discuss the student progress is a very good idea and so is supervision and discussion meetings.

5. **Any other business**

The panel still wishes to get a member from The Environmental Department (Miljøstyrelsen). Birgitte will contact them again.

Read more about the programme [here](#)