

August 2019

# Agenda

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| <b>Subject</b>       | Education Committee   |
| <b>Date and time</b> | February 3 <sup>rd</sup>  |
| <b>Location</b>      | Nobel   |
| <b>Invited</b>       | Associate Professor Birgitte Lilholt Sørensen, Head of Program, Chair<br>Professor MSO Morten Birkved<br>Associate Professor Gang Liu<br>Study Coordinator Mette Smølz Skau |

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**Cancellation from** N/A

## 1. Welcome

## 2. How do we recruit student representatives for the UUV?

Gang will encourage some of the new students to volunteer as student representatives in the UUV.

## 3. Status Meeting

The action plan from the status meeting has only one item:

The UUV needs to setup an action plan to lower the unemployment rate (see item 4)

## 4. Unemployment rate and limited uptake

The new unemployment rates for graduates from Environmental Engineering in 2017 are 35 %. SDU have decided to limit the uptake on Environmental Engineering to 20 next year. The previous limit has been 30.

One of the reasons for the high unemployment rate is, that there are many international students in the programme, and they have a hard time getting jobs in Denmark afterwards, because of the language barrier.

It is difficult to get the students to learn Danish, as it is no longer free for them to take Danish lessons.

It was also pointed out, that the environmental students are good at other things than they might think. Perhaps they should be encouraged to apply to a wider range of jobs.

There was a discussion on whether the students were mobile enough. The Danish ones seem less mobile than the international students. It was unclear if there are any

issues with this but if they are only applying for jobs on Funen, they need to broaden their view to the entire country.

Members of the advisory board has previously suggested, that they might be able to help graduates if the programme can sort the best fitted students from the rest of the crowd.

Henrik and the advisory board have suggested that the students become more connected to local companies during their study time through different projects.

It was discussed how to do this in a more systematic way.

Teachers should be encouraged to take students along to meetings etc.

It was suggested that the programme cooperate with companies (perhaps COWI and TI) If a company offer 2 seats per year to students, they get a lot of free work done, so it would be attractive to them as well.

It was agreed that having informal network meetings is the most effective way to get the students to meet the companies. The companies are not necessarily coming for P&P day. There is a barrier, that we might be able to get by through a more focused approach.

It was discussed how to implement networking in a more focused and structured way.

It was decided to make a network list of relevant companies from Funen and the triangle area including contact persons.

Mette will set this up at LCAs SharePoint so all teachers can contribute with their connections.

This list should be made before the next UUV meeting.

It was decided to work towards establishing regular (perhaps yearly) network meetings with representatives from the relative companies. These meetings could be online, to make it easier for people to attend.

The first meeting should preferably be held in October.

## **5. Teaching evaluations**

All the teaching evaluations and the semester evaluations are rated "green". The ratings are especially high for Eco-efficient Engineering (3.77) whereas Business Economics and Management (2.79) is in the lower end.

The evaluations were discussed and deemed unproblematic.

## **6. Master's introduction evaluation**

The environmental students reported to be satisfied with the study start, and the programme had high scores.

## 7. **SDGs**

Most of the SDGs are relevant for the environmental programme.

It has been decided to encourage the teachers to reflect on which of the SDGs their courses concern and to let the course descriptions reflect this. However, it is not mandatory that the course descriptions include references to the SDGs.

Later, there will be a paragraph in the general curriculum stating how the program connects to the SDGs.

## 8. **Next Advisory Board meeting**

The preliminary date was set for May 18<sup>th</sup>.

So far, it has not been possible to get in contact with The Environmental Department (Miljøstyrelsen) but Morten might know someone who can be part of the board. Birgitte will reach out to his contacts. Hopefully, they can also host the meeting.

Birgitte will consider if it is relevant to invite Ida Holm Olesen from Region Syddanmark as a board member.

## 9. **Planning of Future Education Committee meetings**

Next meeting should be held by the end of April.

At this meeting the UUV will:

- prepare for the Advisory board meeting.
- perform a SWOT analysis for the Status meeting

## 10. **Any other business**

- Study start test will be implemented on the Master's programme from Spring 2020
- New language criteria: Average of 3 on B-level English (even for native English speakers)
- The nesting box will soon be sent out for revision. It was suggested that the project should be tagged to indicate who the projects are relevant for, since the environmental students have very different backgrounds, for instance with the following tags:
  - All profiles
  - Energy
  - Chemistry
  - Technology
  - PDI
  - Other