

## MINUTES OF MEETING #2.2017 IN THE STUDY ENVIRONMENT GROUP FOR AAU CPH

DATE 05.04.2017, KL. 10.00 – 12.00  
ROOM 4.13, BUILDING B (FREDERIKSKAJ 12), AAU CPH

FÆLLES SERVICE CPH

**PARTICIPANTS:** Nikolaj Stegeager, Martin Vive Ivø, Anders Paarup Nielsen, Bjarke Madsbøll, Kristoffer Larsen, Christine Ingerslev, Jonas Burster

**CANCELLATIONS:** Jon Ram Bruun-Pedersen, Danny Raymond, Brian Møller Pejter, Ruta Naujokaite, Olav Emil Nissen, Anders Bech Mogensen

**SECRETARIAT:** Simon Holmen Reventlow Clemmensen, Bente Juhl

AGENDA	FOLLOW-UP
<p>1. <i>Approval of agenda</i></p> <p>The agenda was approved.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Follow-up from the first meeting</i></p> <p>None of the elected students were able to attend. Therefore, other students were invited to participate. The group started the meeting with a brief introduction of everyone.</p> <p>In the first group meeting (December 2016) it was discussed what themes the group should work with in the coming year. In the last meeting (January 2017) the group briefly began discussing the theme: <i>Improving student engagement on campus</i>, which was continued in the present meeting.</p> <p>The main theme was broken down to the following sub-themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement of the physical environment on campus, both indoors and outdoors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- small but positive changes are made</li> <li>- how can the group cooperate with Campus Service to improve the physical environment?</li> <li>- The administrative units need the students' input to make changes that makes a real difference for the students – both practically and socially</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is necessary to engage the students in order to create an attractive social environment on campus, that students want to engage themselves in</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Make existing offers on campus more visible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identify an effective communication strategy in order to raise awareness about the existing offers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>3. <i>Theme: Improving student engagement on campus</i></p>	



*Suggested topics:*

- *What makes students engage?*
- *What hinders engagement?*
- *What can the university do to promote/support engagement?*
- *Next steps*

NS emphasised that it is important that the group becomes more than a discussion forum. It is necessary to generate concrete suggestions and activities - and even more imperative that participants commit to seeing them through.

The discussion revolved around three questions/points to be investigated:

- Motivation and willingness among students?
- How does AAU communicate/inform about offers?
- Do we have sufficient facilities?

Main points regarding the questions

**Motivation and willingness among students?**

- The PBL structure can hinder spare time for volunteering
- Students have exams the last 3 months of each semester, which affects their availability for volunteering
- With an effort in having Slusen open every Friday during the first months of the fall semester, recruiting volunteers may be easier
- Internationals may need more social activities, but are also less available in the beginning of their studies due to housing problems etc.
- The expectations among the present students were that it is possible to recruit new volunteers. However, probably not as many as is the case in Aalborg
- What do other universities do to attract volunteers? Can it be copied?

**How do we communicate/inform about offers?**

- More information about the programme and possibilities before the semester/study start
  - what was going to happen? Schedule
  - when is the RUS tur?
  - what time should be allocated?
  - early information
- Involve the tutors in presenting the social activities during the study start
- Increase the use of tutors – extend the time they are active
  - The funding for tutors has been cut in half, which is an obstacle
- Introduction course in Moodle (possibly by tutors) as a part of the study start.

The Slusen reps. will work on organising consistent Friday bars during the first months of the fall 2017 semester.

The student reps. will look into what other universities offer and how they succeed in getting students involved. E.g. the Nexus bar at CBS.



- Creating a Moodle section dedicated to social activities
- The study boards should communicate more about their activities
  - social contact
  - active recruiting
- The administration could Intensify cooperation with Social Life Organisation (SO) in order to promote the organisation as a central point of communication between the administration and students
- The facebook page is not working optimally
- Use Slusen as a point of communication: e.g. a presentation about social activities on campus after classes

#### **Do we have sufficient facilities?**

- Work on establishing a permanent place for student volunteers to meet
- It is difficult for students to 'apply' for physical changes (e.g. new sofas, plants etc.). The administration is working on founding a stable financial structure for this, and hence simplify the process of students influencing the use of funds
- The buildings offer some obstacles, as there are neighbours to consider, no obvious place for a permanent volunteer room, and conflicting interests (noise/music in an office building)
- The small cantina is not attractive as a recreational social area as it is

#### What is already in progress?

- The secretariat will send out an email to all students in Copenhagen offering to sign up for a newsletter/ mailing list with news from the study environment group.
  - make sure the email has a nice layout
  - consider the timing of the email (avoid exam periods)
  - heading should be in English
  - Highlight the social aspect of it – not the meeting/group/discussion
- The intranet is primarily in Danish – should be English
  - MVI points out that this is in progress
- Meeting for all students in CPH
  - MVI and SRC shares that this is in the pipeline, but want to make sure that there will be participants before sending invitations
- The administration is working towards a local solution to sort the emails to the Copenhagen-based students.
  - An issue with the central division in Aalborg

Shared Services CPH will brainstorm on what can be done to make the small cantina more attractive. Student input is also requested and will be taken up with the Coffee Spot and Slusen

The administration will devise an action plan for pro-rector that outlines what is ideally needed to improve the study environment on campus and what is possible to obtain. Including a suggestion for a proper project.

4. Other business