



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

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Attendees: Lene Tølbøll (LT), Martin Vive Ivø (MVI), Bjarke Madsbøll (BM), Jon Ram Bruun-Pedersen (JBP)

Others: Simon Clemmensen (SRC, secretary), Thomas Lund Nielsen (TLN, study life coordinator)

Cancellations: Danny Raymond, Christine Ingerslev, Charlotte Crockett Jørgensen

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Item:	Follow-up
<p>1. Approval of agenda</p> <p>The agenda was approved.</p>	
<p>2. Evaluation of the Study Environment Day</p> <p>Prorector has asked LT to brief the Study Environment Council on the takeaways from the day. The format was good at engaging the participants, and not having any high-level speakers worked well within that setting. There was overall satisfaction with both the setup and the themes, but it should be reconsidered for next year whether there should be two rounds of workshop or just one extended round.</p> <p>The attendance was lower than hoped for, but those who showed up were very engaged and came up with many good ideas. In terms of the chosen subjects for the workshops, it was notable that the workshops regarding psychological challenges did not attract any participants. This may be because participation in such events are skewed towards students with less challenges, but the members of the group all recognized that psycho-social challenges are prevalent, and the written summations from the other workshops showed that many students still are struggling.</p> <p>The low number of professional study counsellors on campus make it hard to deal with all the issues faced by the decentralized study counsellors, who are not equipped to deal with psychologically challenged students. Neither are tutors qualified to inform students about the various offerings to help students through a crisis (e.g. study counsellors, psychiatric first aid, The national Student Counselling Service etc.). The challenges are even bigger in a transition phase from the faculties to the individual departments.</p> <p>LT noted that the university needs to present a list of support offerings for students at the university as established by the number of students with psycho-social challenges as well as the national debate regarding sexual and other forms of harassment.</p> <p>The group discussed several areas of action in further improvement of the study environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A complete overview – both virtually and physically - of study environment initiatives and a stronger commitment by individual groups/actors to promote each other in a positive tone. - A central platform – a homepage – that is actively curated needs to be set up, as the Facebook groups often get spammed so that important information drowns. The students need to know the one place where 	<p>SRC will ascertain whether the psychological study environment is part of the recurring Study Environment Questionnaire</p> <p>LT will circulate the draft list of services for students with challenges.</p> <p>Shared Services CPH will look at the possibility of establishing a joint, curated online platform for students on campus.</p>



<p>they can find all important information regarding the study environment. That could be a subpage on Campusintra or another online presence, to which information from other Facebook groups etc. can be harvested. A student assistant in Shared Services CPH could curate such a platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All programme-specific info would still be delivered through Moodle. - Due to budgetary restrictions, Shared Services CPH has had to downscale international student guidance on campus, which the group regretted, since the demand is still there and shows no sign of abating. There is a need for a university-level strategy regarding international students (e.g. which students to attract, how to welcome them, assistance in navigating the Danish system etc.)? - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) might be a platform to organise study environment initiatives around. That could for instance take shape of poster presentations of group work or under the umbrella of the upcoming "Green Campus" initiative, where a working group is being established. <p>Next year's Study Environment Day is planned for 20 March 2020.</p>	
<p>3. Improving the study start experience for masters' students</p> <p>There has always been a focus on the masters' students at the study start in Copenhagen, but this year the programme will be even more specifically tailored to the master students' preferences.</p> <p>It is always challenging to recruit tutors for the masters' programmes, as many 9th semester students are away from campus doing internships or intensive projects. Because of this challenge, Shared Services CPH is considering the possibility of creating a joint tutor corps for the masters' students. The recruitment process will involve study secretaries, study activity coordinators and presence in the group rooms, but also through active students recruiting fellow students. It is important to see the tutors not just as somebody to meet the students and facilitate parties but also as a first line of information to the new students regarding all the academic and social/practical questions</p> <p>A programme for the masters' study start is under development and will be sent out to The Study Environment Group asap.</p>	<p>SRC and TLN are coordinating the study start with the tutor corps.</p>
<p>4. Improving communication between students across programmes</p> <p>The experience at all campuses is that it is very hard to engage students across study programmes, as they are very focused on their own studies. But when they are exposed to other programmes, the reactions are often positive. The group discussed various initiatives to support and promote cross-programme communication and collaboration.</p> <p>There was agreement in the group that there is a need for more content-heavy activities rather than more bars and parties. This is especially relevant for masters' students. They should be set up to accommodate students who may not want to commit too many resources but would still like to be an active part of campus life. For this to be a success, the departments need to support this and encourage students with interesting projects to participate.</p>	<p>Shared Services CPH will discuss initiatives with students during pizza meetings etc.</p> <p>Frameworks for Solution Camps will be developed in cooperation between Shared Services CPH and AAU Innovation.</p>



<p>A framework for this could be “Research Days” for students, where they could pitch their projects to fellow students in an open, both academic and social, setting, e.g. inspired by Medialogy’s M3 awards.</p> <p>Cross-programme solution camps may be a way forward, as programme-specific solution camps have previously been a success also across cohorts. ØICC has shown interest in facilitating them, and Rambøll has shown interest in participating. Maybe we can set up a variety of camps if researchers/staff are willing to engage in them. In general, staff engagement is a significant driver in terms of student participation.</p>	
<p>5. Recruitment for student organisations and study boards</p> <p>TLN will make another attempt at establishing a new campus-specific organisation to support student engagement in university affairs, and structure as well as by-laws should be ready ahead of this year’s study start. The university’s Election Secretariat can probably help setting it up.</p>	TLN
<p>6. Other business</p> <p>A new campus-wide focus at AAU CPH is how to make campus more green and sustainable. This topic will have a central role in the next meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting will be moved forward to 20 August.</p>	