

## Minutes from UIU meeting, September 21, 2015

**Present:** Ole Friis, Søren Askegaard, Per Servais, Lisbeth Pinholt, Georg Stadtmann, Birgit Feldtmann (until 12.30), Torben Dall Schmidt, Hjørdis Albrechtsen (for the first topic), Mette Husum Dalstrup and Fanni Lengyel (secretary)

**Absent:** Ann Højbjerg Clarke, Klaus Levinsen, Torben Munk Damgaard, Niels Vestergaard

### Strategy 2020 – Project of Internationalization of Educations by Hjørdis Albrechtsen

The meeting started with a presentation by Hjørdis, the project manager of the project Internationalization of Educations. The project is linked with the Strategy 2020. The main goals of the project are sending more students abroad, and also having more exchange students at SDU.

One of the themes is to integrate a mobility window in each curriculum. The question of this being possible at each education at the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences was raised by both Ole Friis and Birgit Feldtmann. They were specifically focused on the BA in law and the M.Sc. in auditing. The number of core subjects in these programs is high, and therefore they do not have electives summing to the mandatory 30 ECTS (Which, due to the Study Progress Reform, is the number of ECTS students must obtain each semester)

If study abroad for some reason is not possible for the individual student, they will still have to have an international experience. This will be called “internationalization at home” (IAH). Hjørdis explained that this is a very broad definition, giving each education and profile the opportunity to incorporate this IAH in the curricula in a way that is academic responsible and possible.

Søren has a lot of experience in this topic from the MMA program and he agreed on discussing this topic further with Hjørdis.

Lisbeth stated that we have to receive as many students from the partner universities as we send to them – this is how the agreements are made. Therefore we have to make sure that there are enough available courses in English.

Ole stated that we should look into how many courses we are offering in English. He raised a question regarding the number of ECTS in English we are allowed to have on a Danish program. The Danish

educations are prequalified in Danish, and there might be a maximum of courses we are allowed to offer in English. Hjørdis will look into this matter.

### **Point 1 – Minutes from the last meeting**

Ole asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes from last time. There were no comments.

### **Point 2 – Actions of internationalization**

#### 2.1 Out-going students

##### *2.1.1 Study packages*

Mette introduced the Study Packages that she was working on at Campus Kolding, by showing an example. The members liked the way the partner universities were presented and thought it would be a good idea to think about doing something similar at the other study boards. It is important to clarify that the study packages are examples, and should be seen as an inspirational catalogue. Georg suggested having the study packages arranged by the specific profiles of an education. The possibility of having an excel file with the information came up. Mette and Fanni will look into the possibilities of having such a list.

Mette closed the topic of the Study Packages with a note saying she will offer her help to the Study Boards in creating them and that she will send the example from Kolding to the meeting participants.

##### *2.1.2 Study Abroad Evaluations*

Ole Friis introduced the issue about the study abroad evaluations made by the students after their semester abroad. They are not detailed enough when it comes to courses and at this time there is no structured way of using them effectively when the students return to Denmark.

Søren stated that having the students evaluate each course at the universities is too much for the university to handle. The follow ups will demand a lot of resources. Søren also stated that the evaluation of each course on the academic level might depend on the given professor being good or bad. This means that we cannot keep track on every change of the courses from year to year, and the evaluations might not be valid. On the MMA Program he has experience in having the students do an evaluation of their study abroad and then sending it to the Head of study / The study board. The students are free to write what they think is important and no more than a page. In this way the study board is able to get a feeling of the university, the administrative help from the university and so forth. Mette will pass on this idea to the other study boards.

### *2.1.3 Instagram for outgoing/incoming students*

Fanni introduced the possibility of using Instagram for promoting the Study Abroad semester for students. There are different ways to organize the Instagram idea. The students could be asked to use a specific hashtag when posting pictures of planning or being on their study abroad. In order to see the pictures, you then have to search for the specific hashtag.

Another option is to create a page the students can follow. The page will be managed by SDU, and having students do “takeovers” on Instagram. This means that a student will gain control of the Instagram-page for a week when being abroad and then posting pictures within certain guidelines. Georg suggested that the activity on this page might be high or low depending on the time of year and how close we are to the application deadline. The communication department at the faculty just launched something similar. Mette will ask them to share their experience.

## 3. In-coming exchange students

### *3.1 Brochure and web*

Fanni and the Faculty’s Communication Department updated the brochure for (potential) exchange students at our faculty. The version for this academic year was ready by September and will be sent out to our partner universities by the end of the month. The purpose was to have a brochure that not only gives an overview of the programs but also the courses offered in English at all campuses, as they are more important to exchange students than the programs. Mette added that we will continuously work on the brochure to make it even better for the next edition. We will be working on making the campus descriptions better, so the focus will be on the academic areas that are specific for each campus.

There was also a web version made of the courses available for exchange students, which can be found on the following link: [www.sdu.dk/bss/exchanges](http://www.sdu.dk/bss/exchanges)

## 4. Membership at EMBS

Per introduced the issues with EMBS – such as the criteria that a student should make 60 ECTS abroad to get accepted by EMBS, which is the reason why it has been very difficult to send students abroad with them. However, there are important partners among the members who send a lot of exchange students to us, so he thinks that we should stay a member of EMBS. The participants of the meeting agreed on this.

## 5. Student mobility agreement – Nelson Mandela University

Nelson Mandela University suggested making an agreement where our students can go to their institution under a student mobility agreement, but they would have to cover their own tuition fees.

Lisbeth mentioned an example of exchange agreements with Australian universities where on top of the normal exchange agreement there is the opportunity of doing an exchange with some reduction of the tuition fees – as they are very popular places and also very good universities.

Søren added that the Nelson Mandela University is also a good university and from the university perspective it would be important to have partners in South Africa. He thinks that we should address the problem structurally as it will not be the last time we will be dealing with a university which might be important to us, but because of the huge difference in living costs between the two countries, it will not be possible to make an exchange from both sides. Søren mentioned they have supported some students and covered at some of their costs when coming to Denmark for an exchange.

Lisbeth agreed with Søren and she also thinks we have to consider this problem and maybe we should look for some funds that we could apply for in such cases. She knows about some funds that we could apply for, but only for students coming outside the European Union. Ole agreed that we should look into that. Søren and Hjørdis will discuss this further.

## 6. International Partnerships

Mette is in the process of evaluating the existing partner universities and mentioned that some programs do not have fitting universities. This could create an obstacle for the students, and it might cause the students to do self-arranged study abroad instead. Mette suggested making an effort in establishing new partnerships suited for the programs in question. The participants all agreed on that. Mette will contact the Study Boards and try to find out if they have suggestions for making new partnerships for the program that are lack of partners.

## 7. New agreements for consideration

A question was raised by Mette if there was any structured way of handling the new agreements. She has been receiving several proposals from different sources. She suggested a clear strategy on how to evaluate these potential new partners. The new partnership proposals can be made by Study Boards, by professors, by the International office, by the external university or can be inspired by the students' self-organized

study abroad. Torben agreed that we should have a clear process about the criteria and what kind of information is needed for discussing these proposals at the UIU meetings. The process might be different depending on the source of the suggestion. Mette will work on this until the next meeting. She will contact Lisbeth and Tine in case of questions.

Mette also asked the question whether the focus from the faculty was gaining more partners or doing quality management of the existing ones. Ole said that we have to have qualified partners, but since we have to send even more students abroad, we should also try to make new qualified partners.

### **Point 3 - Status**

#### Double degree with EBS (European Business School)

We are working on creating a double degree with EBS on bachelor level. Mette is working with Jette at the Faculty, who is responsible for the legal matters. Kirsten Høg is providing a suggestion for the curricular at the end of September. Anna Lund is responsible for the academic matter. The idea is to exchange students at September 2016.

#### Intensive course, Nordplus Law, by Birgit Feldman

This will be introduced at the next meeting.

#### Information from the committee members

Søren announced that he has been chosen as the general secretary of the NIBES network. They are working on building a catalogue of possible exchanges for professors at the faculty, who are interested in teaching a short-term abroad. This kind of exchanges is usually financed by Erasmus or by other organizations.

He will also keep the Committee informed about an African partner that he is trying to cooperate with, most probably by taking part at the meeting of the Deans of African Business Schools in the spring 2016.

Associate Dean,

Ole Friis