

## **Programme Council meeting Wednesday 12 March 2014**

**Present:** Hilde Henriksen Waage (Chair), Siri Heslien (on behalf of Magne Rønningen), Siv Håberg, Samuel Håkansson, Liva Rugsveen, Turner Jacobs, Håvard Strand, Jon Hovi, Kristian Berg Harpviken, Olav Njølstad, Kristina Enge (secretary).

- **Reading of the agenda.**
- **The agenda was approved.**

### **For orientation:**

#### **1/14: Status report**

Orientation by Håvard Strand concerning the upcoming review of PECOS4010 and the periodic programme evaluation.

- Status quo regarding the periodic programme evaluation. Håvard will contact Tone Vold-Sarnes (The faculty of Social Science's Administrative Head of Studies) to speed up the process.
- Many PECOS students are not completing their studies within nominal time. This particularly applies for students that were granted admission in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The Student Council are about to send out a survey to current and former PECOS students, to help us improve our understanding of the causes of these delays. The Student Council will provide a summary for the administration/programme manager.
- Regarding PECOS4010: since Karin Dokken will be on sabbatical leave Autumn 2014, we must find a replacement who can lecture on African security politics.
- Work group/committee: the inaugural meeting has been held, and the next meeting is scheduled for late April. Student representative: Liva Rugsveen.



**For Discussion:****2/14 Need for improvement of the contact between PECOS programme administration and the students**

By the student representatives

- The second year students request more frequent and effective communication between the administration and the students. When the Design seminar is completed and the students set off to write their thesis, many feel that they are left to themselves. How can we inform the students that the second year is different, and prepare them to work independently?
- When the programme administration provided an information meeting for the second year students in January 2014 only 5 students showed up. Yet, some of the students demand more frequent meetings. The programme council pointed to the apparently paradox of requesting more meetings in light of the poor attendance at the current offerings. It was stated that there was a general understanding in the student group that the meeting held in January would be void of any actual information in favor of a motivational speech.

**3/14 Optional courses**

By the Student representatives

- Few relevant courses in English. There are some courses provided by the Dept. of Political Science, but not a single history course. The History Department are working to enhance their offerings, and hopefully they will be able to offer one course in English in the Autumn semester of 2014. The programme manager/administration will look into other possibilities, such as relevant courses offered by other institutions.

**4/14 Introductory course in statistics and seminars in PECOS4021**

By the Student representatives

- Crash course in statistics in early February with Håvard Strand. Good response.
- Seminars in PECOS4021? Difficult to provide, due to limited resources.

**5/14 Date and time of the next meeting**

- We will agree on the exact time and date later on, but the next meeting will most likely be held in week 44.

**Any other business:****6/14**

Student representatives about internship information:

- Internship presentation: NRCI (confusion: demands at least one year of internship. Why were they invited?) The students get a double message: submit your thesis on time and feel free to take a one-year internship.
- There has obviously been a misunderstanding, where some students believe that the internship is mandatory. The programme web pages are very clear on this matter, but the programme administration may improve the information they provide for the students.

Best regards

Kristina Enge (secretary)