



**Minutes from the meeting in  
Programme Committee for Master's programmes at  
Centre for International Health  
Monday 31 October 2016 at 2.30 – 3.30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Karen Marie Moland (Head of Committee), Amalie Kleppe (stud. repr.), Arooj Munir (stud. repr.), Tehmina Mustafa, Kamal Mustafa and David Lackland Sam (observer)

**Guest:** Astrid Blystad

**Secretary:** Linda Karin Forshaw

**I Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**II Approval of the Minutes from the Programme Committee Meeting on 5 September 2016**

The minutes were approved by the members present and since few members were present the minutes from this meeting will be circulated to the other members for comments and approval.

**Subject 14/16 Matters of information**

***The new Master of Global Health programme***

The University Board decided to establish the Master's Programme in Global Health with one reservation; all theme descriptions had to be revised according to the new NOKUT template on learning outcomes. This has been done by the course coordinators in cooperation with the head of the programme committee. All the documents have been forwarded to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Division of Student Affairs, UiB for final approval.

***PhD courses***

CIH has applied to the Faculty to have three courses approved as PhD courses (level 900). These courses are: "Basic course in research tools and theory" (INTH901); "Observational epidemiology, survey, cohort and case control studies" (INTH956) and "Experimental epidemiology" (INTH921). The course "Qualitative methods for international public health" has already been approved, but we suggest that the code is changed from INTH323D to INTH923.

One question arose; when basically the same courses are both for master students and PhD candidates what will happen if students complete their master and continue as PhD candidate?

### **tropEd accreditation and re-accreditation of courses**

There was a mistake in the Agenda; the course description for the new course “Migrant health” (INTH344) was not forwarded to tropEd for re-accreditation. The course description for the new course “Global Nutrition” (INTH360), however, was submitted. In addition, the courses INTH325, INTH328A, INTH356 and INTH321A have been forwarded for re-accreditation (this has to be done every five years).

The course description for the new course “Migrant health” (INTH344) will be submitted to tropEd for accreditation at the next GA meeting in Barcelona in February 2017.

#### **New course on Migrant health**

The new course entitled “Migrant health” (INTH344) was approved at the Department of Global Health and Primary Health board meeting 5 October. We will request that the Faculty approves as well.

### **Subject 15/16 Revisions of the Master’s programmes at the Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care (IGS)**

Follow-up from Subject 12/16: Astrid Blystad who is the leader of education at the department and works both at Kalfaret and CIH described the plans for the new Master’s and to discuss the possibilities of co-operation with our Global Health Master.

The latest revision was handed out to the members. She explained that there were two reasons for the revision: 1) Normally revision takes place from time to time. 2) There have been problems with recruiting enough students. There are too many programmes offered to very few students; 4-5 students for each programme is not sustainable. This is the main reason for working on establishing a new programme. It will be a research based master, not clinical like at Bergen University College. One major change is that there will not be professional based study tracks. Health science is interdisciplinary. Starting autumn 2018. Originally Global health was suggested as a track, but in order to not compete with the new Master’s programme in Global Health for students residing in Norway it is removed from the course portfolio.

### **Subject 16/16 Supervision of Master students and the students’ ability to complete in time**

In previous years the Master students have been allocated Master’s projects and supervisors before their studies commence. However, due to the discontinuation of the Quota programme, the students enrolled now have no connection to research projects/groups and it is therefore difficult to assign Master’s projects and supervisors in advance. This has not been dealt with in an orderly manner this year, we need to find better routines for next year.

Another issue is that many students do not complete their studies within the prescribed time. Should we schedule seminars regarding writing a Master’s thesis when the students come back from fieldwork?

We no longer register the student’s attendance/absence for lectures, however the UiB regulations state that this can be done for

seminars/workshops which requires 80% attendance. How can we solve this in a convenient way without being too controlling?

It is often challenging for the students to finish in time, because the requirements are demanding. Literature based master project are not ideal and fieldwork/research based are better but take longer to complete. One main issue is applying for ethical clearance. Another reason for delays is that many students have to work part-time to finance their studies. It is difficult for the supervisors to push the students to finish in time.

**Decision:** The Committee suggests that a more structured system for follow-up of students both before and after fieldwork should be implemented. The research seminars in May could be used for feed-back on the research proposals (first year master students). The research seminars during the autumn semester can used to stimulate the students' progress by focusing on thesis writing (second year master students).

**Subject 17/16    Members for the new Programme Committee for Global Health**

New members should be appointed for the Programme committee for the new Master's programme in Global Health.

**Decision:** The current members will consult their departments regarding this and come with suggestions at the next meeting.

**Subject 18/16    Any other business**

None