

Minutes PU-meeting 21.09.22

Invitees:

Members: Mathias Ziegler, Inari Kursula, Anni Vedeler, Charalampos Tzoulis, Stian Knappskog, Camilla Krakstad, Jannie Nguyen, Lea Longueville,

Observers: Jonathan Husebø Chambeniot, Kristine Kippersund Brokstad, Frode Berven, Bianca Cecilie Nygård, Arne Tjølsen, Kristofer Rubin

Secretary: Siri Tangen Aaserud

Attended: Lea Longueville, Jonathan Husebø Chambeniot, Jannie Nguyen, Camilla Krakstad, Frode Berven, Arne Tjølsen, Kristine Kippersund Brokstad, Inari Kursula, Anni Vedeler

Secretary: Siri Tangen Aaserud

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1	Comments on the meeting invitation No comments
2	Minutes from the last PU meeting No comments
3	Reduce the student intake from 25 to 20 During the Corona-pandemic in 2020 the faculty increased the student intake from 20 to 25. The faculty is aiming for 25 students to finish their master's degree two years later and thus wants the Department to accept 30 students. The PU can inform the faculty that this number is too high, and that we want to go back to a student intake of 20. The course coordinator for BMED320 has said that it is challenging to find projects for more than 20 students. In principle we should be able to manage 25. It is difficult to find people to take students for the 8-week project. Anything above 25 is very difficult, a student number between 20 and 25 is manageable. We should aim at 25 students starting, which means an official intake of about 20. Other departments can benefit from having 8-week projects. Inari has reached out to research groups, but she has difficulty in making contact with these. More than 10% of our master students do their thesis at K1/K2. Camilla is willing to talk to her colleagues at K2. Decision – postponed until we hear back from K2

4	<p>New programme sensor?</p> <p>Kristofer Rubin is our current Programme sensor. He was appointed for the period 2019-2022 and we would like him to continue. Siri has reached out to him to ask if he wants to continue, but there has not been a reply. If we do not receive an answer the Department has to appoint a new Programme sensor.</p> <p>We have discussed issues with BMED320. Kristofer sent a report with suggestions for changing the Master's Programme. Kristofer wants to continue as a programme sensor if the programme is reformed.</p> <p>Decision – Kristofer Rubin continues for 4 additional years.</p>
5	<p>Change the information pages about the master's programme at department of Biomedicine on the UiB webpage</p> <p>Petri Kursula has suggestions for updating the information on our webpage. See attachment 2.</p> <p>The PU should discuss and decide the information that is published. Inari will collect information from the research groups and we will update the text with new information.</p>
6	<p>14-days to sign the master's contract from when student and supervisor formally agree to work together</p> <p>The first-year students will choose their master's projects this autumn or the spring of 2023. Siri will publish a pamphlet of project descriptions in the middle of October and the supervisors of these projects are invited to a "Master's Day" where they can give a 5 minute presentation of their project. The Master's Day will be in the beginning of December. We have asked that the supervisors do not formally take on a student before the 10th of December. We have also asked that the student and supervisor deliver a master's agreement to the study section within 14 days of formally starting a collaboration. This so that the study section knows which projects are taken.</p>

	<p>We also discussed: If a supervisor sends in a project, is that person obligated to take on a master's student? Are there rules about this centrally (UiB)? In general, the university has to have very good reasons not to supervise a master's student.</p> <p>Decision – all the attending PU members agree that a master's project contract should be delivered within 14 days after the agreement between the supervisor and the student.</p>
7	<p>BMED-courses that are on break (pause) or have been cancelled</p> <p>BMED350 was cancelled by the course coordinator because too few students signed up in both 2021 and 2022. BMED360 was cancelled due to the course leader retiring, but it was partly replaced by ELMED219. BMED370 is on a break (pause) in 2023 due to the course coordinator being on sabbatical. BMED380 is going through changes and the future of the course is uncertain.</p> <p>The PU wants a broad number of BMED-courses for the master students to choose from, and hope that there will be another physiology course in the future.</p> <p>This point is related to the task given to the Programme sensor for this year.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Are course leaders allowed to take sabbaticals when they don't have replacements? If there is no replacement, the course cannot be taught. This is normal at other institutions. The Programme should offer courses that more than one scientist can teach. The Programme sensor is suggesting this in his report. Could we ask K1/K2 to fill in/work with us on this? The BMED courses will be evaluated in light of the changes proposed by the Programme sensor and the number of staff members replaced after the coming retirements.</p>
8	<p>Literature-based master's project</p> <p>Siri has looked through the rules for master's projects (for both UiB and the Faculty of Medicine) and there are no rules against a master's project that is literature-based (no experiments). We want a discussion about whether to reject or accept these kinds of master's projects in the future.</p> <p>In general, we should include practical results in our master's projects. A theoretical literature project must have a very defined objective. The projects should only be given in exceptional cases exceptions. Projects should include research questions and, gathering data. Review articles do not add as an article in phd-articles. (comment from Camilla)</p> <p>Discussion – We will decide next time. Maybe literature-based projects need approval from the PU?</p>

9	<p>Update version of the sensor folder in the spring of 2023</p> <p>Siri and Anni will work on this during the spring.</p> <p>Briefing</p>
10	<p>New routines for the master's exams in the spring of 2023</p> <p>There are 34 students taking the exams in June 2023. We will talk to the Department leaders about new routines for choosing internal sensors and arranging exams for this high number of students.</p> <p>We should send out information to potential sensors earlier. Can we ask K2-supervisors to be internal sensors? There should be more specific rules about how to mark the exam. In other universities they record the oral exam, in case of appeals.</p> <p>What is done at other Faculties? We will discuss this further on the next meeting.</p> <p>Briefing</p>
11	<p>BMED320 pilot project</p> <p>Course coordinator Inari Kursula received funds to improve BMED320. She used the funds to employ a second-year master's student to make a digital quiz for calculations and techniques often used in research laboratories. The students must pass this test before the 8-week project. There will also be a mandatory laboratory course where the students can practice using basic laboratory equipment. Feedback from PI's that have trained the BMED320 students earlier years has been that the laboratory skills have varied greatly among the students. Thus, this BMED320 pilot project will hopefully prepare the students for the 8-week project. There was a quiz on calculations and a 2-day practical course.</p> <p>The quiz and the course are appreciated by the student representatives. Inari will send out a survey asking the students if they benefited from the practical course.</p> <p>Briefing</p>
12	<p>Annual evaluation report for BMED-courses</p>

	<p>Attached are the annual evaluation reports for the BMED courses. Attachments 3-7</p> <p>Briefing</p>
13	<p>The Master Programme was re-accredited</p> <p>The Master Programme was re-accredited by the Faculty of Medicine. See attachment 8</p> <p>Briefing</p>
14	<p>From the students</p> <p>This will be the first point for the next meeting on the briefings list.</p> <p>The BMED320 students asked if the schedule can be moved so there is not a 2 hour break between the lectures. They propose a 1-hour break or no break.</p> <p>This is hard to do, because double lectures must start at 8, 10, 12 or 14. Students taking BMED325 have a lot of lectures together with BMED320. They have their other classes at the natural science building. If we move our lectures, we have to make sure this fit their schedule and that they have time to travel from the natural science building to the BB-building.</p>
	<p>From the Faculty/studieleedelse:</p> <p>The grading system should fit the different courses (Pass/fail or A-F)</p> <p>They want a more uniform look/system om MittUiB.</p> <p>LAS302 will be replaced by another course in the autumn 2023.</p> <p>Kristofer Rubin explained the preliminary report. He thinks the Master's Programme would benefit from having more clinicals lecturing our courses. This because "the master program should emphasize medical problems and how modern bio-technologic tools and methods are being used in preclinical research and clinical practice". To do this we should "give the students a basic understanding of the most common disorders, their prevalence, symptoms and treatment options". To implement these changes, BMED320 should be removed from the program and substituted by 5 mandatory courses, The issues with the 8-week course would be solved if his plan is implemented.</p>