

Minutes PU-meeting 17.11.22

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, Harald Barsnes

Secretary: Siri Tangen Aaserud

Attended: Arne Tjølsen, Lea Longueville, Inari Kursula, Anni Vedeler, Harald Barsnes, Jannie Nguyen, Kristine Kippersund Brokstad, Mathias Ziegler, Kristofer Rubin, Frode Berven

Secretary: Siri Tangen Aaserud

1	Comments on the agenda No comments
2	Comments on Minutes from the last meeting See attachment 1 No comments
3	From the students The students want to know about the annual summer school in Finland. It has not been continued due to lack of funding.

4	Changes in BMED380 See attachments 2 and 3 There are some changes in BMED380 due to budget cuts. Some of the changes are that seminars are reduced from weekly to every other week (approximately). Students have to take a digital course in research dissemination and have additional meetings with the course coordinator. Course coordinator Harald Barsnes is attending the PU meeting so he can answer questions about this. The course description will be changed from “biosciences” to biomedicine. Decision - All the members approve the changes and the course will be taught in the spring of 2023.
5	Literature-based master’s project 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. 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) Decision - Literature-based projects need approval by the PU

	The PU will not encourage it. Both the project and the supervisor will need to be approved. Projects based on bioinformatics are not considered literature based. The supervisor should also have proven that he/she can supervise such projects. We will not advertise that this is an option. If the project is not about generating data, this has to be clearly written in the project description. We should also express clearly that we want projects based on experimental results. Siri and Anni will make a revision of the text
6	Report from external programme sensor Kristofer Rubin See attachment 4 Our external sensor has written a report about where he proposes a reformation of the Master's programme when it comes to the admission process, courses and study plan. Discussion Anni will not be the leader of the PU by 1st of February 2023. Inari will bring suggestions and descriptions more fitting the master programme next meeting. These questions in the description have to follow the research at the department. The courses should be reorganized and follow the research themes. Our teaching staff consists of MDs and they could give insight in the clinical themes. The MDs are heavily involved with the medical students and are maybe not available for teaching BMED courses. Mathias would favor changing the courses over time. We will look into changing the admission criteria so that our applicants have to have practical laboratory skills before starting on the master programme. It is difficult to see if the applicants have practical laboratory skills from the documents that are submitted in the application process.

	Inari is willing to change the themes of the lectures. She thinks that the 8 week laboratory projects is valuable for the students. The emphasis should be developing the students scientific way of thinking and not clinical view. There are problems finding projects and supervisors for the 8 week project and this takes up time and effort for the research groups. The projects rely heavily on how the much research group put into the teaching for the students. The research group should view it as an investment. It depends on how the well the interaction is between the students (collaboration within as well as) – supervisor relationship. The students are very happy with BMED320. Being in a laboratory, working independently and writing the thesis is very valuable before working on the master project. The economy in the Department is not good. There are fewer PIs and fewer technicians. The load will be bigger for the research groups if we keep BMED320 as it is today. The students will maybe/maybe not get practical experience in methods that are relevant for the Department. A method course will maybe give students more common background. Exposure to research and methods is valuable, even if it isn't the method that PIs are teaching. Can the projects be more standardized? Some of the groups and research do not do pipetting, western blotting and other relevant methods. We need to look for a balance between the load for the PIs, budgets and outcome. Inari is going on sabbatical next year and won't feel comfortable if there are major changes done to the course while she is away. There are about 30 PIs and if everyone take on students they only need to have the 8 week course every 3 years (second year). Could teaching the clinical aspect be implemented in the second year of the master programme? Possibly digital lectures so the students can follow this in between working on their projects.
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	We will continue discussing this in the next PU meeting. Frode, Inari, Mathias and Arne should take a closer look at the report and see how the BMED320 and our other courses represent the research in our Department. The students will report what they like and dislike about the 1st year. The students like the idea of a career day. We want to arrange one in the spring, possibly digitally.
7	Reduce the student uptake 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 have informed 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 PIs 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 20% of our master students do their thesis at K1/K2. The Faculty have now confirmed that the number of students will be 20 in the uptake for 2023. We will still aim for 20-25 students starting.
8	Change the information pages about the master's programme at department of Biomedicine on the UiB webpage Petri Kursula has suggestions for updating the information on our webpage. See attachment 2 from the last meeting

	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.
9	From the Faculty/studieledelse/misc MittUiB should have the same overall look for all courses. The PU was asked to give our opinion about possibly charging fees from students from outside EU would pay. We have sent out the letter among the members of the PU and to the Faculty. There has been a request from a phd to teach at a master level. It has to be decided in another forum.