



Minutes of meeting (2022-04) in the Study Board of Build, Energy, Electronics and Mechanics in Esbjerg 07.12.2022

Present:

Matthias Mandø (MMA) (Chair), Daniel Ortiz Arroya (DOA), Visnu Ritesh Vijayakumaar Palanisamy (Vicechair), Mads Pagh Nielsen (MPN), Kasper Niemann Kolmos, Anette Larsen (ALL) (secretary)

Absent: Morten Eggert Nielsen (MEN), Basira Khaksar

Copy:

Sara Lindberg Hildebrandt, Britta M. Jensen, Anne Linde Poulsen, Pia Vestergaard Jensen, Christian Winther Dissing, Mads Pagh Nielsen, Tamas Kerekes, Gitte Hageman Christensen, Head of department, Rikke Steensbæk, Outreach

Minute taker: ALL

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Follow up after last meeting 09.11.2022 and meeting 23.11.2022
3. Approval of minutes of meeting 09.11.2022
4. General announcements
5. Data package (CWD)
Action plans, Build and Mechanics
6. Action plan, follow-up after evaluation meeting 23.11.2022 (information for your kind perusal)
7. Minutes of semester group meetings
8. Teacher of the year
9. Recruitment panel: a new panel covering Build and Mechanics, status re date of meeting (MMA)
10. 2023 meeting dates (ALL)
11. AOB

Minutes

Re 1. Approval of agenda

Agenda approved without comments.

Please note that follow up after meeting 23.11.2022 was later added.

Re 2. Follow up after last meeting 09.11.2022, and meeting 23.11.2022

Action points, incl. responsible people – Study board meeting 09.11.2022

Administration

- ALL to find meeting dates and order Christmas lunch. This will be done for the next meeting, 07.12.2022 – please see below, item 10 on the agenda.

Matlab



- MMA will write to Sara, to make sure that the link is available to 1st semester students (on the Moodle page) and that it is mentioned at semester group meetings. Also, teachers should inform students about this. *Update after meeting 09.11.2022: this has been done by Sara.*

Calculus

- MMA will follow up with Sara to make sure people know about the Teams Matematikcafé and that the offer is available. *Update after meeting 09.11.2022: According to Sara, AIE students are already invited.*

Continuum mechanics

- MMA will talk to Lars Pedersen about the technical problems in Continuum mechanics (**Kontinuummekanik, Rumbjælker og Stabilitet**). *Update after meeting 09.11.2022: MMA has talked to Lars.*

It was a good meeting. We can conclude that teaching online is a completely different experience from local teaching.

Online teaching

MMA will talk to TAK, all lecturers should be made aware that there is a particular course about online teaching that they should take. *Update after meeting 09.11.2022: TAK has emailed all VIP about this.*

Follow up after meeting 23.11.2022

Action points, incl. responsible people – Study board meeting 23.11.2022

Semester evaluations in general. We will work to obtain a better response rate at the next evaluation of the Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering and the Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering study programmes: 15 minutes will be allocated at semester start where we will encourage students to fill in the SurveyXact questionnaire. MMA will contact the semester coordinators.

MMA will include this in his presentation for the study programme revision day.

Study programme revision workshop:

- ALL to check that all relevant people have been invited.
- ALL to order food
- MMA to book room

All has been done.

Semester evaluations, specific action points (from the enclosure from 23.11.2022 “bilag”)

- Introduction to electrical engineering: MMA has talked to teacher.
- Mechanics: Comments to be forwarded to teacher
- Dynamic models: MMA to contact teachers, this is to be done. Study environment: comments and wishes to be included in future plans, to be implemented next year.

Re 3. Approval of minutes of meeting 09.11.2022

Minutes approved without comments.

Re 4. General announcements

MMA has a number of general announcements:

- There has been a meeting in the Rector’s study leader group. However, MMA did not participate, as online participation was not possible. MPN will take this up with pro-rector.
- One person on first semester is changing studies, this has been approved by MMA on behalf of the study board
- One individual study programme has been made and approved by MMA
- From our next meeting we will include a list of exemptions and credit transfer
- The recruitment panel for Build and Mechanics has been approved



- Report of the quantitative evaluation of the study environment by students: included in the enclosures for this meeting for your kind perusal. This was addressed at the meeting on 23.11.2022. (item 6 on this agenda)
- There is an ongoing discussion about language in examinations. TAK has written to students they should write to the study office whether they want the examination in English or Danish. MMA does not want to make a case of this. MPN agrees: you should not necessarily have your examination in English. Maybe a general exemption can be made. Update at next meeting.
- Kasper will get a diploma for his participation in the study board, and we are pleased to announce that he will stay as an observer for the first two meetings next year.

Also, MPN has an announcement:

- [Wharton-QS Reimagine Education Regional Awards 2022](#) – we have won a gold medal!
- There are discussions in Aalborg about study start, we may have to coordinate with you.

Re 5. Data package (CWD), Action plans, Build and Mechanics (CWD)

Comments:

Data package (CWD)

We receive a data package every year from the university's central finance department. It contains all quantitative data regarding the quality of the study programmes, so this task will be repeated every December.

This year the task of setting up an action plan for the study programmes under BEEM is complicated by the fact that last years' action plans come from three different study boards: Energy, Build and Mechanical. Because of this, BEEM will have to continue working with these existing action plans but can make additions and adjustments to these. CWD will merge the three action plans after the meeting based on the discussions.

There are six quality areas:

1. Recruitment and study start
2. Development, organisation and operation of the study programmes
3. Principles for PBL
4. Study environment
5. Research coverage and teaching competences
6. Job and career

1. Recruitment and study start

Admission for the bachelor's degrees and the diplomas

The numbers for admission are declining for Energy but rising for AIE. Especially in 2022 the admission numbers were low for Energy and the two diplomas. There are already action plans to improve the recruitment in Esbjerg.

Comments

- We are dependent on smaller generations
- There will be fluctuations
- Maybe craftsmen are admitted, they wish to upgrade their education
- A strategy for recruitment is in place and will not be adjusted:
 - MPN and Outreach have worked to frame our marketing and prioritise, and we are starting to see trends
 - It is important to focus on what potential students are interested in, we are starting a lot of initiatives with a new bureau, this is for all study programmes at AAU
 - Energy department has student ambassadors to boost our visibility



Adjustment to the action plan

- Civil engineering and mechanical should have student ambassadors, focus on the diploma direction when sending out ambassadors.

From Mechanical Engineering

Action plan

- We should make new folders, there is funding for this in the budget. We should focus on something digital; e.g. video testimonials, and the folders should be both digital and on paper. Also, emphasize that Esbjerg has a job guarantee. Outreach has received material from Build and M&P.
- We will show the many possibilities in Esbjerg, testimonials from former students
- Show both the individual study programmes but also all of them together.
- E1 concept should be included in the material
- MPN will find AAU Play contacts to MMA
- In general, re advertising: find good stories targeted the female segment

[AAU Play](#)

[Erik Schaltz på AAU Play](#)

[Mads Pagh Nielsen på AAU Play](#)

Admission for the Master's degrees

The admission on APEL has risen from 1 to 8 while it has dropped on Sustainable Energy Engineering from 12 to 6 students in 2022. Only two of these came from an external university.

Comments

- We need better international marketing to attract more international students
- Discussion about international recruitment. We will continue this discussion and develop further.

Action plan

- Same as for bachelor, diploma

Drop-out rates on the first year of study (fracald på første studieår) Energy

The drop-out rates are in red for Energy (35,7 %) and Civil Engineering (25 %).

Comments

- The numbers are highly fluctuating, so it is difficult say unequivocally whether we have a problem with retaining students
- We need a good study environment to retain students
- Can we do more to involve students in more networks?
- We can use the E1 concept to leverage this: they have great plans, including their initiative to make the study environment better
- We already have lots of initiatives of our own, so we need something more
- Kasper points out that there are many possibilities to engage socially, so maybe that is not the problem. Maybe the problem is that the courses are harder than the students expect. Engineering requires a lot of work which surprise some new students.
- A general remark: MMA says that at a study leader seminar, one of the presentations states that with five people dropping out there may be five different reasons, there is no clear reason.

Action plan

- Adjustment of expectations, e.g. as part of our match checker
- Research of causes for the high drop-out rates
- Monitor if we can spot trends, we will keep checking



- BEEM keeps these in the action plan.

Civil engineering

Comments

- We have a mentoring scheme, and a special one will be made for international students with Education Esbjerg.

Adjustment to the action plan

- We support the E1 initiative which is added to action plan.

Action plan

- to find a sustainable solution regarding the staffing situation. We will give it a go, and parallel with that, Build will find a solution. Coordinator should be local person. This is added as an action point under quality area 5, research coverage and teaching competencies.

Mechanical

Comments

- RUS will be moved to early October for the entire faculty.

Action plan

- We support the development of the RUS course, we will follow-up on how ENG does this.

Mechanical

Comments

- These points are not directly related to the data package

Action plan

- We keep the existing action points

Comments

- Maybe a work group can be formed.

Mechanical

Comments

- There will be a toolbox of microcredentials.

Action plan

The study board will investigate the possibility to offer the students a microcredential in APQP and one in project management.

2. Development, organisation and operation of the study programmes

Drop-out rate inside the standard time limit + 1 year

The drop-out rates are high for all the study programmes and none of them are inside the green limit.



Comments

- It is difficult to ascertain why the drop-out rates are high because we have very limited data regarding the students' reason for dropping out. We could contact some of the former students and ask them why they decided to drop out.
- Is age a factor? There is a big difference between energy and mechanical/civil. If you have craftsmen, they may be older. Kasper says that in his class (mechanical), most people are under 25, so this is not likely to be an issue.

Action plan

- Same action points as for the first study year (adjustment of expectations), and: we monitor the development carefully.
- An action point is added to investigate the reasons for dropping out further.

Exceeding standard time limit of study

AIE is the only one in red with an average exceeding time of 4,7 months in 2022.

Action plan

- Reuse of the action point regarding adjustment of expectations
- A point is added regarding an investigation into the reasons for exceeding the standard time limit on AIE.

4. Study Environment

No action points are to be changed, but points from the data package duly noted.

5. Research coverage and teaching competences

The research coverage is extremely good, but the department has a challenge to consolidate the staffing on the two diplomas as discussed earlier.

We keep the existing action point and add a point regarding a consolidation of the staffing on the two diplomas.

6. Job and career

All the numbers for average rate of employment is inside the green limit for all the study programmes which is highly satisfactory. For Sustainable Energy Engineering, the average rate of unemployment in the 4th to 7th quarters have dropped from 29,4 % to 0,6 % from 2019 to 2020.

We keep the existing action point.

The existing point regarding the recruitment panel has been solved.

Re 6. Action plan, follow-up after evaluation meeting 23.11.2022

This report is for your kind perusal. We addressed our study programmes on 23.11.2022, but this report is on the faculty level. Everything looks good for our side.

Re 7. Minutes of semester group meetings

AIE1

- Calculus. The sound system did not work. We cannot do anything about this now.
- MMA has talked to Henry: the safety course will be moved to first semester.

BA1

- No comments.



EN1

- Calculus, same as AIE1.
- Everything ok

MA1

- No comments.

BA3

- Introduction to some of the comprehensive software programmes is desired. This is given on BA4
- Kasper says that Anders does something: a free study activity where he invites everybody
- Discussion about less or more FEM as the students are wondering about the benefit of this class – *Steel structures and computer-based analysis* as opposed to classes in concrete.

BA5

- White boards/black boards. MMA has already talked to teacher about this.
- Pressure on the semester project. We should make it more comprehensible. This will be addressed on the coming study programme day.

MA3

- Steel structures and computer-based analysis. Students are not happy about the steel part.
- Kasper says that his student friends share this view. Some of it is useful with the course in Dynamics, but they question the number of calculations on steel structures.
- MMA maintains that the course is relevant, with more focus on design of machines on 3rd semester. Finally, there will be a new teacher next year.
- Theory from the course will be used on 5th semester. The course is difficult but necessary, is our conclusion.
- The auditorium is cold. We will make a note of this, but we cannot do anything.

MA5

- Same issues as BA5
- Some topics are taken out of the teaching, but is still part of the curriculum.
- MMA explains that it is not self study but group study, where you get exercises and help from an assistant teacher (hjælpeleærer). This is only a few lectures.
- Kasper points out that the power point could be more informative.
- MMA has already talked to teacher, and we will revert to this when we have evaluations.

Re 8. Teacher of the year

This is a student task. The student members are to coordinate and send their nomination to ALL.

Note: the nomination was sent to ALL on 12.12.2022

Re 9. Recruitment panel: a new panel covering Build and Mechanics, status re date of meeting (MMA)

We will discuss this next time. The panel has been approved by the faculty.

Re 10. 2023 meeting dates (ALL)

Studienævns møder 2023, forslag 06.12.2022

Date	Time	Notes
08.02.2023	12.30-15:30	
13.03.2023	12:30-15:30	



20.04.2023	12:30-15:30	
03.05.2023	12:30-15:30	Evaluering
16.05.2023	12:30-15:30	
20.09.2023	12:30-15:30	
11.10.2023	12:30-15:30	
08.11.2023	12:30-15:30	
22.11.2023	12:30-15:30	Evaluering
06.12.2023	12:30-15:30	

Note: all meetings have been called for. Please note that a few meetings do not take place on Wednesday afternoon as is the custom.

Re 11. AOB

Nothing to discuss.

Action points, incl. responsible people – Study board meeting 07.12.2022

BA3. Introduction to software is needed

- MMA will follow up. This will be included in the study programme revision.

Steel structures and computational analyses

- There is a dialogue between teacher and students.

Semester evaluations, meeting 23.11.2022

- Dynamic models: MMA to contact teachers