



## Minutes of meeting (2024-01) in the Study Board of Build, Energy, Electronics and Mechanics in Esbjerg 14.02.2024

*Present:*

Matthias Mandø (MMA) (Chair), Daniel Ortiz Arroya (DOA), Rokas Sukauskis, Ulisse Valeriani, Jeppe Akash Bundsgaard Sørensen, Mads Pagh Nielsen (MPN), Anette Larsen (ALL) (secretary)

*Observer:*

Visnu Ritesh Vijayakumaar Palanisamy

*Absent:*

Jesper Liniger (JEL)

*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.

*Minute taker:* ALL

### Agenda

0. Appointment of study board, incl election of chairman and vicechairman
1. Approval of agenda
2. Follow up after last meeting 22.11.2023 and 06.12.2023
3. Approval of minutes of meeting 22.11.2023 and 06.12.2023
4. General announcements
5. Approval of APEL name change
6. Graduate survey (Dimittendundersøgelse)
7. Delays in AIE studies
8. Examiners' report
9. Project submission dates
10. Minutes of semester group meetings
11. AI use in study programmes
12. Discussion about Energy Camp (3 semester Master's)
13. Discussion about paper, poster and project summary report (1 semester Master's)
14. Teacher of the year
15. Credit transfer and exemptions (confidential)  
(including decision about an application for fourth attempts in two courses)
16. AOB

### Minutes

#### **0. Appointment of study board, incl election of chairman and vice-chairman**

Welcome to the new members.

MMA is re-elected as chairman, and Jeppe Akash Bundsgaard Sørensen is elected vice-chairman.

#### **1. Approval of agenda**

Agenda approved without comments.



## 2. Follow up after last meeting 22.11.2023 and 06.12.2023

06.12.2023

### Continuum Mechanics

- MPN has talked to Build, no further action for now. We will keep this in mind next summer.

### Teacher of the year

- The student members will discuss the nominations and send their decision to ALL. Rokas proposes that we change the way the Teacher of the year is elected. ALL will put this on the agenda later this spring (04.04.2024).

## 22.11.2023

### Response rate after semester evaluations

- Lower for BA and MA. MMA has talked to ASKR. No further action.

### The semester's coherence and planning

- AIE2 desire more electrical courses. We are limited in the number of courses and the current level is deemed acceptable. [Micro credentials](#) can be used to increase the technical content of the education and is on-demand. MMA will ask coordinators to select suitable micro credentials. This will also be put in slides MMA provides for coordinators. This has been done. No further action.

## 3. Approval of minutes 08.11.2023 and 23.11.2023

Minutes approved without comments.

## 4. General announcements

### Study board tasks

Brief presentation of the study board's tasks to new members:

The study board's tasks are as follows:

- To ensure the quality and develop the quality of the study programmes and teaching and to ensure that the head of department follows up on education and teaching evaluations
- To prepare proposals for the curriculum and changes therein
- To approve the plan for the organization of teaching and of tests and other assessments that are part of the exam, and in collaboration with the head of study to oversee the practical organization of this
- To approve applications for credit, including advance credit, and for exemptions
- To submit a proposal for a head of study
- to discuss inquiries regarding possible critique in teaching and to pass on information and any recommendations to the head of department in this regard.

### Focus points in 2024 and beyond

As this is a new year, MMA presents his expectations to focus points in 2024:

- Implement specialization policy on SEE.
- Finish updating study curriculum, Bachelor of Engineering (diplomingeniør) in Civil engineering. This was commenced with the study programme revision carried out last autumn and will take effect in September 2024 for new students. MMA will call for a meeting with involved parties to make a more thorough update of the [curriculum](#).
- AI strategy for study programmes. To be discussed later in this meeting.
- Erhvervs kandidatreform (reform of the master's study programmes) We will be working to include more focus towards industry in the study programmes, so that you can be employed and study at the same time. MPN informs the meeting that a committee is working on how to put this together, however, their work is not yet available to the public, so we have no information as of yet. This committee is based in Rector's office. The reform will be tested in Esbjerg, as we have a strong business community and collaboration with industry in advance.
- International Campus Esbjerg



Making Esbjerg an international campus is part of the AAU strategy, however, the university board is not convinced. Initially, this would apply to the Bachelor of Science study programme (Energy), as there is a law prohibiting us from turning the bachelor of engineering programmes into English language.

- Specialization in PtX  
This has been on the agenda for a long time. Financing is required for labs before the Specialization can be offered. Currently, AAU Energy are working on an application for private foundations for approx. 65 mio. and the faculty has promised to co-fund, if we can get these funds.
- RISK to BEEM  
The RISK study programme is physically in Esbjerg but managed by the build study board. AAU Build do not have staff in Esbjerg and the study is managed by AAU Energy staff. Ongoing discussion but so far AAU Build want to retain this education.

### Short news from the Chairman

- ULM 22-01-24 meeting of the heads of study
  - Letter from ministry – Bachelor of Engineering (diplomingeniør) is knowledge based and BSc is researched based.
    - Dedicated staff for teaching (studielektorer)?
    - Not enough to change project descriptions.
    - Change all BSc to Prof. BSc.?
    - We would like to challenge this!
- Evaluation of civil engineering and mechanical engineering (with external evaluators) 17-01-24
  - Many, many good points...
  - AU head of studies (Maibritt) suggests that we use the position studielektor: an associate professor that teaches and do not do research
  - Maibritt suggests that we talk to Absalon regarding double offer (BE+BSc). (Absalon is a university college in Kalundborg)
  - Maibritt suggests investigating why students are not so keen on PBL
  - Maibritt attacks the large degree of joint courses (i.e. courses that are followed by several study programmes)
  - Desire for a dedicated MSc in structural design and construction (we had that, but it was closed: too few students)
  - Recruitment -> Can industry be the sender of campaigns?  
Maybe we should ask our recruitment panel
- Evaluation of civil engineering and mechanical engineering (with external evaluators) 17-01-24 (more specific comments to the two study programmes)

#### Mechanical Engineering

- More project management -> we have AAU Micro +
- Focus on water and PtX -> fits with new 'energy' subjects

#### Civil Engineering

- More wishes for specific subject areas: Project management, Roads and drainage, Fire and AI, Python programming, Wooden constructions, concrete constructions, FEM
- Certification as 'statiker' is important!
- Be careful not to make it too 'energy-minded'
- Mega-important with Concrete, the rest is desirable
- Large degree of video teaching -> the dean says: "Teachers from Aalborg must drive to Esbjerg" and they must take a course in video teaching
- Specific processes for concrete in one week could be considered

- Quality assurance meeting (Energy and AIE) 17-01-24  
There is a six-year cycle for the quality assurance work. You can read more about this subject [here](#).
  - Registration of study start drop-outs to be investigated by MMA.  
There may be a problem with registration of the Master's students who do not show up.??
  - Jobdatabase of study jobs in cooperation with Education Esbjerg (?)  
MMA will talk to Martin in Education Esbjerg; we must make sure that we have more cooperation with companies.

- Proposal for video teaching guidelines  
There will be a teaching seminar on 11.04.2024 in Aalborg to which the study board has been invited, and video teaching will be one of the topics.  
Rokas: the best is a video recording, followed by a lecture with the professor.
- No more job guarantee!  
We have had a dialogue with local companies, but unfortunately this is not possible. Therefore, it will not be a possibility for new students.  
Rokas: maybe this also has to do with the Danish language.
- DRU 19-12-23 (FYI: students participate in the DRU meetings, DRU is the dean's advisory committee)
  - Discussion of AI and work on strategy to include it in study programmes
    - MMA: Coordinators have included relevant links at semester startup + students are encouraged to complete the AAU Micro in AI & ChatGPT
    - Generative AI is a competence we must teach the students.
- DSUR 25-01-24 (points on agenda) This is a strategic forum under the prorektor. We look to this forum to see what will come next. There are no minutes from this meeting yet, but the following are items on the agenda:
  - Evaluation of study start
  - Forum for EVU (lifelong learning/continuing education)
  - Reform of the master's study programmes (meeting with ministry)  
This was also mentioned above, as one of the study board's focus points.
- Hearing regarding rules for leave
  - Added right to go on 12 months leave to do research at another university.
- DSUR 16-11-2023 (minutes)
  - Discussion of new behavioural codex. The wording "zero tolerance" is problematic. This is a legal discussion about wording.
  - Discussion of PBL principles. No major changes.
- Tips and tricks regarding elite athletes in higher education
  - Establish a special guidance scheme for elite athletes - appoint a permanent student adviser
  - Special study plan as they may need to extend the study time
  - Flexibility in relation to attendance – possibility of recording lessons
  - Early information on exam dates - possibly online exam from hotel room
- Introduction meeting regarding outreach work towards selected students
- Revision of [study guide](#) and [BEEM web pages](#)

## 5. Approval of APEL name change

MSc in Electronic Engineering with specialization in Advanced Power Electronics (APEL)

MSc in Electronic Engineering with specialization in AI and Autonomous systems (AIAS)

- **Objective:** Approval of new name of APEL
- **Background:** AIAS is a specialization under APEL, but the names are illogical.
- **Method:** We had a meeting with all relevant ViP and had a unanimous recommendation.
- **Result:**
  - MSc in *Electronic Engineering* with specialization in Advanced Power Electronics (APEL)
  - MSc in Electronic Engineering with specialization in AI and Autonomous systems (AIAS)
- **Conclusion:** The BEEM study board approves that we apply for a name change of APEL to Electronic Engineering to be implemented by summer 2026.

## 6. Graduate survey (Dimittendundersøgelse)

- 5 out of 17 have answered. Of them, 2 generally seem very sceptical
- The 2 indicate, among other things, poor quality of education, poor social environment

Comments:

- This survey relates to those who have finished the mechanical engineering programme
- Jeppe: I do not think anything is wrong, it is difficult when only 5 have answered
- MMA: it was not a possibility to make comments during the survey
- Rokas: maybe they simply work with something else than they learned here



- Action points: no specific action points, but we will monitor this.

## 7. Delays in AIE studies

### Follow-up after discussion about data package 2023 (meeting 06.12.2023)

- There are 5/23 students who are very late by more than 2 years! If these are not taken into account, the average is 4 months. Which is a lot but more comparable to other similar study programmes. In other words, the few very late students increase the average significantly.
- For 3 of those who are more than 2 years late, the reason is medical reports (psychology).
- 9/23 = 40% students complete in the standard time.
- There are several students who is missing one course from semester 5/6 and have been allowed to begin the master's programme. Thus, they are 6-12 months behind on the BSc, but not necessarily on their overall studies.
- A common denominator for many of those who are late is that they have deliberately delayed their studies by, for example, taking only courses in one semester and only projects in another semester. Likewise, there are many who have not taken the exam in order to save it for later. Therefore, it does not appear that there are general academic challenges or that there are specific courses that are the cause.
- It can be speculated that the condition that international students have to work on the side to get SU, make them feel compelled to extend their studies.
- In general, AAU is famous for students graduating on time.
- No comments from study board members to this information.

## 8. Examiners' report

- Hoping to have new IT-system ready by March 2026. New feature will be automatic suggestions for examiners.
- Some international educators are not aware that external examiners have to be approved by the corps.
- Few examiners in small educational sites. They will consider this next time they approve examiners.
- Comment on increase in joint courses on BSc and Diploma means that censors have to be approved for both corps...
- Many ad hoc and after approvals of examiners.

### Comments:

- MMA: We have a centralized board that monitors the quality of the exams, this is their report.
- MPN: They get many reports that the internal examiner is not aware that students must be evaluated in accordance with the learning goals.
- MPN sends presentation for supervisors to the study board; MMA will raise the subject at next section meeting.

## 9. Project submission dates

Approved.

## 10. Minutes of semester group meetings

There was only one meeting to be discussed, please note that this meeting was held on 06.11.2023.

### BA5

#### Continuum

- We have tried to address this subject, we will monitor.

#### Study trip

- This has been addressed at the last section meeting
- In the future, students on all study directions will be more involved in planning of the 5 sem. study trip so we ensure relevant companies and stronger participation. MMA and ASK is on planning panel.
- It is emphasized that it is important with registration to ensure student participation. It can be discussed if a small fee is necessary too.



### 11. AI use in study programmes

MMA invites the study board to discuss whether AAU Micro in AI and Chat GPT should be part of the study curricula?

Comments:

- DOA: the students must understand the code, and you must understand the code that AI gives. Also, one question at the exam could be - What is this specific line of code doing – and they must be able to answer that.
- Visnu: we must learn programming through practices, this is a big part of studying, it is good for us to be able to use AI, but there should be focus on programming in the study programme.
- Rokas agrees and adds that you must learn the concepts of programming - the thinking. You need good fundamentals to be able to ask the right questions of AI. MPN agrees with Rokas.
- Rokas: you can give more difficult tasks now that we have GPT.
- MMA: If you compare to a calculator, you must both be able to use the calculator and do the math yourself so that you can judge the reasonableness of the results.
- Links:  
<https://www.studerende.aau.dk/praktisk/it/generativ-ai-pa-aau>  
<https://www.aub.aau.dk/studerende/generativ-ai>  
<https://www.cdul.aau.dk/inspiration/den-digitale-agera> episode 7 part 2+8  
<https://www.micro.aau.dk/> Introduction to Generative AI and ChatGPT.  
<https://www.iaspbl.aau.dk/staff-development/generative-ai-and-learning>

To summarize: The BEEM study board will not introduce new specific learning goals in the Study curriculum regarding generative AI.

### 12. Discussion about Energy Camp (3 semester Master's)

- MMA: I brought this up at the section meeting, not many comments.
- This event replaces the regular start-up for 3rd semester students and is intended to bring together companies and students who develop projects together. There is also a coordinator to help the process.
- I would prefer the event to be shorter; maybe it could be more like a job fair and stands. As it is now, the end does not justify the means.
- MPN: the study board in Aalborg agree. Management is now discussing what to do next time; we will have to rethink the concept if it is to go on.
- Rokas proposed that the energy camp could continue, but with adjustments. Maybe give the problems the companies are proposing to the students beforehand: Creativity requires knowledge. But connecting master's students with companies is great – but we need to work on the format.
- MMA is to be included in discussions and the planning of future Energy camps.

### 13. Discussion about paper, poster and project summary report (1 semester Master's)

This item is postponed until next meeting: We must change the description in the curriculum. Among other things, there has been a suggestion to move CES to summer instead of Christmas. (CES is the conference for energy students where all must present scientific poster).

Another proposed idea is to decouple the poster from the project and has received a number of good suggestions at the latest section meeting. More on this at the next study board meeting on 06.03.2024.

### 14. Teacher of the year

The students of the study board will discuss the two proposals and revert to Anette with their decision. The winner will then be in the competition together with the winner in the spring semester.

### 15. Credit transfer and exemptions (confidential)

Firstly, MMA goes over the list of exemptions and merits granted since our last meeting.

Second, an application for a fourth examination attempt is discussed and to decide upon.

ALL to send confidentiality agreements to new students.



## 16. AOB

### Drop out rates

- There is an update on drop-out rates. Few students on energy means a few students dropping out will show as a large percentage. No action.

### Unemployment figures

- Looking good after 4-7 quarters.

## Action points, incl. responsible people – Study board meeting 14.02.2024

### Quality assurance meeting 17.01.2024 (Energy and AIE)

- Registration of study start drop-outs to be investigated by MMA. There may be a problem with registration of the Master's students who do not show up.
- Job database of study jobs in cooperation with Education Esbjerg. MMA will talk to Martin in Education Esbjerg about possibilities.

### Teacher of the Year

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