Minutes of meeting (2026-08) in the Study Board of Build, Energy, Electronics and Mechanics in Esbjerg 09.10.2026

Present:
Matthias Mandø (MMA) (Chair), Daniel Ortiz Arroya (DOA), Jesper Liniger (JEL), Mads Pagh Nielsen (MPN), Jacob Gharib, Anette Larsen (ALL) (secretary)

Absent:

Copy:
Sara Lindberg Hildebrandt, Charlotte Slot Lolk, Anne Linde Poulsen, Pia Vestergaard Jensen, Christian Winther Dissing, Mads Pagh Nielsen, Tamas Kerekes, Gitte Hageman Christensen, Head of department, Anne Marie Hvilsom Christensen.

Minute taker: ALL

Agenda

1.	Approval of agenda
2.	Follow up after last meeting 08.09.2026
3.	Approval of minutes of meeting 08.09.2026
4.	General announcements (short news from the Chairman)
5.	Minutes from semester group meetings (no minutes for this meeting)
6.	Update of supervision contract document
7.	Flexible master, approval
8.	AAU Elections 2026
9.	Study start test, results
10.	Results of the Outreach Initiative
11.	Approval of exam plans, 1st year + courses 1st-10th semester
12.	Study programme revisions for September 2027 (status)
13.	AOB
14.	Credit transfer and exemptions (confidential) (two cases to consider)

Minutes

1. Approval of agenda
Agenda approved.

2. Follow up after meeting 08.09.2026
The Danish National Student Survey (Danmarks Studieundersøgelse)

- Cold teaching and group rooms
  Update after meeting: MMA has talked to Campus Service in Esbjerg; they will investigate.
  There will be a temperature monitor.
- Quiet study zones and possible signage.
  Update after meeting: MMA has talked to the library. They have placed small signs. MMA will also talk to ASKR about quiet rooms.

7. Study programme revisions for September 2027 and applications

- We are working on this; there is some work this year with Mechanical Engineering in English and revised project competences for both BE programmes.

8. Flexible master's programmes (status)

- To be discussed later today

12. Approval of group formation document

- ALL will implement, still outstanding.

14 Process to select Teacher of the Year – see BIO proposal

- Jacob has made a Forms that has been sent to study secretaries for them to forward to students.

Study Environment Initiative of the Year at AAU

- Jacob is working on this. Deadline is 30 November 2026.

3. Approval of minutes of meeting 08.09.2026

Minutes approved without comments.

4. General announcements

- Knowledge sharing w. CB 30-09-2026
  - Each study board decide on how to shorten Diplomingeniør education with one month (we take that next meeting)

    Comment: All study boards have different ways of organizing this; this was a chance to do it the same way, but we will do it as we choose. We will discuss this at our next regular meeting on 18.11.2026.

  - Extra time at written exams – yes for both red and yellow dyslexia, no guidelines for students with diagnosis (individual evaluation)

    Comment: there is always an individual evaluation; we always ask for a doctor's note or similar.

- Meeting in committee for learning day 22-09-2026
  - Everything must be about AI!
  -
- Talk with study office about aids for exam 21-09-2026
  - We do not want to put up dividers and it might not help. We might ask students next time it becomes relevant.

    Comment: this is just to let you know that this subject might come up again

- Host for censor leadership 16-09-2026
  - New software Censorum will automatically suggest examiners based on a topic!

    Comment: this will be implemented next summer 2027.

- DRU 14-09-2026
  - Prorector wants to know how much AI is used in education

- Prorectors meeting
  - Workshop on flexibility in educations

- Drop-out: No drop-outs yet, this is very positive.
- Unemployment: Figures for your information

5. Minutes from semester group meetings

AIE, Energy Bsc/BE - first semester

MAC

1 student could not get the software to run on their mac OS and recommend that the course use software that also runs on mac.

Comments:

- There are a lot of workarounds if you have a Mac
- Jacob proposes that we make it clearer from the start that working with a Mac is difficult.
- MMA will investigate with Sara, the study secretary, whether we have PC recommendations in the intro letter, specifically with regard to not getting a Mac OS.
- *Follow-up: MMA has talked to Sara and Heidi who both are involved in the planning of study start. They are already writing out about recommendations for WinPC in intro letter. The issue is probably two-fold: Student have already an existing MacPC or student do not read or absorb the information.*
- Also, AAU has a central page with recommendations: Recommendations for choosing a new computer - Aalborg University. This clearly states:

  It is your own responsibility to ensure your computer can run the required software from teaching.

  And later

  Contact your study advisor and investigate which programs are typically used during your studies before buying a new computer.

The recommendations encourage students to contact the university before purchasing a new computer and make it clear that it is the students' own responsibility to ensure that their computer can run the required software. The recommendations do not specifically advise against Mac computers for engineering programmes, but they do state that several programmes cannot be installed on a Mac.

Energy Systems and Electro Physics

We were under the impression that it would be electro physics first, but we started energy systems first. We started lecture 7 instead of 1 but we weren't told and we would have liked that so we could prepare for the right course.

Comments:

- There is still a clutter in the Moodle room.
- *Follow-up: MMA has talked to teacher who will follow up right away.*

BA, MT – first semester

PBL

Teaching: The course was published as a Danish-language course but was delivered in English; joint with the international students. The arguments was apparently a low number of students, but with 19 Danish speaking students this is NOT justified. Students had already acquired the Danish course material which did not fit with the English teaching material. They got paid to hold the course twice (DK+UK). They did not inform or ask permission. By law we must provide min. 50% of the teaching in Danish so we risk breaking the law. Clearly, this is unacceptable.

ACTION:

- Study leader MPN will contact IASPBL and give them a stern talking to ensure that this does not happen again.

6. Update of supervision contract document

Background: Aalborg has revised the supervision contract document and introduced a section related to P0.

P0 is not a mandatory element in the study curriculum for the MSc educations in Esbjerg and we have no tradition on holding Status seminars for MSc students. Esbjerg will continue using our own version of the supervision contract document, and no implementation of the Aalborg P0 element is currently considered necessary.

It was noted that supervisors still have the possibility of arranging a status seminar if they find it relevant. However, there is no need to make this a formal requirement within the supervision contract.

7. Flexible Master's Programme – Approval

MMA referred to **Section 18(4)(2) of the Danish University Act**, which states that the Study Board is responsible for preparing proposals for study regulations and amendments thereto.

The proposed reform of the master's programmes is part of department initiative to increase flexibility, including the introduction of new programme structures. It is the task of the study board to approve or reject the proposal.

MMA noted that the process has taken place at the same time as we have had changes in key leadership positions, including the appointment of a new Head of Department, Dean, and Vice Dean. He raised concerns that the model has been decided at a higher level without sufficient involvement of academic staff and that the overall process lacked transparency.

The BEEM study board has not been consulted or been actively involved in the process in direct contradiction to Danish law. The university law is there to *"sikre de studerendes og de videnskabelige medarbejderes medbestemmelse på og medinddragelse i uddannelse og undervisning."* The proposal has not been presented to students in Esbjerg and thus there has not been sufficient student involvement.

The educations' advisory board has been consulted and has expressed concerns about the proposed changes. Especially, the recruitments strategy and the abandonment of the possibility to complete a long master thesis where focus points. There have been no changes in the proposal based on the input from the advisory board.

To the best of the Study board's knowledge, IASPLB has not been consulted in the process of making the proposal.

AAU have for many years boasted of being "Best in Europe". The study board fear is that if the fundamental formula is changed it will lead to a decrease in AAU reputation.

Academic Concerns Regarding the Proposed Structure:

A substantial part of the discussion focused on the pedagogical consequences of separating semesters into either course-based or project-based activities.

MMA raised concerns regarding the first semester of the master's programme:

- No more AAU PBL model - The current model gradually introduces students to problem-based learning (PBL) through project work and group collaboration. Students currently develop competencies in teamwork, project management, and self-directed learning from the beginning of the programme. Under the proposed structure, the first semester would become course-based, reducing opportunities for student-driven learning activities. This will fundamentally change the educational philosophy of the programme. The AAU PBL model has always had a synergy between what is

taught in courses and afterwards expanded on in projects. The proposal will fundamentally dismantle the basis for the AAU PBL model. With the proposal, the first project work students will experience, will be a 30 ECTS module. Even if a status seminar included this will be a major challenge. We already see group issues. Having no intro semester to train PBL. Problems are expected to be more pronounced.

- No PBL project work - The proposed model also allows students to complete their study without going through any PBL project work if they choose to have a company stay or stay abroad. A majority of students in Esbjerg currently chose to go on a study abroad.

- Students are not vetted before Traineeships - Practical concerns were also raised regarding project-oriented stays and internships, particularly with respect to approval procedures, timing, and students' limited experience in the programme before such activities would take place. With the proposed structure we would need to approve company stay before the students have passed the first semester. We risk our reputation sending out unqualified students on company stays. Usually, a company helps with the transition between the study and the first job. By having the company stay a full year before graduation the effect is expected.

- Challenging exam format - The proposed change to 10 ECTS would practically mean that all course modules are evaluated based on a mini-project. There is a strong fear that mini-projects will be sloppy and we will see the same mini-project year after year. We are also required by law to have a multitude of different examination formats. There is thus a chance that we cannot live up to that with the proposed change. The proposed model suggests intense periods of study with one course at a time followed by an exam before starting on a new course. If a student is ill, even for at short period they will miss a relatively large portion of a course, making it difficult to catch up and ultimately pass a course. This would increase the stress/study intensity for students and decrease student wellbeing. We want to point out that we already have exams outside of the traditional exam periods in January and June. The study board is not diametrically against the very idea of 10 ECTS course modules, but having *only* 10 ECTS course modules.

- No more long master thesis – It has been a stable of the AAU model to have the possibility to make a long master thesis there the students can have the deep learning which is so sought after. A long master thesis gives the students an opportunity to perform extensive laboratory work in cooperation with research groups. Quite ironic, that the very thing the proposal claims to promote, it is going to remove.

- Students admitted will not have correct qualifications – The key selling point of the proposal is that we can have a large uptake of students. We would like to point out that the admittance criteria, at least in Aalborg, is not going to change making this essentially a false statement. The main change in the proposal is going to be electives of a few AAU micro (2-3 ECTS) meant to allow the students to catch up on certain topics. It has also frequently been suggested that the student can just read on their own during the summer. The study board, as well as educations advisory board, find this unrealistic and insufficient. We are deeply worried that we will increase the number of students who drop-out because they do not have the correct qualifications for the study. Ultimately, an increase in the dropout rate will be decremental for the education. The study board do recognize that AAU micros provide an essential tool which can aid some students.

- We will get more Online Hybrid teaching in Esbjerg – The proposed change calls for even more courses which are offered in both Aalborg and Esbjerg. There is a worry that this will lead to more online hybrid teaching which is already heavily criticized by both students and teachers.

Industrial Master's Programme

The effect of the proposal on the part-time master's (EKA 1+2) structure was also discussed.

Members questioned how learning activities would be organised across semesters and expressed concerns about periods dominated by self-study and the concentration of courses in specific semesters. It was argued that the industrial master's programme should remain aligned with the ordinary master's programme and that the proposed structure does achieve this.

The proposed model would lead to only courses in the autumn. However, a part-time master, which has the same curriculum, but where the content on the regular 3rd semester is spread out over an entire year, would need to have course modules on both spring and autumn semester. Thus, either you offer course modules on both spring and autumn semesters, or you ask the part-time master's students to do self-study for an entire semester. Both possible solutions are unacceptable for the study board.

Flexibility and Student Recruitment

JEL acknowledged the need for change and emphasised that increased flexibility could contribute to attracting new student groups.

Points raised included:

- The possibility of integrating research groups more directly into teaching and project activities.
- The need to respond to feedback from industry and external stakeholders.
- The importance of ensuring sufficient flexibility within the programmes.

MMA questioned whether the proposed model addressed the key challenges it was intended to solve.

ECTS

- Replacing larger projects with a greater number of smaller assignments could lead to repetitive course activities.
- We already have great possibilities and have many students working in close cooperation with research groups, especially for the 3+4th semester project work.
- When students ask for flexibility, it is not with regards to electives but with regards to how the classes are taught. More emphasis on so-called asynchronous teaching, so the students can study when they have time for it and are freer to plan student work and other activities. The study board do see more electives in a positive light, but this can also be in terms of 5 ECTS course.
- It was emphasised that concerns were not necessarily related to the use of 10 ECTS courses themselves, but rather to the educational consequences of the proposed overall structure.

Other concerns

- Teaching intensity will increase dramatically if we only have courses in autumn semester. We will need to work on alternative teaching structures to make it work. This is a concern.

Alternative Suggestions

Several alternative ideas were discussed:

- Maintaining a common first semester across related specialisations before students select a specific direction.
- Retaining a semester project during the first semester.
- Ensuring larger project components later in the programme.
- Improving alignment between courses and projects throughout the study progression.
- MMA also reported hearing from students that they would prefer greater subject-specific depth rather than a stronger focus on flexibility alone.

Need for Further Documentation

The Study Board had not yet received sufficient documentation to make an informed decision. A general consensus emerged that the Study Board could not approve the proposal as presented and required a complete set of materials before reaching a decision.

Discussion with MPN

Following a break, MPN joined the meeting and confirmed that the Study Board is formally responsible for approving study regulations. MPN added that the reform is part of a broader strategic initiative affecting multiple faculties and that active engagement from the Study Board is important if it wishes to influence the final outcome.

MPN noted that the Study Board could reject the proposal, in which case the matter would be escalated to the Dean and Prorector. Any rejection would need to be accompanied by specific recommendations for change.

Decision

The Study Board agreed to convene an extraordinary meeting once all relevant documentation has been made available.

8. AAU Elections 2026

MMA, ALL, has initiated an info-screen campaign.
ALL will ask study secretaries if there are anybody we can approach and ask to become an Observer or run for election to the board. *(mail to study secretaries 15.10.2026)*

9. Study start test, results

This is for your information.

10. Results of the Outreach Initiative

For your information
We recognize a lot of these issues.
Should we do more than what we are already doing? No says Jacob, there are enough mails already; you also have responsibility yourself.

11. Approval of exam plans, 1st year + courses 1st-10th semester

Calculus and Energy Systems exams are rather close to each other. This is caused by the Department of Sustainability and Planning. The problem is that Calculus demands a lot of preparation, and the students should be aware that they must spend the time wisely so that they begin preparing for Calculus *before* the Energy Systems exam.

Action point: ALL to mail semester coordinator Mads Valentin that the study board are aware that Calculus and Energy Systems exams are rather close to each other to encourage him to send out mail to the students that they should begin preparing for calculus before the energy systems exam.

Exam plans approved.

12. Study programme revisions for September 2027 (status)
ALL is working on this, everything according to plan.

13. AOB
Robot Manipulator module. We wish to change from external to internal examiner. (discussed in connection with Exemptions below). ALL to make application to Studieordninger. *Update: application sent 15.10.2026.*

14. Credit transfer and exemptions (confidential)
Survey of list in WorkZone
Two cases to consider.

First case.
Jacob is considered to have a conflict of interest and is therefore disqualified from handling this case.
Application rejected.

Second case.
Application approved. Please note that approval is granted solely at the University's discretion. As there is no legal entitlement to this approval, the decision cannot be appealed. (administrativ afgørelse)

Action points, incl. responsible people – follow-up after study board meeting 09.10.2026

6. Update of supervision contract document
Action point: ALL will implement Esbjerg's own version

Follow-up: Gitte has elegantly formulated the English version in a way that includes BEEM. We therefore keep the same document as the Energy study board.

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12. Approval of group formation document
- ALL will implement, still outstanding.

Next meeting's agenda – 18.11.2026 (the meeting 04.11.2026 is an evaluation meeting)
- Knowledge sharing w. CB 30-09-2026
    - Each study board decide on how to shorten Diplomingeniør eduction with one month (we take that next meeting)