



Minutes for TB study board meeting January 26th, 2022, 12.30-15:00

Members: Maj-Britt Quitzau (Head of Study Board), Maurizio Teli (Programme coordinator TAN AAL), Signe Pedersen (Programme coordinator BD CPH), Maja Elisabeth Hultberg Rasmussen (student rep. TAN AAL).

Observers: Astrid Oberborbeck (rep. Dep. of Culture and Learning AAL), Laura Telling Clausen (student study councillor BD/SD CPH), Evie Marcelia Trappaud Rønne (student study councillor TAN CPH), Rasmus Mølgaard Hansen (student study councillor TAN AAL), Bob Mølgaard Sørensen (future stud. rep. TAN AAL), Marc Dean Mejnert (student rep. TAN1 KBH), Janni Rise Frellsen (Study Board secretary), Diana Wolff Bie (study secretary TAN AAL and minute taker).

Absent:

Members: Ina Overgaard (student rep. BD CPH) – mandate to Maja, Lars Botin (Programme coordinator TAN CPH) – mandate to Maurizio, Andreas Birkbak (rep. Dep. of Culture and Learning CPH) – mandate to Astrid, Andrés Felipe Valderrama Pineda (Programme coordinator SD CPH), Kista Bianco Kjær (student rep. TAN AAL).

Observers: Helene Nynne Lauterbach Sandholdt (student rep. BD), Petrine Tveden (future student rep. BD/SD), Frederick Aleksander Nilsen (future student rep. TAN KBH),

Follow-up for Janni and Maj-Britt

Follow-up for others

Meeting agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Information from study board chair and secretary
 - a. Thanks to representatives and observers that are leaving the Study Board
 - b. Status on TB-SN report for 2021.
3. Short recapitulation on points from meeting in November (informative)

The following points outline the action points from earlier meetings in order to ensure follow up on all decisions and actions. The points are merely for information.

 - a. Debate article for Navigator pending (to do).
 - b. Document describing the importance of steering group meetings and semester descriptions is pending, including update of semester descriptions with distribution of time, module definition and better planning of teaching and exams (integration with CalMoodle) (to do).
 - c. Delegation team for summer courses established (to do). Maj-Britt develops a conceptual idea. NB on dialogue with HUM.
 - d. Janni has talked to Sidse about updated the AAU pages regarding the new TAN master (and bachelor). Program coordinators are following up (status?)
 - e. Janni coordinates with Mette about communicating with the students about the new inventory (to do).
 - f. Signe and Lars develop conceptual draft for studying abroad (to do).
 - g. The student study councilors have been put on the agenda in June 2022 with a dialogue on guidelines for marketing events.
 - h. Maj-Britt will follow up on GDPR with Elisabeth (to do).
4. TB-SN teacher funds distribution for spring 2022 (appendix)

The study board will prioritize the distribution of funds for teachers for the spring 2022 based on the received applications. Dialogue about the process, since we haven't used all of the budget, even though we thought so.
5. TAN closure in Copenhagen – study board actions (appendix)

The study board discusses the decision of AAU management about closing the TAN education in Copenhagen. We will address the reactions from different members of the board (both VIP, TAP and students) and discuss what our perspective is on this decision. Based on parallel dialogues with program coordinators and HUM representatives, a draft for an objection letter has been produced, as there are elements about the decision that need to be highlighted and addressed. Similarly, a draft for informing our Recruitment panel and our external reviewers have been developed. The intention of these documents is to have a platform for the dialogue to decide what kind of objection or feedback the study board wants to feed into the process and to address practical concerns regarding the closing procedure. The study board has at no time been involved, informed or anything in the managerial decision process, so there is an immediate need and desire to make the voices from the educational programme heard.

The dialogue should include consideration of the following discussion points:

- How does the study board want to respond to the decision to close TAN Copenhagen? If we want to react, what should the line of argumentation be and how should we do it?
 - How can we take best care of the situation of our students and our staff in the coming period?
 - How should we inform our external collaborators about the situation?
 - Which strategies do we have for securing and strengthening TAN AAL? (e.g. increase in uptake)
 - How can we practically handle the insecurity that the decision will create (e.g. loss of students and employees), to ensure that we consolidate the quality of the education in TAN CPH until close-down and in TAN AAL in general?
 - How do we handle the upcoming revision process and which considerations do we need to make (e.g. are our new agreements with TECH research groups in Copenhagen in danger)?
 - Should this dialogue be confidential, especially not included in the public minutes?
 - Other issues to raise?
6. Any other business (AOB)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda

The study board is competent at this meeting to make decisions, since enough members are present or represented by mandates. Agenda was approved. The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

2. Information from study board chair and secretary

- a. Thanks to representatives and observers that are leaving the Study Board

Maj-Britt thanked the retiring members and observers of the Study Board and thanked them for their effort and energy.

- b. Status on TB-SN report for 2021.

Maj-Britt and Janni had a meeting with Head of Studies, Pernille Scholdan Bertelsen, where the report was approved.

3. Short recapitulation on points from meeting in November (informative)

- a. Debate article for Navigator pending (to do).

Pending.

- b. Document describing the importance of steering group meetings and semester descriptions is pending, including update of semester descriptions with distribution of time, module definition and better planning of teaching and exams (integration with CalMoodle) (to do).

Meeting with the new administrative team leader scheduled in February.

- c. Delegation team for summer courses established (to do). Maj-Britt develops a conceptual idea. NB on dialogue with HUM.

Pending.

- d. Janni has talked to Sidse about updated the AAU pages regarding the new TAN master (and bachelor). Program coordinators are following up (status?)

Pending.

- e. Janni coordinates with Mette about communicating with the students about the new inventory (to do).

Pending

- f. Signe and Lars develop conceptual draft for studying abroad (to do).
Pending.
- g. The student study councilors have been put on the agenda in June 2022 with a dialogue on guidelines for marketing events.
Done.
- h. Maj-Britt will follow up on GDPR with Elisabeth (to do).
Pending.

4. TB-SN teacher funds distribution for spring 2022 (appendix)

We have not had a lot of applications for the funds for teacherdriven initiatives. The study board has 100.000 DKK in total to administer over the entire year. 25% are allocated so that students can apply for funding for their project work. 75% are allocated to initiatives by teachers in relation to the semester. The funds are divided over the year with 50.000 DKK for each semester. We thus have 37.500 DKK for teacherdriven initiatives in spring 2022. The students will have 12.500 DKK to apply for in March regarding their project work.

Maj-Britt asked for an overview of the use of funds for last year from Mia. It shows that we did not use all of the funds last year. We only used 60.000 DKK out of 100.000 DKK, although we distributed all the funds. We need to follow up better to make sure, that we use all of the funds.

It is agreed that Maj-Britt will put on the TB-SN working plan that we get an updated economic overview in October, and improved feedback from receivers of the funds on their status, so that we can distribute and utilize some of the funds that are still left.

Study board grant for teachers:

Petko Atanasov Karadechev's application for refund for purchase of teachers book for the TAN4 Facilitation course was approved in case he could not get the section to pay for it. **Janni will inform Petko** to first try to get the payment covered by the section. The study board discussed whether the funds should be used on buying relevant educational books. The general attitude was that it should not be the study board who has to fund this. Often, books can be bought through the funding of the research section, but it is also important to ensure money for research. The study board finds that it should be possible for teachers to buy relevant books for teaching, since it could otherwise impair the quality. **Maj-Britt will take it up at a coordination meeting with the head of studies, what our policy should be.**

Nicola Bidwell had applied for a teambuilding event in CPH for TAN8 for 10.000 DKK together with Maj-Britt and Lars Botin. The money were granted.

The study board discussed what to do with the rest of the money. 27.000 DKK are still left. Maurizio suggested increasing the amount of funds for the students. He explained that especially the 8th semester students have a lot of expenses for posters and excursions in AAL. This, however, falls well into the current semester funds and it might be tricky to have to handle all these small requests from students. BD/SD often have money for these kinds of materials. Here, Ehsan coordinates the administrative procedure and produce an invoice. Maj-Britt suggested that perhaps we can make the same kind of structure in AAL as we have in CPH with Ehsan, so that Maurizio or somebody else could help collect the invoice for the posters for the students. Based on the dialogue, it is agreed that we will channel the rest of the money out to TAN and BD/SD, so that the program coordinators and semester coordinators can plan how to eventually use the money. Should they fail to use it, these will be transferred to next semester.

Janni will inform BD/SD that they have 10.000 DKK in total to share for this semester. TAN AAL has 10.000 DKK as well. And TAN2 CPH is granted 7.000 DKK for excursions, because they plaided for that without sending an application. TAN CPH master is not granted further.

Maj-Britt informs that the guidelines for funds for the students have been changed, so that it becomes more clear, that transport in connection with internship is not part of the funding.

5. TAN closure in Copenhagen – study board actions (appendix)

The study board discussed the recommendation for decision from AAU management that TAN CPH should be closed down. Each member and observer of the study board outlined their point of view about the decision. Based on this, a dialogue was taken about how we should respond as a study board. Maj-Britt explained that the study board is a democratic organ, which has a right of speech, but at the same time, we should be aware of ensuring a trustful collaboration with the university management.

Generally, there was a lack of understanding of why TAN CPH was closed, when its purpose fits so well in relation to the priority of TECH and ENG in CPH to focus on IT and sustainability. In this process of closing TAN CPH, AAU will try to ensure that no one will be made redundant. Based on the current information right now, there should not be problems with let-off of teachers.

There was a unanimous vote for sending in a letter to the top management addressing: 1) a plead and argumentation for not closing TAN CPH, 2) raising our concerns about ensuring a good study environment for prevailing students and 3) a critique of the lack of communication and dialogue.

The letter was approved with few corrections.

The study board also agreed to send out an informative letter about the situation to the external committee and the external review boards.

Confidential summary of the main points of the dialogue:

VIP:

We have worked very hard for a long time to make TAN fit very well into the priority of IT and sustainability, and when we have achieved it, they close us down. Clarity surrounding the basis for this decision is lacking.

Something good in this: There will be a new economic structure in order to keep the research groups in CPH.

However, if we do not get more students in AAL, the master's programme will suffer.

It is a disaster that all HUM and SAMF educations are lost. It is a big concern, as the whole STS field advertise for this kind of TECH-HUM-SAMF collaboration.

A general sense that AAU top management does not understand our research and the purpose of our educations.

A frustration about the fact that we have done a lot of efforts of addressing these issues, but not given the time to wait for the results of all this work.

Students:

There is a general feeling among students that they should get out now, which is frustrating and troubling.

Students are confused about why TAN CPH is closing, and bachelor students are afraid of choosing the master.

Students also would like to speak with other semesters about this, but don't know how to organise it.

“Why should I believe in this education, if the leadership of AAU doesn't believe in it.”

The students who are finishing their masters now are the ones on the new curriculum, which was changed to fit the focus on IT and sustainability. So we have changed it as 'they' wanted, but the students have not had a chance to get out into society and on the job marked based on the new master.

We have to be careful in the letter not to throw TAN AAL under the bus.

Corrections for the letter:

It is not a conservative job marked. We actually see adverts now asking specifically for TAN degrees. Emphasis on the amount of work we have done to change this education and the students are just entering society now.

Elaborate on strengths (bio chemistry).

Removing the comment about Common service.

Comments from student study councellors will be added.

Add to the letter, that the study board represents more than just the names on the letter.

The letter will be sent to the Dean and the Vice Dean.

6. Any other business (AOB)

None.