

**Minutes of meeting (2024-10) in the Study Board of
Build, Energy, Electronics and Mechanics in Esbjerg
13.11.2024**

Present:

Matthias Mandø (MMA) (Chair), Daniel Ortiz Arroya (DOA), Jesper Liniger (JEL), Jeppe Akash Bundsgaard Sørensen, Mads Pagh Nielsen (MPN), Christian Winther Dissing (CWD), Anette Larsen (ALL) (secretary)

Absent:

Ulisse Valeriani, Visnu Ritesh Vijayakumaar Palanisamy

Copy:

Charlotte Slot Lolk, Sara Lindberg Hildebrandt, 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

1. Approval of agenda
2. Semester evaluations, spring 2024
3. Evaluation of study start 2024 (if there is sufficient time)
4. General announcements
5. Current rules regarding generative AI
6. AOB

Minutes

1. Approval of agenda

Agenda approved.

2. Semester evaluations, spring 2024

Please see below page 3 onwards.

3. Evaluation of study start 2024 (if there is sufficient time)

Please also see the beem-bilag folder.

We have received two documents – one regarding the faculty and one regarding the BEEM study board. Here in Esbjerg study start is one event for all new bachelor students, so there will be no comparison across study programmes but instead a comparison with the faculty.

All in all, we are doing good regarding the study start and we do not stand out negatively anywhere.

Knowledge about Aalborg University before study start.

- Ug.dk
- Google
- AAU web page
- Family and/or friends

These are highest ranking sources of knowledge for new students. Some do not work – e.g. the AAU guide app, high school visits by AAU and ads on buses, etc.

MMA will relay this information at the next section meeting.

Age of students. It is thought-provoking (DK tankevækkende) that we have both the youngest and the oldest students.

Participation in social activities at study start. It is not necessarily problematic that you have not participated so much.

4. General announcements

Dropout rates have not changed. However, MMA knows that one student has dropped out after the overview was made.

5. Current rules regarding generative AI

We have received new rules about the use of generative AI. These rules apply to all Danish universities. It is important to note that AAU has semester projects while the other universities more have final projects/theses.

See for instance paragraph 13 in the mechanical engineering study programme: <https://stud-ieordninger.aau.dk/2024/45/5081>.

Generally, MMA will ask his groups to include in their projects how they have used generative AI.

We need an information campaign. MMA coordinates with the Study Office.

6. AOB

We have received an email regarding a speed dating event in Aalborg. Apparently, MMA will additionally coordinate an event in Esbjerg for teachers. This will take place Dec 10th.

Action points, incl. responsible people – Study board meeting 13.11.2024 (evaluation)

0. Response rate

Lack of respondents: Maybe lecturer will give 15 minutes at the first semester group meeting for the students to fill in the SurveyXact questionnaire. MMA will talk to lecturer.

1. The semester's coherence and planning

- BA2: A student asks for more concrete use cases/examples on how to use the content from the courses Linear algebra and "Grundlæggende mekanik og termodynamik".
 - Sometimes, e.g. in PBL, the students cannot see the relevance. As a rule, the general subjects form a prerequisite for other things further on in the study programme and must be viewed as general engineering tools. This can also be subjects that are taught in the bachelor study programme, which are then required in the master's programme. Action: Lecturer to try to include an example in his lectures.

3. Courses

- Mechanics.
- In time, we should have our own lecturer in Esbjerg.
 - Action: Maybe Bilal could cover some of the lectures. MMA will investigate. MPN to be cc'ed.
- Numerical methods

- Action: Long term: possible changes can be included in the next study programme revision. No date for this.
- Short term: MMA will talk to TAK and then decide if anything should be done.
- Non-linear Control and Reliability
 - There must be coordination. You cannot have an exam called oral and written. It is either or.
 - Action: MMA will talk to lecturer and TAK in Aalborg where they have the same problem. Update: has been dealt with.

5. Study programme evaluation

- Company projects on earlier semesters. There is cooperation on all semesters, however, we will keep the level of company cooperation as it is. Please note that this is different for the Bachelor of Engineering programmes as this is an integrated part of the programme.
- Action: MMA will discuss with semester coordinators; we can stress that cooperation is a good idea. However, on the lower semesters this is difficult because the subjects are very broad.
- Exam planning. We have discussed this and decided to try in one semester.
- Action: MMA to organize

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Enclosure regarding the semester evaluation spring 2024

13.11.2024

SN-BEEM

The response rate ended on 48 for the BEEM study board and 47 in total for both department study boards. Hence, there has been a slight increase in the response rate compared to the two previous spring evaluations where the response rates were 44 and 39 respectively for the BEEM study board. The response rates were very high on EN2 and EN4 especially with response rates well over 80 %. On the other hand, the rates were low on DS6, TP6, APEL2, and APEL4 were only 2 out of 16 students across these four semesters responded. Additionally, there was also room for improvement on AIE4 (28 %). Since no one responded from DS6 and TP6 there is no data for evaluating the bachelor programme in Energy. The response rates are better for AIE6, OES4, and FPS4 so fortunately there is some data to evaluate these study programmes.

Unfortunately, there were a few errors in the setup of the survey in SurveyXact, which meant that the students from civil engineering and mechanical engineering 6th semester were not sent the link to the survey. Another error meant that not all students were able to respond to the questions regarding the projects, so the data for evaluating the projects is not representative.

Comments:

- This is the first study programme evaluation with the new specialisation (IT and Cyber Systems, study programme which entered into force September 2021).
- Lack of respondents: Maybe lecturer will give 15 minutes at the first semester group meeting for the students to fill in the SurveyXact questionnaire. MMA will talk to lecturer.

To ease the study board's processing of the results from the evaluation, CWD has gone over the results and identified which critical points the study board needs to process. The study board processes the points where the students give critical as well as positive feedback. The positive feedback will be highlighted in the end where the study board will discuss the courses with highest ratings from the students.

These minutes are structured in correspondence with the sequence of the questions in the questionnaire to the students. The table under Courses indicate what and where the students give feedback to and how the feedback is reflected in both quantitative and the qualitative data as well as who the relevant teachers/coordinators are. In the column, 'Agreed upon follow-up', it is noted how the study board has decided to follow up on each point.

1. The semester's coherence and planning

Overall, the students rate the coherence and planning of the semester very well. The critical comments were revolving around the following issues.

- BA2: A student asks for more concrete use cases/examples on how to use the content from the courses Linear algebra and “Grundlæggende mekanik og termodynamik”.
- BA4: A student comments that it is redundant to have both “Kompositmaterialer” and “Materialelære” as courses. Instead, they propose a course in wood constructions. Another student from this semester praises the excursions to companies.
- AIE6 – ITCS: A student comments that they do not find the course in numerical methods relevant to the project and it required a disproportionately big workload compared to the other courses.
- Last year the students on BA4 and MA4 criticised the planning of the semester for lacking cohesion between the courses and the project but that criticism is not present in this evaluation.

Comments:

- Sometimes, e.g. in PBL, the students cannot see the relevance. As a rule, the general subjects form a prerequisite for other things further on in the study programme and must be viewed as general engineering tools. This can also be subjects that are taught in the bachelor study programme, which are then required in the master's programme. Action: lecturer to try to include an example in his lectures.
- 4th semester, Civil engineering. The composite course has been removed from the curriculum in 2024.
- Wood construction. This will be included as a project; there will be no course specifically in wood construction. This has been discussed with the department management.
- AIE6, IT and Cyber Systems. Discussion about numerical methods. MMA comments that Numerical Methods is application oriented. The other study programmes do not mention this, however, the purpose of the course can be rather invisible to a specific specialisation/study programme, because this is a large course followed by several specialisations. No action.

2. Project

As described earlier, the data for evaluating the projects is not representative because of an error in the survey but the responses from the few students who could respond, show that those are satisfied with their projects.

- No comments for this part of the survey.

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3. Courses

Course, programme, semester, and teachers	Quantitative data	Qualitative data	Agreed upon follow-up
Grundlæggende mekanik og termodynamik Esbjerg	The feedback is very positive for this course.	A student finds the phrasing of the exam questions "cryptic".	This is the last time AIE has this course. The percentage of students failing this course is rather high. No action.
Grundlæggende regulering		A student asks for a more thorough introduction to the exam and its format. This issue was also raised last year.	Action: Comments to be sent to the lecturer. CWD sends everything to lecturers, unless the comments are offensive and non-constructive. No action on the part of the study board.
Mekanik	6 out of 12 students rate the quality of the teaching as 'poor' or 'very poor'.	The students find the teacher very good but there have been technical issues with the online teaching.	In time, we should have our own lecturer in Esbjerg. Action: Maybe Bilal could cover some of the lectures. MMA will investigate. MPN to be cc'ed.
Real-Time Systems and Graphical Programming Languages	The Energy students are less satisfied with the course's content and teaching than the AIE students which also happened last year.	The students find the planning of the course quite messy and compressed. They ask for a better introduction to the goals of the course and the exam.	There is a lot of material. Energy students are not overly keen, the AIE students are more enthusiastic. Action: Lecturer will include comments/proposals next time. No action on the part of the study board.
Numeriske metoder	The students rate the quality of the teaching highly.	The students point out several issues with the course: - The scope of the course is too big with	This is a general engineering course, and AIE students need this for a course in AIAS. The finite elements of the course may not be overly relevant for electronic engineers. Discussion about the workload. Student member of study board finds that the workload is heavy.

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		<p>the number of lectures and exam questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The course is very focused on mechanics which can be difficult to follow for electronics students. It is suggested to remove the mechanics focused parts from the course. - A student suggests replacing it with a course in Kalman filters, stochastic systems and reinforcement learning. 	<p>There are complaints about this from students in both Esbjerg and Aalborg.</p> <p>Action: Long term: possible changes can be included in the next study programme revision. No date for this. Short term: MMA will talk to TAK and then decide if anything should be done.</p>
Non-linear Control and Reliability		<p>A student notes that it should be treated as two different courses and the exam was poorly planned.</p>	<p>There must be coordination. You cannot have an exam called oral and written. It is either or. Action: MMA will talk to lecturer and TAK in Aalborg where they have the same problem.</p>

Other comments:

- Online teaching does not work. MPN is in a dialogue with M&P, we believe some of the lectures should be held physically in Esbjerg.

4. Harassment and abusive behaviour

None of our students in Esbjerg have experienced harassment and/or abusive behaviour.

- No comments, but this is very positive.

5. Study programme evaluation

As described earlier, there is unfortunately no data to evaluate the bachelor programme in Energy and only limited data for APEL. On the other hand, we have data to evaluate the two new specialisations on AIE for the first time as well as the master's programme in Sustainable Energy Engineering. This data shows that the students evaluate their programmes very favourably across the seven different evaluation questions. The students had the following suggestions to improve the study programmes:

- AIE – IE: Signal processing should be reinstated in the curriculum. The same student also suggests a graduation for AIE since many of the graduates leave the university after finishing this programme.
- AIE – ITCS: A student finds the courses in thermodynamics, mechanics and numerical methods irrelevant to the programme. Instead, they suggest that there is only one course in mechanics which includes particle and rigid body mechanics and excludes statics. They also suggest replacing the course in thermodynamics with a course in signal processing and numerical methods with statistics and probability or discrete math. Finally, they suggest replacing energy and biological physics with electro physics.
- PECT: A student wants to limit the amount of online teaching and to involve companies earlier in study programme. The same student also points out that it would be positive if the exams could be spread out a little more. For example, they mention that they had three exams in 10 days in one semester.

Comments:

- AIE. Signal processing. There is a proposal to reinstate this in the curriculum. We will keep this in mind.
- AIE. Proposal to have graduation ceremony. Action: MMA will investigate how this can be done as there should not be a ceremony for the students that continue on a Master's programme.
- IT and Cyber Systems comments. We have removed Introduction to Mechanics and Thermodynamics and Mechanics from the AIE study programme. So only Numerical Methods remains. And we also have a new course Multi-body Dynamics. MMA has made a note of this. No further action.
- Company projects on earlier semesters. There is cooperation on all semesters, however, we will keep the level of company cooperation as it is. Please note that this is different for the Bachelor of Engineering programmes as this is an integrated part of the programme. Action: MMA will discuss with semester coordinators; we can stress that cooperation is a good idea. However, on the lower semesters this is difficult because the subjects are very broad.
- Exam planning. We have discussed this and decided to try in one semester. Action: MMA to organize