

Minutes from the meeting in the Biotechnology Dialogue Forum on the 26th of February 2024.

Present: Emilie Hjorth Ceylan, Samuel McEwen Walsh, Ariadna Perez Montero, Kasper Nicolaisen, Emma Brage Jensen, Caue Semin Roehe, Justyna Anna Kowalczyk, Aleksandra Wiktoria Rzewuska, Emils Viksna, and Tomas Bech Madsen.

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Emilie welcomed all the meeting after which there was a round of presentations. The agenda was approved.

2. Presentation of our new head of study Emilie Hjorth Ceylan

Emilie presented herself.

3. Announcements and orientation from the head of study and teachers

Emilie mentioned that the Dialogue Forum meetings are hard to fit in because of the schedule of the classes. From next semester, hopefully one afternoon per week will be class-free, so the meetings will be placed there.

Sam informed about the plans about hiring a new Math teacher plus another new teacher, which will be good. The teaching staff is very dedicated but also very busy. Emilie added that we will have another lab technician (an intern student), too, from the autumn.

Sam mentioned that many 4th semester students didn't attend the oral exams, and that is not good. We will try to see how we can avoid it in the future.

4. Announcements and orientation from the students (2nd, 4th and 6th semesters)

The 2nd semester students asked when they will get the results from the Project 1 exam. Sam answered that there has been a plagiarism issue with some students, which has ended with warnings for some students.

There was a discussion about the topic. It was mentioned that it has been more difficult to find the relevant information this year, and that it apparently went too fast for some students. In general, though, students see Absalon's policies about plagiarism as clear enough.

It was mentioned that it would be good if it was clearer to see which students write which part of group reports. Emilie stressed that it is always important to self-check the report before handing it in. There was general agreement about that we all have to work on a strong anti-plagiarism culture.

Sam mentioned that the current 4th semester has an attendance issue. The 2nd semester students started better, but they are now falling into the same pattern with too many no shows and re-exams.

The re-exams are very unpractical. Some students have re-exams in the middle of mandatory lab. There was a discussion about the reasons for students not showing up. Sam said that it is much easier for everyone if all students come and pass the exams in the first attempt. There was general agreement about this.

It was mentioned that Statistics is without any mandatory elements, and maybe that could be changed to make sure that more students participate.

Emilie informed that she is working on a new procedure about re-exams. The students mentioned that the earlier they know the exam dates, the better. Emilie promised to look into that.

The students from the 2nd semester mentioned that there had been some confusion about a class switch, where the smaller class got the larger room. It should be easier here in the spring semester where there are only the 2nd and 4th semester on campus.

It was mentioned that some international students have come in too low requirements, for instance regarding their English language skills. Emilie said that a motivational video from applicants will be part of the application process from early 2025.

Emilie will follow up on the students' wish to have more/early info about elective courses.

There was a question about whether there will be a job fair in the spring. Emilie will find out about that.

The last point of discussion was about the need to secure more, better and cheaper housing for students. That is the wish of everyone involved, and Absalon is doing what it can to spread the message in many relevant places. It was suggested that more maybe could be done to help match new students who could be interested in living together with other students.

5. Any other business

There was no further points to discuss.