

Minutes from the meeting in the Biotechnology Dialogue Forum 9th April 2024.

Participants: Emilie Hjorth Ceylan, Simon Craige, Samuel McEwen Walsh, Ariadna Perez Montero, Casper Blak Walther, Kasper Nicolaisen, Emma Brage Jensen, Caue Semin Roehe, Justyna Anna Kowalczyk, Aleksandra Wiktorja Rzewuska, Emils Viksna, Balthazar Peter Hvolris, Thomas Sødning Gundersen Trebbien, Conni Simonsen and Tomas Bech Madsen.

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Emilie welcomed the many students. There were no changes to the agenda.

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

Emilie informed about the ongoing effort to find new teachers for the vacant positions. We have received 19 applications – which is a high number - and interviews will take place in the second half of April.

The list of electives will be sent out end of April. We will inform as quick as possible. Sam mentioned that the August electives will be in the last two-three weeks of August.

Sam informed about the group work, which is not going too well in the second semester. Attendance level still too low in the international class. It is important to participate, not least in the hard subjects.

Simon mentioned that Project 3 is quite pressed because of so many groups. Student assistants are helping. Equipment is breaking more down because of lack of maintenance. Again there is an attendance problem in the 4th semester international class.

Emilie informed about the coming study program changes (which are also going to the Education Committee):

Changes in the study program of the Bachelor of Engineering in Biotechnology.

1. Exams in general

To optimize the use of time and resources in connection with the organization of re-examinations, there is a wish that a written ordinary exam can be changed to an oral re-examination. This is desired, as many resources are spent on preparing a new written exam paper for re-examinations with very few registered students.

General changes (changes that don't require a formal change in the study program)

1. Exam in the subject General and Organic Chemistry

This exam is currently divided into a written and an oral exam. There is a desire to change this to a purely oral exam. The new exam form is desired to reduce the increasing problem of plagiarism and cheating and to optimize the teachers' time.

2. "Clean-up" early in the study program

The teachers want a course to be selected in the first semester to be used for "cleaning up" among the students. This course is placed so that all lessons are completed before week 42 (fall break), so that the first exam attempt can be scheduled in mid-October. By doing this, we will be able to have all three exam attempts earlier in the program, so that we can withdraw any students who appear as enrolled but who have never shown up at the program.

3. Mandatory attendance

There are problems with attendance in several of the theoretical courses. Therefore, there is a desire to introduce mandatory attendance in these courses.

4. "Stop courses"

By introducing "stop courses", we would like to emphasize the importance of attendance. This could be done, for example, by requiring that the courses "Equivalent of Math 1" and "Mass Balances" (s1) must be passed before you can start the course "Chemical Engineering" (s3).

There was a general agreement about these measures in the Dialogue Forum.

Emilie mentioned that it is difficult for the teachers to plan the classes when they don't know how many are showing up. Hence the need for possible regulations.

From the students' side it was mentioned that it is also important to have the possibility of self study, especially later in the study program. But it is OK to implant the right habits early.

Emilie agreed on this and mentioned that we will be a bit strict in the beginning, but then we will evaluate later.

Simon added that some students choose to work instead of coming to class, not because of a lack of interest, but because they need the income. That said, he added that the changes are in the students' interest.

There were questions about the 4th semester tests and when they have to be passed, as they are required to start the internship. Emilie answered that this will be taken into account. We will for sure check up on it.

There were a few more questions, and the students expressed a wish to receive the exam schedule as early as possible.

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

4th Semester: Justyna mentioned that the work with the exchange students is a bit hard for our students. Could there be more guidance to them beforehand? There was a short discussion about this, which is mainly a problem for those exchange students who come in the 4th semester.

It was mentioned that IDA will make sessions about group work.

The students asked about who will run Mathematical Modelling. Sam answered that he will take it together with Simon.

The schedule is confusing for many students. Emilie agreed and mentioned that she is working on it, so that it will be better from next semester.

Emilie mentioned that we are looking into splitting too big groups into smaller where possible. More info will come soon.

It was mentioned that the temperatures are too low in the building.

4. Any other business

There was no other business. Emilie thanked all for a good meeting.