

## Minutes from the Biotechnology Dialogue Forum meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

*Participants: Christian Møller Pedersen, Samuel McEwen Walsh, Janne Holm Anov, Casper Blak Walther, Carlota Cano Perez, Wafaa Ali El-Ghoul, 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.*

*Absent: Simon Craige, Ariadna Perez Montero and Lukas Leth.*

### 1. Considerable change of staff - including programme manager

- a. *Influence on teaching*
- b. *Influence of implementation of the new course structure*
- c. *Student input?*

Christian explained that all the personnel changes are because the people have gotten new jobs, and many have been here for a long time, so there is nothing systematic it. Sam added that until now the staff have been really stable, so it is natural thing that some start looking for other jobs after some years. Conni mentioned that all open positions will be filled.

Course and exam material will be transferred to the new teachers.

Christian mentioned that the implementation of new changes to the curriculum will be delayed or - in some instances - dropped.

Janne takes over from Christian as acting head of study until the new head of study is in place.

### 2. Exams

- a. *Increased surveillance and written exams*
- b. *Changes in Biochemistry exam format made permanent + format of 2<sup>nd</sup> retake*
- c. *Skipping an ordinary exam is a bad idea*
- d. *Strategy for preparing for an exam?*

Christian said that we are trying to prevent exam cheating, which is a problem that is being taken seriously. It could be through surveillance software.

The students mentioned that there have to be two exam guards (proctors) in the exam room. They asked about whether there could be a problem with the software installation or if there could be a GDPR issue? Examples were given from other institutions.

(After the meeting, Lukas has sent this comment: 'I think you should be very careful with this, not just because of GDPR but also security concerns should be discussed. We have already seen this with "Den digitale prøvevagt" for high school students, which had both security problems and that the system could still be bypassed to not be effective during the exam (this was a program developed for 5 million dkk, and it was bypassed by a high school student <https://www.version2.dk/artikel/gymnasielev-piller-den-digitale-proevevagt-fra-hinanden-finder-90er-kryptering>). Just to say there are probably better options to try

before this one, like actually having the exam guards walk around and check if people are cheating instead of just sitting in the front of the classroom'.)

Christian mentioned that some international students skip an ordinary exam to have a longer Christmas holiday, but it is a bad strategy which can cause too much study pressure later.

About exam preparation Sam encouraged students to practice together with a friend and a board for oral exams, and to use a study group for written exams.

There was a short talk about how to deal with exam anxiety. It was mentioned that it is very normal to be nervous, and that even if one doesn't pass an exam one can learn from the experience.

### **3. Graduation 26 January 13.30-15.30**

- a. *Official rules*
- b. *Ceremony*
- c. *Party*

Wafaa asked what can be covered by Absalon funds, for instance regarding food and drinks. Conni gave an orientation about the rules, as they are.

Christian said that there are no written diplomas, unfortunately (the same goes for many other institutions nowadays).

The plan for the day with ceremony and party was explained.

### **4. Expansion of network of potential internship hosts**

Christian and Conni informed about their visit to Lundbeck earlier in the day. Lundbeck are very interested in internships, bachelor projects and company visits.

It was also mentioned that doors are being opened to Algicel and to Iceland Technological Institute.

### **5. Sports activities on campus**

Christian informed about the activities run by Lipsi and Nicolai. He said that their ideas are very good. However, there is not so high attendance, even though it could be good for many. It could be because of a lack of time (and money) for many. Christian recommended taking part in the activities through which one can also expand one's network.

### **6. News from the classes**

Casper suggested that there should be three dialogue forum meetings per semester? This was approved. Some meetings might be more focused on specific topics than others, and

the student members are encouraged to send written input for the agenda before the meetings.

It was mentioned that scheduling is an ongoing problem. Sam said that the autumn semester was particularly hard, but that it should be better in the next semester.

The students mentioned that they would like to stay in the same classroom all day, if it is possible.

There was a wish for extension cords in the classroom. Conni will pass it on to Facility Service.

Tables positioned in groups or in rows: There are different opinions about this.

Mathematics 1: Christian explained why the oral exams give some advantages, since they give the teacher and censor a chance to put emphasis on understanding and not just on being good at doing an exam.

The English, Mathematics and Chemistry level of new students: There are big differences between the students. But maybe there is a more serious problem with the ambition level and attitude of some students. Christian said that the education is looking into it to see what we can do. It could be an online screening of or interview with the applicants.

Mathematics 2: There have been some complaints. Christian has followed up, and so have the teachers. Casper added that too many students are not coming.

Chemical Engineering and Statistics: Attendance has not been high.

The students mentioned that some topics are quite hard and can be difficult to understand. It is good when there are videos, too, connected to the teaching.

Chemical Unit Operations: It is very good with the many external lecturers, but the consequence is sometimes long days.

It was mentioned that there is a lack of coat hangers.

(After the meeting, Lukas has sent this comment: 'I think it would be nice to have coat hangers in the group rooms as well, since they are very used by the students and jackets have to be thrown on a chair or the corner which takes away space in the group room when studying there'.)

## **7. Education Committee**

Wafaa and Philip are both graduating in January. (Congratulations 😊)

This means that both seats in the Biotechnology Education Committee will be vacant. Tomas will write an e-mail to all students in early February announcing the vacancies – and then we will see how many candidates there are and if an election will be necessary.

## 8. Other topics

There was nothing to this point 😊