

Minutes from the meeting in the Dialogue Forum for the Bachelor of Engineering in Biotechnology in Kalundborg 5 May 2022.

Participants: Christian Møller Pedersen, Simon Craige, Samuel McEwen Walsh, Silvana Lazzeri Reyes, Jonathan Peder Svendsen, Carlota Cano, Barbara Cadima Gomes, Alexander Kragesand, Ariadna Perez Montero, Casper Blak Walther, Jeff Malmbirk Gislinge, Conni Simonsen, Kirsten Hauge and Tomas Bech Madsen.

1. Welcome. Presentation and approval of the agenda.

Christian welcomed all after which there was a round of presentations.

2. Announcements and briefing

- News from the head of education and the teachers
- News from the students / classes

Christian informed about the Annual Status for the Centre for Engineering and Science. It is an important target for us to reduce the number of dropouts, and we would like to use the Dialogue Forum in this process.

In the following discussion it was mentioned that in order to reduce the number of dropouts it is important that students in 'danger' can get hold of the right people/counsellors and the right guidance at the right time. Some students have learning difficulties, but not enough of them come to the student counsellor.

It was mentioned that it is important to stress that students should always read the e-mails from Absalon in Outlook, and not only check Itslearning.

The more thorough study counsellor intro for the new students should not happen in the very first days, but in November. It was mentioned that Tina Elley is retiring soon.

Also, it was suggested to highlight the need for hard work during the education before people apply so that the expectations are correct. Many new students are surprised about the chemistry requirements, and they have a too low level. And many don't read the curriculum. Many look forward for biology and underestimate other courses.

It is important that the students know what is expected from them, like in Mathematics. And in general they are not prepared well enough for chemistry. Regular feedback is necessary throughout the first semester.

It was mentioned that the brush up course in Chemistry was too easy compared to the requirements in the bachelor programme. The level has to be lifted.

The Danish and international students come with different experiences from the education background. Some international students have computer/programme/software problems.

It was also mentioned that it is important to have a good tutor, so the tutors have to be well prepared before the study start.

There will be an early introduction to programmes (Excel, Python) that are required by the industry.

Other topics:

Kalundborg as a study town is of course still a challenge. The Student Council has done a lot with help from Martina.

In the dormitory the resident students would like to be involved more. There are some problems, for instance the bad internet connection and the lack of house rules. More information about rooms, financial housing support a.s.o. should be on the website.

The students mentioned the need for extension cords in the study area outside the labs.

Information about the evaluation could be a bit more structured.

In Project 3 the students find that some supervisors are more active than others. This has been taken up with the course responsible. The students have not had access to all materials needed for the course.

The labs could be better organized, for instance labels are missing. Christian informed that there will be a lab intern from August. The students are introduced to Kemibrug. But reality is not always corresponding, and there has been some logon problems.

The students mentioned that it is important with better cleaning in the labs and a better system about the lab waste. Christian suggested that there could be a practical test in the labs early in each semester? The students were positive about that idea.

It was suggested to consider running theory and lab at the same time in Analytical Chemistry.

A safety incident where a student got a cut in the hand raises questions. It is important to be proactive about this. We will look into a laboratory first aid course.

In Mathematical modelling the students find the questions in the exercises strange and not well organized. Christian said that it is important always to take it up with the teacher first and that it is a good idea to use study café. 2nd semester Danish students have had other classes at the same time as the study café.

There are problems Analytical Chemistry procedures for cleaning up and with the teacher's pet system, which the students find quite unflexible.

3. Discussion:

- How can we make the best possible study start for the new students in September 2022? Which elements should be repeated (or avoided) from your own study start in 2019, '20 or '21?

Most of this topic was discussed under point 2, but further input can be sent to Christian.

Ariadna mentioned from her own study start that pizza night was good and you met students from the other studies.

There were questions about how much contact there is between students across the studies.

4. Agreements on action until the next meeting

Christian follows up on the following items from agenda point 2:

- Confer with chemistry teachers so that the brush-up level is adapted to the general curriculum
- The study start program will be revised so that
 - New students meet the study counselor more than once
- The Absalon website (especially the international one) will be updated with relevant information about housing, SU and formalities regarding studying in Denmark
- Make sure that individual feedback is given on all home assignments
- Provide extension cords for the study area
- Teachers will get a First Aid course in the near future
- Discuss with chemistry teachers new ways of making sure the lab is cleaned up after use
- Revise the apparent gap in difficulty between lectures and home assignments in Mathematical Modeling

5. Any other business?

There was nothing under this point.