



**Minutes from the meeting in
Programme Committee for Global Health
Monday 24 January 2022 at 14.30 – 16.00 p.m.**

Attendees: Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy (head); Thorkild Tylleskär; Bente Moen (Head of CIH); Tehmina Mustafa; Ingunn Marie S. Engebretsen, Cecilie Gjerde Gjengedal (IKO); Ana Lorena Ruano

Secretary: Linda Karin Forshaw

I Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

II Minutes from the Programme Committee meeting on 29 November 2021

The minutes were approved.

III Matters arising from the minutes

Re. Subject 43/21 - SHOT - Students' health and well-being survey

Since COVID restrictions are reinstated, we should find ways to make the life better for students. As a first initiate Ingvild suggests inviting the students to lunch in connection with first research seminar Wednesday 2 February, lunch from 12.00 – 13.00.

Subject 1/22 Matters of information

Universal design of courses

UiB has a statutory duty to ensure that learning resources and information for students are designed in such a way that the content is accessible to all, regardless of functional ability and needs. The obligation includes websites, learning platforms, digital learning resources, digital exams, and other digital learning tools. UiB Learning lab has created a resource page on Mitt UiB where employees can learn more about this and be guided in how to make learning resources universally designed. When we make new learning resources we need to keep this in mind. We also need to look for a call for applications that could provide resources to hire someone to put subtitles on video lectures we have created already.

- <https://www.universell.no/fagomraader/universell-utforming/universell-utforming-av-laeringsmiljoe/nye-krav-til-universell-utforming-av-ikt/>
- <https://www.universell.no/teamsogzoom/>

New course on health anthropology

The course is approved by the Faculty as a PhD course; however, it will also be offered to Master and Medical students. The course coordinators have decided to postpone the startup of the course until spring 2023. The course description will be presented to the Committee in the autumn.

Research seminars

Due to the great number of students, the time for the seminars is extended with an hour + a 15-minute break (13.00 – 15.15). The schedule is updated. Many of the students lack presentations skills on how to disseminate. All supervisors should practice with their students before they have their presentations. We will continue with peer reviews. Ingvild has made a feedback form for the students. The aim is that the students become better at presenting to a general academic audience without extra expertise in the special research field the students are working in.

Revision on CIH's webpages

Ingvild has gone through the webpages regarding education. A lot of the information seemed to give the wrong/false impression, i.e., students need to know that the Master Programme does not automatically give a position in the PhD programme at the Faculty of Medicine. The Committee members should check these webpages (<https://www.uib.no/en/cih#>) and give feedback if they think any revision should be made to make sure the information is clear and relevant.

Collaboration on Master Thesis in Global Health

Reply from the Faculty on inquiry regarding collaboration on Master Thesis in Global health when the students do a systematic literature review. The Faculty has approved but requests more specification on the length of a joint thesis. The head will revise the Thesis guidelines accordingly.

Teaching and assessment at the Faculty of Medicine spring semester 2022

Information from the Faculty how to carry out teaching and assessment spring semester 2022. In short, we are asked to have digital classes and exams in January/February. In March everything should go as planned. Regarding the course "Observational Epidemiology" (INTH356) the Committee recommends that exam is digital, if possible, to avoid having to make several exam papers because students are in quarantine. If students need to re-sit for the exam, it should be in the same mode.

Establishment of student committee for global health

A meeting was held on 19 January with the student representatives to discuss whether to establish a student committee. The students will report back what they have decided. There were no student representatives present, the subject is therefore postponed until the next meeting.

Subject 2/22 Mode of instruction - Qualitative Research Methods for Global Public Health

The on-campus course has been run with three course codes INTH323E and INTH323BL (master level 5 ECTS) and INTH923 (PhD level 6 ECTS). The

difference between the two is that the PhD level course has more readings and an essay to be submitted after the course. The last time the on-campus course was run was in 2019. An online course, INTH323O, was developed as part of an Erasmus project. The first time it was run was in 2018. The idea was that the online course would alternate with the on-campus course, but because of the corona situation it was run online also in 2021. It is scheduled to run online this year. There is no PhD version of the online course. This is because there is a very good PhD course on qualitative research at Copenhagen University (in collaboration with CIH) which is offered to PhD students through NRS GH. We have very good experiences with the online course in qualitative methods. It reached out to more students in the Trop-ed network as well as to students in partner institutions. With improved online technology we were able to follow the students up much better last year and the results were very good.

The Committee discussed the matter and agreed to discontinue the on-campus version of the course (INTH323E) but will ask the course coordinator if there should be an online PhD version in addition.

Decision: Based on the course coordinator's deliberation the Committee decided to discontinue the on-campus versions of the course Qualitative Research Methods for Global Public Health (INTH323E and INTH323BL).

Subject 3/22 tropEd re-accreditation of course INTH325A

The courses "Culture and Psychopathology – Mental Illness in a cross-cultural perspective" (INTH325A) has to be re-accredited at tropEd's next General Assembly Meeting in February. The course coordinator David Lackland Sam has revised the course description, and the mode of instruction will permanently change to online.

The course description was not distributed to the members before the meeting. It was shared during the online meeting, but the members wish to read it more thoroughly. One thing they noticed is that the course coordinator wrote that the mode of delivery would either be hybrid (online course with physical presence of students) or entirely online course (depending on prevailing covid-19 protocol at the University). Bente, who is one of CIH's current tropEd representative, informed the Committee that according to tropEd's guidelines there will have to be two course descriptions: one for the hybrid version and one for the online version.

Decision: When the course descriptions are ready, they will be circulated to the members for final approval before the deadline for submitting to tropEd 31 January.

Subject 4/22 Systematic literature review

Some of the students have selected topics that involve a systematic literature review. CIH does not offer a course on this methodology. There is a short introduction in INTH315, but it is not sufficient. There are external courses aimed at PhD candidates, but Master students are not given priority.

The Committee discussed the issue without concluding.

Ingvild informed the Committee that there had been a survey among supervisors to map the interest for a course on systematic review. Only two supervisors expressed their interest, which is too few to arrange a course. Ingunn - it would take a lot of time and resources to obtain competence in this field. Academic staff at CIH do not feel comfortable teaching this topic. We should link it up to our department (IGS) and/or other departments at the Faculty. Many Master Programmes will benefit from this. Other departments might have staff who are more familiar with this research method. Thorkild – there has been some development - Simon Levin (?) has been employed at NTNU/Ålesund and Clair Glenton at HVL, both are experts on systematic reviews, perhaps it would be worth talking to them about giving a course to our students. Ingvild –asked them for 2022, but they did not have capacity, but might be interested later. She has also contacted Rigmor Berg at NIPH. She leads a team that can offer courses. The hourly payment implies that a full week course would cost approximately 100 000 NOK. Thorkild - is there funding for such an initiative? Bente – difficult to decide anything before the budget is ready. Ingunn – when she did the Protocol Development course with Tehmina there was a large group of students who were interested. We could ask staff at CIH/IGS if they could contribute (join forces) to a one-day seminar on the topic . Thorkild – this will take time to organize, we should involve the other Programme Committees at the Faculty in the discussion. Charite in Berlin has an online course on systematic reviews. There is a MOOC on this at John Hopkins University, which is online and free if one does not want a grade and the students have been informed about this possibility. Ingvild – all staff have a heavy workload so it is difficult to find persons to do this.

Decision: There was not enough time to discuss thoroughly, the Committee will continue the discussion later.

Subject 5/22 Master Theses descriptions (INTH395A)

The course description for the 60 ECTS Master Thesis has undergone minor revisions. It will be registered in EpN.

Decision: The course description was not forwarded to the Committee before the meeting. It will be circulated to the members for final approval.

Subject 6/22 Guidelines and assessment criteria for 60 ECTS thesis

Some revisions are proposed to the guidelines for the master thesis. In addition, the previous examiner proposed that we introduce clear assessment criteria for the master theses. She shared such assessment criteria developed at the University of Lund.

Decision: The documents had not been shared with the Committee before the meeting, so the subject is postponed until next meeting.

Subject 7/22 Supervisor´s and student´s confidential statements

This is a follow-up of subject 42/21. Ingvild has drafted two forms for confidential statements, one for supervisors and another for students. These forms should be submitted at the time of the student´s thesis submission. The content is confidential, and it should only be shared with the examiners, the secretary, and head of the Programme Committee.

The Committee had some comments, which the head will incorporate in the statements.

Decision: After revision the statements will be circulated to the members for final approval.

Subject 8/22 Evaluation of INTH315

Decision: Postponed until next meeting.

Subject 9/22 Social events for the students

This semester most of the elective courses will be online (again). Many of our students are in Bergen. Can we organize any social events for them?

This subject was discussed under *Matters arising from the minutes*.

Subject 10/22 Report from the student representatives

No student representatives were present.

Subject 11/22 Any other business

None