



**Minutes from the meeting in
Programme Committee for Global Health
Monday 5 February 2024 at 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.**

Attendees: Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy (head), Cecilie Gjerde Gjengedal (IKO), Sven Gudmund Hinderaker, Karen Marie Moland, Ana Lorena Ruano, Thorkild Tylleskär; Simon N. Øverland (Head of CIH). Student representatives: Justin Pruitt (2nd year); Isabella Clara Angiolina Dioli, Anna Teresa Spang (1st year)

Programme auditor: Anna Karin Hurtig

Secretary: Linda Karin Forshaw

Guest: Eskindir Loha Shumbullo (INTH315)

I Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

II Minutes from the Programme Committee meeting on 27 November 2023

The minutes were approved.

III Matters arising from the minutes

None

I Approval of the Agenda

Subject 1/24 Matters of information

Any other business

Raised by Simon N. Øverland (moved to beginning of meeting because he had to leave early). He gave an update regarding the decision from CIH's Strategy meeting in December to revise the Master Programme. The decision has been followed up by creating a working group, members so far are Simon, Ingvild Fossgard Sandøy, Juan Pablo López Cervantes, Marte Sandvik Haaland. There will be a representative from the administration, probably Linda and/or Kirsti. The students were asked to suggest representatives. There will be a call for the first meeting as soon as the members are selected.

Annual self-assessment of master programme for 2023

The quality of education at UiB is reviewed annually in the form of self-assessments. The self-assessments (maximum 1-2 pages) are the basis for the annual dialogue meetings between the faculty and the departments, which result in University of Bergen's overall study quality report. The deadline for the written self-assessment is Friday 15 March 2024. Ingvild will prepare a draft and circulate to the committee before the deadline.

“Study Barometer” results 2023

The results were discussed. The study barometer for 2023 was filled in by 13 students (54% of those invited). The scores indicated that the students were more satisfied with all the main aspects they were asked to rate than the students who participated in 2021 and 2022, and the scores were at the same level as (or slightly higher than) the scores in the student barometers before the pandemic.

The respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with the supervision they receive. There was a clear improvement in the proportion that perceived the assessments to be based on clear criteria, which is a sign that students have found the new (and more detailed) guidelines for examiners for the thesis and essays to be helpful. They rated the relationship between students and staff as very good (the average score was substantially better than the national and institutional averages). They were more positive about the social student environment than last year’s respondents, but still gave a score below the institutional and national averages.

The only aspect where the programme scored substantially worse than the national and institutional average was on relevance to the labour market. A surprising finding is that the average reported time spent on participating in organized learning activities per week was substantially lower in 2023 than in 2022 (20.5 hours per week in 2023 compared to 29 hours in 2022) and the time reported spent on paid work also declined (from 10.2 hours to 8.7 hours per week). Since teachers have not observed a substantial decline in student performance, it is likely that the difference is due to the respondents in this or last year’s survey (or both) not being representative of the whole student group.

We should make an effort to have a higher proportion of the students participate in the next “Study barometer” survey to get a more representative sample. The student representatives are asked to inform the secretary and the head when they get the invitation to the survey so we can help promote participation.

Programme Committee seminar

The Faculty will organize a seminar for the Programme Committees 6 March from 11.15 to 15.30. You will soon receive an invitation.

Subject 2/24 Evaluation of the autumn courses SDG303 and INTH315

The coordinators of the SDG303 and INTH315 and the student representatives shared their experiences from the course runs last semester and suggestions for changes for the next runs in 2024.

SDG303 – Thorkild – brief summary. Nothing in particular to report except that the duration of the course was reduced to 8 weeks to give more time for the INTH315. As a result some of the topics were covered too superficially (e.g. culture and health) and the timetable should be reviewed before the next run to plan this better. The health system game was popular. The master students were happy with the course and the primary complaint was that it

was difficult to do group work with the medical students (who take the same classes as part of the course GLOBALHEALTH) because their attendance was irregular.

INTH315 – Eskindir - brief summary, went well. Seven students filled in the evaluation form. They were overall happy. The students appeared to appreciate the new assessment elements. The oral exam was positively evaluated by students and teachers, but one student asked for clearer evaluation criteria. The four quizzes motivated them to read and gave them an idea about what they needed to study further before the exam. After attempts at cheating were reported after the first quizzes, the Safe Exam Browser of Inspira was used for the epidemiology quiz, but technical problems during the quiz caused stress for the students. The last (statistics) quiz was thus implemented without the Safe Exam Browser but with more intense supervision to avoid cheating. Since each of the quizzes appeared as separate elements in the portfolio assessment (counting 5% each), students had to pass each of them to pass the course. As a result two students were in danger of failing because they failed one of the quizzes. The two were given an opportunity to resit the quiz before the final exam. The student representatives complained that this was unfair because others would also appreciate an opportunity to improve their performance. Before the next run, the four quizzes will be defined as one component of the portfolio to avoid that failing such a small element leads to students failing the whole course. Eskindir recommended introduction of statistical software to make theory easier to understand and more applicable.

Subject 3/24 Revision of INTH302

The assessment form for Epidemiology INTH302 has been a home exam in recent years. In 2022 the exam papers of many of the students were very similar, indicating that they had collaborated closely. The course coordinator (Ingvild) would like to return to a school exam to make it more similar to the INTH315 exam.

Decision: The revised course description with a change of assessment form was approved.

Subject 4/24 Digital competence courses – make them compulsory?

UiB has created two courses (DIGI100 and DIGI101) in basic digital competencies that are recommended for all students. DIGI100 “Digital student - Online course in digital tools, methods and technology to enhance learning” is offered in English whereas DIGI101 “Digital kjeldekritikk” (=critical use of digital references) will be translated and offered in English from February. Several other programmes have made these courses compulsory for their students. We discussed whether we should make them compulsory for our master students, by for example including them as part of SDG303 or INTH315.

Decision: DIGI100 will be a compulsory activity in SDG303 and DIGI101 a compulsory activity in INTH315.

Subject 5/24 Decolonising perspectives and a review of courses

During the CIH strategy meeting in December 2023 we heard that some students have shared feedback which indicates that we should review the descriptions and content of our courses to ensure that they do not contain wording or aspects that could potentially be interpreted as reinforcing power differences and social inequities between different countries, regions and groups. The committee discussed how to do this. As a first step we will ask an external person to review all our course descriptions.

Suggestion from student representative: include this concept at the beginning of the programme so students are aware if this comes up during the courses.

Decision: An external expert (Carmeliza Soares Da Costa Rosairo) should be asked to review all our course descriptions to comment on the profile of our programme and courses, learning outcomes and wording in light of recent debates calling for “decolonising global health” and educational programmes in global health.

Subject 6/24 Date for Master graduation ceremony

Decision: Friday 14 June

Subject 7/24 Report from the student representatives

The lecture on how to have a good presentation wasn't taught last year, Sven Gudmund Hinderaker will invite to a lecture on this soon.

Subject 8/24 Any other business

Note the subject moved to the beginning of the meeting.

1. Course coordinators for INTH323O and INTH323E are now Marte Haaland and Andrea Melberg, they will replace Karen Marie. They should be invited as members of the Programme Committee.
2. Next meeting 18 March will be postponed until 8 April.