

## **Education Committee Meeting Minutes, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (14.00-16.15)**

Microsoft Teams

**Members present:** Quentin Bourgeois (Chair), Marjet de Ruyter (Secretary), Mike Field, Ian Simpson, Oda Nuij, Lizzie Hicks, Mariëlle Portier, Zoë van Litsenburg

### **1. Opening**

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### **2. Announcements**

The chairperson thanks the student representatives for the feedback they collected from the online teaching discussion with Joanna Mol.

Update on education next year:

- The majority of teaching in Block 1 will be remote
- Block 2, hopefully an increase in Faculty-based teaching, teaching will be split between the Faculty and online
- In Block 3 and 4, the majority of teaching will, pandemic depending, take place in person

The faculty has now hired someone to support teachers in making the transition to remote, online teaching.

The OER has not been received by the education committee and therefore cannot be discussed at the moment.

Our intention for this meeting is to discuss the:

- Applied Archaeology MA
- Programme 20/21
- Quality agreements

### **3. Minutes previous meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting will be abbreviated, cutting down on the back and forth conversation had during the meeting, and focusing primarily on the topics and outcomes of the discussion.

Minutes from the previous meeting to be published online.

### **4. OER**

The OER had not been received by the Education Committee, so could not be discussed within the meeting.

### **5. Master Applied archaeology**

The chairperson began by introducing the changes surrounding the Applied Archaeology (abbreviated to AA) master's specialization that are currently up for debate.

Ongoing discussions are being held between representatives from Leiden University and Saxion Hogeschool with the aim of developing a joint master's degree programme.

Richard Jansen was invited to join the meeting to discuss the memo that was written by himself and Femke Tomas to the Education Committee.

The steering committee and the project groups tasked with the development of the joint AA masters have come up with a mission statement for the project. On the whole, there has been a broad consensus between the representatives from Leiden and Saxion.

Important decisions have been made, such as the AA masters being an academic, rather than a professional qualification.

At the moment, the AA is a specialism and the degree is conferred by Leiden University.

A timeline of between 3-5 years has been given before the masters will become a joint masters between Leiden and Saxion, which ultimately Leiden will have control over.

The Education Committee were invited to address questions about the memo to Jansen.

Bourgeois: What is the main reason for the joint track?

Jansen: Primarily to boost the visibility and reputation of Saxion by associating itself with Leiden. Cooperation between Saxion and other institutions have been occurring for a while.

De Ruyter: Why is a joint degree beneficial to Leiden?

Jansen: A joint degree was agreed upon between Leiden and Saxion. Hopefully this degree will benefit Leiden and Saxion financially.

The option of a professional masters has been ruled out, mainly because the qualification wouldn't pass the macro-efficiency test necessary for the degree's accreditation.

Simpson: How will teaching be split between Leiden and Saxion?

Jansen: This is still to be decided.

Bourgeois: The degree should be taught entirely by people with a doctorate, do Saxion have enough staff with PhD's to teach this degree?

Jansen: This point will be addressed at a later date.

van Litsenburg: Will students be expected to travel between Leiden and Deventer?

Jansen: Yes, they will be. Other options are being explored such as teaching at locations in between Leiden and Deventer. But again, this point will be ironed out at a later date.

Simpson: Shouldn't we be prioritising the development of a proper MSc in Archaeological Science?

General agreement amongst the Education Committee that this should be made a priority. The introduction of a new MSc in AA, might have a detrimental effect on Archaeological Science at the Faculty.

Bourgeois: How many students are enrolled in the current Applied Archaeology track? How many students are we expecting to enrol in the Applied Archaeology degree?

Currently there are 18 students enrolled, only 2 students from Saxion are currently enrolled in the AA track this year.

Bourgeois: Why haven't Saxion students enrolled in this course?

Jansen: We haven't really got a clear idea of why yet.

Proper advertising is needed, the Saxion teaching staff may not be selling this option to students.

Bourgeois: How will this track be evaluated? How will the Education Committee be involved in an evaluation?

Jansen: This is unclear at this stage.

Action points:

- Input is needed from students on this issue.
- We will arrange another meeting on this subject before next year, most probably over the course of the summer.

Jansen left the call, and discussions continued amongst the Education Committee.

The progress since the last time we discussed the AA programme have been limited. There are still many unanswered questions.

The benefits of this track being a degree on its own, are not entirely clear. There is a financial incentive behind this project that is clear; even so it is questionable whether having only 30-40 students in this degree is sustainable. On top of this, there is not a plan in place for increasing student numbers. We do not know how the number of students in this programme will be doubled, between now and the start of the new degree.

Overall, currently the mission statement is too "wishy-washy" and needs to be refined. The Education Committee will be asking for more detail, and a revision of the mission statement.

## **6. Programme 2020/2021**

Chairperson invites Marjet de Ruyter to overview the changes to the programme, the main changes to the programme include:

- Material studies BA1 has been shifted to Block 1+2, this is so this year's first years who didn't pass this class can retake it in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- GIS BA2 is taking place over two blocks, hopefully in the computer lab
- Complex societies BA2 has been moved to Block 2
- All the archaeological science practicals are taking place online in Block 4, this is currently being arranged

The Early Modern Era BA1 has been cancelled. For the first year students this will be replaced with Field School 1.

Simpson: Was not aware of these changes, this is a major change to the schedule.

Simpson: Is this permissible as there is not an opportunity for students to take Field Techniques BA1?

De Ruyter: The content that would have been covered in The Early Modern Era, will instead be covered by the Globalisation in World History BA2 Heritage and Society module.

It is believed at Joanna Mol has suggested that Field Techniques can be caught-up with a few exercises. There is a general consensus that this is not good enough, as the Field Techniques course covers 10 credits worth of content.

De Ruyter: Covering the Field Techniques content in the Landscape Dynamics 1 course has also been suggested as a solution.

All these solutions, seem rather ad hoc, and it may be advisable not to swap The Early Modern Era class with Field School 1. Attempt to satisfy feedback from students who want to have field work experience within the Heritage and Society track.

Simpson: At present, conflicting information about teaching coming from the faculty. Teachers cannot teach multiple small groups of students in a day. This style of teaching is simply impossible within the labs.

This is policy emanating from the main university. This policy is not necessarily applicable to the situation within our own faculty. Current message from the university is that we will be using the lab space as much as possible. But how will this work practically?

Simpson: Are students going to commute to the faculty? Are they going to take a class at home and then commute to the faculty for a tutorial?

These are details that haven't been worked out.

van Litsenburg: International students who cannot travel to the Netherlands next year, will still need remote teaching. Will all the classes be available online for the first semester next year, for students who can't travel?

Fields: It is unclear, how students with a study delay who progress to a masters will complete the courses from BA3

The Education Committee needs to provide practical solutions to the problems discussed above.

On the whole, there is an agreement that the programme is in order, and this programme should be implemented with minimal changes. Changes that will take place include: Archaeological Theory for the MA students being moved into block 3, as opposed to Block 4. The structure is a greater issue, than the arrangement of the classes in the programme.

Simpson: We also cannot do live online tutorials for students in different time zones this is impossible. A lecture online shouldn't be more exciting, it shouldn't be a song and dance. It should be broken down into smaller activities, to engage students.

Fields: Online teaching is not the way forward; we should return to normality as soon as possible.

De Ruyter: The Faculty Board has to declare what online learning is, and what teaching at the faculty will look like next year.

Bourgeois: Everyone following their own path, and doing things on their own is what you need to avoid. There needs to be a consensus and unified approach.

The vacancies in the programme need to be filled. Especially for the 3<sup>rd</sup> years.

Portier: When this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> years are doing minors next year; it would be good to send them a reminder about finding a thesis supervisor. It would also be beneficial to have more thesis coordination for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years.

## **7. Quality agreements**

We did not have the time to discuss the quality agreements during this meeting as it ran 45 minutes over time.

## **8. Student affairs**

Nuji: to email Femke Tomas about issues with the online evaluations not being in Dutch and English.

Portier: What happens if you don't have a minor next year?

De Ruyter: More spaces are being made available so students are able to take minors at the University, and don't have to travel.

## **9. Any other business**

Van Litsenburg: Has the questionnaire for this year's 3<sup>rd</sup> year students about Minors been sent to Marten Jesse?

Discussing the Heritage and Society track has been added to the next meeting agenda, along with the quality agreements.

## **10. Closure**