

# **Minutes from the board meeting of the Student Council February 18<sup>th</sup> (Board Seminar)**

## **Members of the board present:**

Philip Crilles Bacher (FM), Marcus Turunen (FM), Patrick Kulas (FM), Pia Maagaard Hansen, Malik Bahlul (FU + AR), Signe Tolstrup Mathiasen, Anna Gkioka, Karoliina Kantola, Johan Hedegaard Jørgensen (FU + AR), Emma Bohn Vinkel (FU + AR), Philipa Olivia Dige, Erik Lørup, Frederikke Veirum Høgsgaard, Emma Bech, Emma Engstrøm (AR) (alternate), & Alan Kernahan (FU + UB)\*

16 people (+ 1 observer)

FM: Formandsskab

FU: Forretningsudvalg

AR: Akademisk Råd

UB: Universitetsbestyrelsen

## **Absent with abolition:**

Therese Cederberg Nielsen (UB), Marie Sønderstrup (AR), Frederik Storm (alternate)

## **Absent without abolition:**

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## **Observers:**

Morten Jensen (Humtek råd)

\*Arrived two hours into the meeting for the beginning of agenda point 3

### **Point 1: Formalities (B)**

B/ Phillip

#### **Election of conductor:**

Phillip and Marcus

#### **Election of minute taker:**

Philipa

#### **Approval of the agenda**

Points 6-12 changed to 1-6: approved

#### **Approval of last BM minutes:**

Few, cosmetic changes need to be made before it can be released/published

### **Point 2: Language Policy**

B/ Conductors

We need to agree on the order of business in regards to language policy – what should be in English? The floor is open to discussion and different proposals:

#### **First, a discussion of the internal language policy in SR RUC:**

Suggestion: Board meetings in English. If you don't feel comfortable presenting a point in English, you should have the option of presenting in Danish with a translator. As long as we have non-Danish speaking board members, all board meetings with them present need to be in English. The board is made up of student representatives, and everyone should be fairly represented and have the ability to participate on an equal level.

Discussion point: Should the minutes for the committee meetings be in Danish or English?

Discussion point: We need a culture change, and everything should be in English to begin with so we don't need translation.

Discussion point: Some of the committees, like UNIPOL, may find it difficult to live up to English-first guidelines, especially because the council meetings are in Danish.

Suggestion: Headlines on the minutes from UNIPOL meetings can be written in both Danish and English, and if English-speaking students want to know more, they can ask.

Discussion point: We also need to consider the Danish speaking RUC students that might feel intimidated in an English-speaking environment, and how that would affect their willingness to participate in SR. Some complex discussions aren't brought to the level they should, because some Danish-speaking students aren't as fluent and formulations can be tough. The abstraction level falls. The most important part is the highest level of understanding.

Discussion point: Frikøbskultur and other weird words and meetings, we should still do in English and work on having everything in English together. We should be aware of where people sit, in regards to the need for translation, and of course the translator should be comfortable with it. Let's not force anything. To the same point, others state that sitting translators next to non-Danish speaking students doesn't work as well as English-first – the translator can miss potentially important points while doing simultaneous translating.

Suggestion: UNIPOL minutes for example, agendas in English and a summary in English.

Discussion point: RUC has international programs, English shouldn't be a problem.

Discussion point: Being principally more inclusive can potentially hurt our political work. It would be less effective for example AR working papers if they need to be translated to English.

Discussion point: Several think we should agree on vague rules for language policy, but strict rules for Board Meeting minutes, they should always be in English.

Suggestion: Make a poll in regards to language.

The experience from SAMråd has been that English language policy to regard SIB students has had mixed results.

Could the DSF solution work? Ala UN translations via microphones.

When we change the order of business statues, any future boards can choose to change the policy, so let's remember that we're not changing the foundation of the organization.

Is it a question of understanding or speaking English? The difficulties might vary.

Next, a discussion about the external language policy:

When does the language policy stop being our responsibility? Should it be for every event we host?

Discussion point: The reception was in Danish, and we received a complaint. Our non-Danish speaking board member(s) didn't understand what was going on. Although, some of the inside jokes/jabs to the administration might get lost in translation if everything had been in English.

Discussion point: Social media. Posts should be English first/Danish second. Some of the board members are stronger orally in English than they are written. We should help each other out with translation (maybe make a list of willing translators). English first/Danish second is not an existing policy, but a guideline from the previous board. One way of not excluding the international students is writing a short INFO text: "This is only relevant for Danish-speaking students." (Which HIB/Humråd does). We should first consider whether this disclaimer functions as demotivating, or if it is interpreted as a friendly clarification.

Further social media discussion: English posts only. Events should always be in English, more politically specific articles can be in Danish, with an English header, and then the student can google translate themselves. Others think we don't even need the Danish portion, since Danes can read English. Starting point English, also for example for PowerPoints, then if no non-Danish speaking students are present we can adapt to present in Danish even though the slides are English.

Can our academic courses be in English? FANE can be asked.

Our general internationalization can work well for our image, and inspire other universities that also want to include international students.

Let's look into who is actually reading our Facebook posts, and what the relevant translation needs actually are. Let's also remember the Danish-speaking students that aren't fluent in English or would feel alienated if we only communicated in English on our social media. It's important to not over-exaggerate the English level of the students.

The meeting conductors present the proposals. A linguistic working group will be established to discuss the proposals and the board will agree on language policy on the next board meeting. It is important that the working group remembers all the different viewpoints, and that the discussion in the working group reflects all the opinions discussed at the board meeting.

Linguistic/Language policy working group: Frederikke, Emma Eng, Anna, Pia, Emma Vinkel, Karoliina, Phillip

#### Internal

Proposal 1.a: Board meetings are as a starting point held in English. Danish can be applied if necessary.

Proposal 1.b: The board meeting should be linguistically equally accessible for English and Danish speakers.

Proposal 2.a: A participant of the board meeting is entitled to a translator.

Proposal 2.b: A point at the agenda is held in Danish it should always be translated afterwards.

Proposal 4: Board meeting minutes should be in English

Proposal 5: The board cannot force guest to speak English.

Proposal 6: Committees minutes headlines should be in English

Proposal 6:a Committees minutes headlines should be in English and there should be a summary in the minutes and a contact person.

#### External

Proposal 4: The Student Council should make a survey to find out if the students a RUC would like the Student Council to communicate in English.

Proposal 5.a: Social and academic events of the Student Council should always be on English.

Proposal 5.b: Social events of the Student Council should always be on English.

Proposal 6.a: Communication on social media should only be in English

Proposal 6.b: Communication on social media should be in both Danish and English

Proposal 6 ½: Should the point be so technical that it is difficult to communicate clearly in English

### **Point 3. Processing of committee work plans**

#### b/ Conductors

Each working plan is processed individually.

It is discussed whether each working plan should include the name of the board member responsible for the committee, it is decided that it is not necessary.

STUNE: Approved

RUS: The basis of the committee was recently revised. Rus hasn't been discussed in detail on the board previously, and the working plan for 2017 is a direction for the committee to go in. In the goal and purpose of the Rus committee, there should be more inclusion with SR Board, besides democratizing tutoring. The budget is unclear because of the recent

change in basis, and it is added that the money in the budget allocated for accommodation is only for open/public meetings.

Approved.

CIP: In regards to communicating the events to the international students, it is suggested to use the administrative channels ex. the RUC newsletter or via international office (not to be written in the work plan, just a suggestion for the committee). General communication from SR and/or CIP with events that may be overlapping should be considered in order to avoid flooding the students with information. The budget and promotion expenses are discussed.

Approved.

LPU/Committee of National Politics: The budget is discussed, again it is agreed the money allocated for accommodation is for open/public meetings.

Approved.

UNIPOL: It is discussed that UNIPOL and STUNE should work together more, ex. STUNE members can be invited to UNIPOL meetings. UNIPOL and STUNE work plans both mention more collaboration. It is also suggested that the project fatigue parole should include the cutbacks on counselling/supervision hours. It is discussed whether it principally is appropriate to write it into the working plan, also because it is a very specific suggestion. It was however a part of Martins parole, with increasing teaching hours. Both Martin and Marie's paroles should be incorporated to the working plan (they weren't present during the meeting where the plan was drafted). Also the typo mistake in the budget should be revised from 2016 to 2017. Budget-wise there is a mistake, so each time the expense reads 621,6 it should be corrected to 521,6.

On this basis that these corrections are made, the working plan is pre-approved. It is suggested that the final working plan is looked at again on the next board meeting.

RUC'ers by Choice: The coordinating group wrote the working plan, why it is in Danish. The budget is discussed. It's an improvement from previous years that there even exists a budget. The money they receive from SR is not correct in the budget. It is discussed whether the non-alcoholic events are prioritized correctly in the working plan. Their Need-

to-Do list is based on the necessary income for the committee in order to fulfill their contract, which otherwise states 3 parties yearly. But also it is to take into consideration that we as SR board shouldn't dictate the RBC working plan.

Approved. And we would like to have it translated.

#### **Point 4. Processing of the budget**

b/ Patrick

The budget is presented and the points are clarified, such as changes in grants from RUC. Ex. we receive more money in operating grants (*Driftstilskud*), less in political grants, and with is in spite of the general budget cuts.

Previously we also had a grant deriving from recruiting members for unions during tutoring, which we don't anymore (*Medlemstilskud*).

Other things are clarified, such as: we cannot use money from political grants on social activities.

It is discussed how the money that is over-budgetted for STUNE weekend should be re-distributed (because the STUNE weekend is changed to a STUNE day). A suggestion for the 'extra' money is to spend it on skill development (*Opkvalificering*) of different organs, possibly management course for Roskilde Festival volunteers. Other suggestions include skill development for SR members, in regards to conflict management and/or recruitment techniques.

Proposal: 6.000 kr. from STUNE weekend: move to leadership qualification & 1.000 kr. to STUNE committee

Approved

It is suggested that some of the money from the operational grant (*Driftstilskud*) can be used on updating the homepage, and making it really cool.

Proposal: 4.500 kr. from the Office expenses post (*Kontorhold*) and 1.500 kr. from programs and apps (*Gebyrer, programmer, app*) to the Homepage.

This will be looked at on the next meeting, as it is internal operational costs, and does not require an immediate decision.

## BUDGET APPROVED

Reminder: We have to look at the budget at least quarterly, and we can at any board meeting bring budget-related points to question.

### **Point 5. Matching of Expectations**

b/ Marcus

An open and informal discussion of expectations and discussions of what we can expect from each other:

Discussion point: Should we always wait for breaks to go to the toilet, get water and such? A suggestion is to suggest a break, because maybe if one person needs a break, other people need also need a break.

Discussion point: In reference to the language policy, international members hope the rest of the board members don't feel pressured, and that we avoid misunderstandings. We should strive to find a solution so everyone feels good. Expectations to correct grammar and word-usage is important to some, but also if you understand what's being said, maybe the correct word-usage isn't super important.

Discussion point: Expectation for meeting discipline. Stick to the speaking list, remember if someone has already said your point avoid repeating it, be on time. Formally, the speaking list does not make room for internal discussions between two people. Think: is it important that I answer this right away? Is this something I can bring up in a different forum, is it relevant for everyone to hear? Policy: Finger up to get on the speaking list, pinch (*klemme*) is used for procedure or if you have something immediately relevant to the point the speaker has. Some members use 'throwing roses', others think throwing roses can be disruptive. Throwing roses can however replace people repeating points. Let's not use throwing roses in heated debates, but only in regards to trivial opinions.

Expectation that this is a mutual project, and everyone should contribute. Engage, and bear the responsibility that you've taken, and if you're not able to complete your task, let it be known. Be realistic to what you can do, and what you need help with. If there's



something you don't understand, let it be known and we'll help. Comment from a new member that this is already in effect and everyone is really nice.

The conductors should be harsher in regards to speaking lists and keeping the schedule.

Discussion point: If someone knows they will leave after 1 hour, maybe they should not come? There is a disagreement though, the point is to be at the meetings as much as possible. Compromise suggestion: if you know you'll be late, let Phillip know approximately what time so we you can arrive between two points, and not disrupt a discussion. We cannot refuse members to arrive late, but we can have an expectation that no one arrives too late.

Discussion point: Cleaning up after dinner at board meetings, we don't have an agreement on who stays to do the dishes and tidy up. If you're in a hurry, ask the people who are doing the dishes if it's okay. It should be a joint effort, also in regards to moving tables around. This also applies to the office. Suggestion: Make a list of main responsible people for cleaning, who aren't the same people as the cooks that day.

We should get to know each other outside of Board Meetings.

Discussion point: What are the expectations to alternates (*suppleanter*)? Works best when they're replacing someone not present from the Board. But they have less responsibility than the rest of the board members.

Discussion point: Phones on the table during board meetings, maybe this shouldn't be allowed, as it's disruptive to people who are presenting a point. Another point is that each member participates on the best level to your ability. There's already a procedure for use of electrical equipment, in the order of business.

Expectation: everyone should be honest and this should be a forum where there is room for honesty.

Expectation: If a member needs to cancel for legitimate reasons, there should be no shame.

Suggestion: Write in the agenda of the board meeting: is this a discussion point, and what should the outcome be?

## **Point 6. A.O.B**

b/ Conductors

Working group for skill development: Pia, Frederikke, Johan



Dates for Board-hygge: the executive committee would like to invite us to a social event. It has not been decided where or what, it's up for discussion. But late-afternoon/evening.

Date: March 14<sup>th</sup> after 5 PM

Brainstorm: Ice-skating, paintball, movie night, bowling, dinner, escape room, CL soccer, Experimentarium, Tivoli, Bakken, Go-karts, evaluating statues (chairman suggestion), zoo

Meeting is closed.