

## **Mandate for the working group on the bachelor revision**

The department of Media and Communication has decided to revise the bachelor programme<sup>1</sup> and has established a working group to accomplish the revision on behalf of the department.

### **Members of the group**

Professor Trine Syvertsen (leader of the group)

Førstelektor Kim Johansen Østbye

Førstelektor Kjetil Rødje

Associate professor Tim Vermeulen

Associate professor Anders Fagerjord

Administrative Head of Studies Katerina Houben will assist the group.

Head of Studies Maria Utheim is project owner, and Syvertsen will keep Utheim updated.

A panel of students will advise the working group. Staff will be involved, both through programrådet and directly.

### **Background**

The department has three main quantitative parameters that the study programmes are measured by: the number of applicants, the amount of credits produced, and the number of students finishing their degree at the department. The number of applicants for the study programmes at the department has decreased over the last few years<sup>2</sup>. The retention numbers are constantly low (approximately 40% for the BA). The new financial model in higher education emphasizes retention, meaning that the number of students obtaining their degree will influence the level of financing.

Results from recent student surveys at the department<sup>3</sup>, point at some main findings regarding our BA programme: 1) students are satisfied with teachers and teaching (in total), 2) students miss

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<sup>1</sup> A result after: the external evaluation of our programmes (2017), the Son seminar (May 2017), results from 'Prosjekt gjennomføring' (2017), seminar with the management team (January 2018), programrådet (March 2018), and other strategic ongoing discussions at the Faculty level and rectorate level.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.uio.no/for-ansatte/enhetssider/hf/imk/arrangementer/2017/170402-arnek.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Student survey of students finishing their BA (2016), interviews with students who dropped out (Prosjekt gjennomføring 2017)



more up to date content and subjects within the discipline, 3) students miss, in their degree, more focus on the usefulness of their learning, and 4) students miss more feedback<sup>4</sup>.

Literature on retention and student success point at four main factors that have to be present in higher education in order to increase retention numbers and student success. Those are 1) expectations between students and study place/teachers, 2) academic support, 3) feedback, and 4) involvement in student everyday life (Tinto 2012, UiO Universitetsstyret 7. Feb. 2017<sup>5</sup>).

In a broader frame, within the Norwegian politics of higher education and university life, the focus on education has been intensified over the last years, eg the white paper on Quality Culture in Higher Education (St Meld 16, 2016-2017<sup>6</sup>). On the UiO level the rectorate just launched their vision on quality education at UiO, with three points at focus: Strengthened connection between research and education ('Styrket kobling mellom forskning og utdanning'), the use of knowledge ('kunnskap i bruk') and using to a fuller extent the interdisciplinarity of UiO (tverrfaglighet). In addition the issue of retention was added as a fourth point. (University Board 6th February 2018.<sup>7</sup>)

### **Explanation of the mandate for the working group**

The revision of the bachelor programme will be on five main areas, 1) programme structure, 2) the course portefolio in the mandatory '80-gruppe', 3) the progression of subjects in the discipline and of skills, 4) the follow up on students throughout the degree in terms of systematic feedback and engaging learning environment, and 5) working life relevance.

There are two main goals for this revision:

1. Increase the retention percentage of students in the bachelor programme.
2. Educate candidates with updated knowledge and skills that are relevant for the working life over time.

The revision should take into consideration the following issues:

- Expectations (bridging between high school (vgs) and university)
- Student involvement (academically (involvement in research) and socially)
- Working life and the use of knowledge

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<sup>4</sup> Reported as what we would understand as working relevance ('arbeidslivsrelevans') and/or more opportunities in getting working life experience and/or working with more closely with theory in practice.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.uio.no/om/organisasjon/styret/moter/2017/1/d-sak-1-studiesuksess-ved-universitetet-i-oslo.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/dokumenter/meld.-st.-16-20162017/id2536007/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.uio.no/om/organisasjon/styret/moter/2018/02-06/d-sak-2-en-langsiktig-og-framtidsrettet-satsing-pa-utdanning-ved-uio.pdf>

**The members of the group shall:**

Revise the bachelor programme at the department according to, and answer at their best, the questions, issues and goals raised above. The revision shall conclude in

- a new structure for the programme
- an updated course portefolio for the '80-gruppe'
- a systematic plan for progression in the programme, both subjects/discipline and skills
- a list of guiding principles and common standards for the department on educational issues and for the programme, teaching, students, and teachers

**Process and timeframe**

The new bachelor programme will be running from the fall of 2019.

*Deadline for the working group is 1. December 2018.*

Suggestion for time frame and process:

20. March	12. April	May	8. June	Sept.	Nov.	1. Dec.
Programrådet	Start	Student panel	Seminar for the department: first involvement of staff	Programrådet and student panel	Hearing among staff (eg email)	Final deadline

UiO, 11. April 2018

Maria Utheim, Head of Studies