

Protocol for the Program Council (programkollegium) for master programs in Microbiology and Molecular Life Sciences

Date: Thursday the 19th of May, 13:00-14:30, Runnströmsrummet

Present: Stefan Åström, Tore Bengtsson, Ruilan Xu (student), Ann-Beth Jonsson, Jessica Slove Davidson, Ulrich Theopold, Sofia Sundberg Örtegren (student).

1. Tore Bengtsson was appointed to adjust the minutes.
2. Ruilan Xu informed that many of her classmates do not know how to access the SU email via Ebox, and that it therefore would be good to include information about this in the program introduction. The agenda for the meeting was thereafter approved.
3. The protocol from the previous meeting (Grundutbildningsgruppen) from 2022-04-01 was approved.

A few follow-up remarks were also made concerning the discussions held at the previous meeting. It was concluded that the diagnostic test will be implemented. A remaining question however concerns when the final test should be scheduled for the master students to maximize the participation. It was suggested that the test could be held in connection with the examination of the research project plans. This would however entail several different testing occasions. It was also suggested that we could start with the bachelor students, and wait with the master program.

4. Program Council
 - a) *Antagningsnämnder*, admissions to HT 2022
Jessica Slove Davidson informed that the current numbers show an increased interest in the programs (currently 14 students are admitted to Microbiology and 12 to Molecular Life Sciences). The numbers can however change before the process is complete. The 1st of June is the final date for international students to pay the tuition fee, which usually means that some students drop off.
 - b) Eligibility to programs and courses and the elective list (*valbara listan*)
Jessica Slove Davidson informed about the elective list and its original purpose of ensuring that the students have a certain amount of subject knowledge (the list contains all courses considered to be Microbiology). Throughout the last couple of

years, the elective list has however started to lose its purpose. Jessica therefore suggested a few courses of action:

- We can remove the list (but still have recommended courses). This would mean that the students can take whichever courses they want. The student representatives however expressed an interest in keeping a list of recommended courses.
- We can keep the list. This would mean that the students need to continue to choose courses from the list.
- We can alter the list (remove courses that are not considered Microbiology, for example Philosophy of Science and Biostatistics).

It was concluded that no final decision on the matter will be made at this point, but that the list of courses can be sent to the Program Council to facilitate a future decision.

c) Lunch meetings with master students

Ann-Beth Jonsson and Ulrich Theopold informed that they are planning to arrange lunch meetings for their programs in October and March.

d) Overlap between courses, specifically certain lectures

We have been informed of some content overlap between courses. The student representatives explained that the overlap concerns certain lectures in the Microbiology course and the Infection biology course (and to some extent, also the Immunobiology course). It was decided that Stefan Åström will contact Kristina Jonas who should make the lecturers aware of the issue.

e) Immunology 15 hp master course

The question of whether the Immunology course should be made into a master course, has been discussed at a number of previous occasions (2021-05-05, 2021-12-14). When it was discussed in late 2021, the course organizers did not support the suggestion. It has however recently been brought to our attention that this was only due to a misunderstanding, which means that it is once again an option.

Pros and cons with the suggestion were discussed. It was concluded that it would be good for the master students, but that it could affect the bachelor students in a bad way since their only free elective-choice would be between *Sinnesbiologi* and Research Traineeship.

Jessica Slove Davidson concluded that a decision on this matter does not have to be in place until December 2022/January 2023. It was decided that the matter should be discussed at the next meeting, after which GUG should issue a recommendation for a decision.

f) Discussion about Områdesnämnden's decision regarding the education review
The following recommendations from Områdesnämnden's *Beslut om åtgärder avseende mikrobiologi AN och molekylära livsvetenskaper AN* were discussed:

- It was concluded that the second recommendation (concerning program follow-ups) should be the study advisor's task, but that there is not time to prioritize this.
- The third recommendation is about 'investigating the need of and if necessary, creating, a routine for following up on students who have long exam projects'. It was concluded that creating such a routine most likely is not necessary, but that Jessica Slove Davidson can investigate the need of it.
- In the fourth point we are recommended to do program evaluations (or similar). It was concluded that this is something that we already do, but that it is difficult to use the result in a productive way due to the very low response rate. It was suggested that the lunch meetings could be used to hold oral evaluations of the program. This could complement the anonymous evaluations.
- The fifth recommendation is about inviting more female guest lecturers. It was concluded that the gender distribution among lecturers on the courses is fairly equal, but that there is no harm in making an extra effort to invite more female guest lecturers.

5. Other questions

Sofia Sundberg Örtégren will finish her master program in June, which means that the Student Union has to choose a new student representative for the Program Council. Ruilan Xu will remain as a representative in the group.

The student representatives raised a question concerning support from the supervisors during exam projects. They communicated that not all students get the support that they need, which means that a half time control in some cases could be a good idea. It was concluded that this question can be brought up at the upcoming lunch meetings for discussion, and that any problems should be brought up with the group leader in question as soon as possible.

Written by
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Approved by
Tore Bengtsson