

Faculty of Educational Sciences

**Minutes of  
CEMO BOARD MEETING**

**12 October 2022**

**Summoned**

Representatives from the faculty:	Janne von Koss Torkildsen (chair), Guri Nortvedt Roger
External representative:	André Federici (absent) Ulf Henning Olsson (substitute)
Representative from permanent staff:	Johan Braeken (absent) Malene Jordal (substitute)
Representative from fixed-term staff:	José Manuel Arencibia Aleman
Student representative:	Amy Lorenz
From the administration:	Anne Line Bjarke (Head of Administration, secretary)
Copy:	Sigrid Blömeke (CEMO Director) Substitute members of the board

**AGENDA**

**LIST OF ITEMS**

Approval of list of items  
Approval of minutes from the last board meeting

List of items and minutes from the last board meeting approved

**ITEM FOR ORIENTATION**

**Item 10/2022      Update from CEMO since the last meeting**  
Orientation by Centre Director, Sigrid Blömeke

The Centre Director updated the board on staff changes and the Government's suggestion that students from outside EU/EØS should pay a student fee in order to study in Norway.

- Tara Sarin, the Head of Administration at CEMO, is on maternal leave until July 2023. Anne Line Bjarke is her substitute during this period. We have also recruited a new administrative employee, Amanda Grini. Amanda works 60% and has taken over the PhD administration and works on the research administration together with Anne Line (Tara).

## Faculty of Educational Sciences

- Two Postdoctoral Fellows have left CEMO and got new jobs at Oslo Met and the Radium Hospital. The Centre Director is happy that CEMO employees are competitive in the job market. We will not replace these positions as they were funded of the basic CEMO budget and not part of the Centre's position plan.
- There have been some extensions of contracts for PhD students due to different circumstances such as corona, parental leaves, illness, in line with UiO policy.
- The Master program takes up 20 students each year. Meaning that the ideal is to have 40 active students at all time. The master program has altogether 36 students as of today (20 students in the 2022 cohort, 7 students in the 2021 cohort and 9 students from previous cohorts). Previously the master program has had a relatively high dropout rate. Based on this we have changed our admission routines to include 15 ECTS in quantitative methods in addition to the requirement of 80 ECTS in a relevant specialization. In the 2022 cohort, we have a record of 20 students and based on the first half of the semester we are confident that the dropout rate will be lower than in previous years.
- In the state budget for 2023, the Government suggests that students from outside the EU/EØS will have to pay a fee in order to study in Norway. This will have an impact on the number of applications to all international master programs. We compete mainly with programs outside of Norway, and some students might choose our master program over others because the language barrier may be lower in English-speaking countries, there are lower living costs, no fees or the universities are more prestigious. As of today, 9 of our students applied to the master program from outside EU/EØS (4 in the 2022 cohort, 3 in the 2021 cohort and 2 from previous cohorts). 15 of our students are from countries outside of EU/EØS, but applied through the Norwegian intake because they already lived in Norway. If the suggestion from the Government includes these students, this will be a problem for our master program, but if it only includes those who apply through the international intake, it will most probably not have too dramatic consequence for us because there are few students who show up from the international intake (regardless of the costs). We may in addition be able to fill the places reserved for the international students (10 places) with Norwegian/EU students if we do not get enough international applicants.

**Item 11/2022****Finances and long-term budget forecast**

Orientation by Centre Director, Sigrid Blömeke

The Centre Director described the finances and long-term budget forecast for CEMO. For a small Center like CEMO, changes in the budget have larger consequences. Changes in the budget:

- Last year, the Government made a cut in pensions (retirement contributions) which was believed to be a one-time-cut. However, it turns out to be permanent. This means that this cost of pensions for our employees will cut into the CEMO budget.
- The Faculty of Education has changed the model on how to distribute money to the units, which has consequences for the CEMO budget.
- No grants will be announced from the FRIPRO call by Norwegian Research Council in 2023. This limits opportunities for external research funding in the coming year.

## Faculty of Educational Sciences

As a consequence of this, the announcement of the planned postdoc position has been postponed until the next budget period. Furthermore, the announcement of three PhD positions will be spread over several years, 2023, 2025 and 2027

The Centre of Excellence (CREATE) changes the budget situation. CREATE will create new positions and buy-outs for our employees. CEMO can also apply to CREATE for funding.

The board had an open discussion on how to generate more money to CEMO (for example consulting, commissioned research, organizing short-term courses for external PhD students, professional development courses, look at the Norwegian summer school). The Centre Director will look in to the suggestions and report back the next Board Meeting.

**ITEM FOR DISCUSSION****Item 12/2022****Centre of Excellence - CREATE**

Discussion led by Centre Director, Sigrid Blömeke

- Organization
- Planned employments

The Centre Director gave a presentation on the purpose of CREATE and its organization. The Centre Director will also send out the application for the establishment and funding of CREATE to members of the board.

The first position to be announced will be an Administrative leader for CREATE. It is important that this position is ready well before CREATE starts (tentative start date: September 1 2023, however flexible from July 1-December 31). The Centre Director informed that the preparation for the recruitment process has already started. The goal is that the administrative leader can start on May 1 2023 at the latest.

The second position to be announced will be an Associate professor. The recruitment process will begin as soon as possible, and the goal is to have the person ready for the position before CREATE starts.

Everyone working for CREATE has to be located in the same building when the center starts up (we need 60 office spaces, joint areas such as meeting rooms and kitchen, and two classrooms for the master program). Eiendomsavdelingen has started to look for a location. We need to be on campus/Gaustad if we want to make an impact on the educational sciences community (an important factor of CREATE). For spillover effects to occur, it is crucial that interested students and researchers within the field have easy access to open CREATE workshops, seminars and other activities. Also, CREATE members need access to the Labs on campus in order to do our research.

Janne von Koss Torkildsen

CEMO Board leader

Anne Line Bjarke

Head of Administration