

Faculty of Educational Sciences

Minutes of
CEMO BOARD MEETING

31 May 2023

Summoned

Representatives from the faculty:	Janne von Koss Torkildsen (chair), Guri Nortvedt
External representative:	Roger André Federici (absent) Ulf Henning Olsson (substitute)
Representative from permanent staff:	Johan Braeken (absent) Malene Jordal Aase (substitute)
Representative from fixed-term staff:	José Manuel Arencibia Aleman
Student representative:	Emily Rose Cruz Nevy
From the administration:	Anne Line Bjarke (Head of Administration, secretary)
Copy:	Rolf Vegar Olsen (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 approved

Minutes from last Board meeting approved with one comment, the planned CEMO Board meeting 5th September must be postponed. New meeting date 12th September.

ITEMS FOR ORIENTATION

Item 1/2023 **Update from CEMO since the last meeting**
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

Interim Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen, informs about the management situation at CEMO. Rolf Vegar Olsen will be the interim Centre Director until the position as the Centre Director will be announced. Immediate tasks due to the management situation have been redirected and taken care of between members of staff.

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Further on interim Centre Director informs about the management situation at CREATE. Arne Ola Lervåg will be the interim Centre director at CREATE for the first five years of the Centre. This change of leadership has been approved by the Norwegian Research Council. Ronny Scherer, at CEMO, will be the deputy head in that period.

Interim Centre Director gives a short update on applications for external research funding at CEMO; three smaller seed fundings have been granted and two project applications have been sent to NFR. Further, two applications, with CEMO as partners, have been sent to European Horizon Europe.

Item 2/2023 Closing down Strategic Advisory Board
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

Interim Centre Director informs that it has been decided to close down the Scientific Advisory Board at CEMO. From the start, The Scientific Advisory Board has provided advice on how to run the Centre. They were also important in the work with the CREATE application. However, in the future, the CEMO Scientific Board is not needed because CEMO will “merge” with CREATE, and CREATE has established its own Scientific Advisory Board. Another reason for ending the Scientific Advisory Board is budget cuts. The members of CEMO Scientific Board are informed.

Item 3/2023 The Centre`s financial situation
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

Interim Centre Director shares a presentation of the budget this year and prognoses for the coming years. There is a large deficit this year and in the coming two years. Thereafter the accumulated results are going in the correct direction.

The funding from the Ministry of Education officially ended June 2023. CEMO now relies on the ordinary mechanisms for funding as a unit at the Faculty of Educational Sciences. CEMO must adjust the activities to the budget. Some actions that have been taken to better the budget prognoses are postponing PhD positions, changing the annum guidelines, and closing down the Scientific Advisory Board.

Most of PhD theses will be finished by 2023/24, and eventually CEMO will continue forward with three PhD positions as the other units. Our judgement is that we have a sound, but more strained financial situation.

The current budget and the five-year prognosis presuppose that CEMO at any time has at least one external grant. After initial success with grant applications, CEMO has not been able to secure such a grant for several years, and currently the influx of external funding is modest. This will be a priority over the years to come.

Item 4/2023 The pool of applicants to the Master Program
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

The number of applications for our master program is very good. The number of Norwegian applicants, coming from other campuses such as NTNU, UIB and our own campus UIO, has doubled from 2022. Also, CEMO has a larger number of students placing CEMO as the

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number one priority than in previous years. This is great news. The study fee for international students has been a great concern. However, the consequences do not seem as severe as our initial fear. Two students from the international intake have accepted the offer for a study place and paid the study fee for the first year.

There is a steep learning curve in the first semester for CEMO students, however more students continue the program now than before. Having an introduction course to statistics “How to learn statistical thinking” came up as a suggestion and was discussed. However, it was noted that the students have progress over the semester and crack the code eventually.

Item 5/2023 ARK, the work environment survey and follow up
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

The interim Centre Director informs the CEMO Board about the ARK survey and about the process that has been afterwards. The Survey shows that CEMO has a generally good working environment. Further, the interim Centre Director shows the action plan that has been created and informs about the main content such as a monthly staff meeting and a language lunch every other Wednesday. A committee was set up to draw up the action plan, and the committee will continue to ensure the plan is followed up.

Item 6/2023 The “merger” of CEMO into CREATE
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

The process goes on as planned with the new management. CREATE will formally start up 1st of July, but the physical merging will be happening in the beginning of February when CEMO is expected to move into new premises at Campus, KBH.

Item for later: Joint discussion on how to keep the CEMO identity when SFF is entering the last phase. Make a strategy plan on how CEMO will withdraw at the end of CREATE.

ITEM FOR DECISION

Item 7/2023 The associate professor related to CEMO/CREATE
Orientation by Centre Director, Rolf Vegar Olsen

Decision:

The board approved the interview committee ranking and nomination of the candidates

The board members confirmed that they had read the extensive documentation of the process. Interim Centre Director Rolf Vegar Olsen provided detailed information about the process. The board members commented that they found the documentation to be solid and clear, and that the process had been conducted in accordance with regulations.

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Janne Von Koss Torkildsen

Chair

Anne Line Bjarke

Head of Administration