

August 31, 2015

To: Programrådsmøte

Subject: Klagesensurering

I would like to raise the issue of klagesensurering and propose a solution that can better ensure the integrity of the grading system.

In the spring of 2015 a student in SOSGEO2301 received an F on the exam. The student asked for a begrunnelse, then submitted a request for a new evaluation. The new evaluation commission evaluated the exam as an A. I was informed of this and asked if there had been suspicion of plagiarism as a possible rationale for the F. This was not the reason for the F – it was because they did not answer the question and showed no signs of having read the pensum. I then conducted a quick plagiarism check based on some of the exam text and found it was copied directly from online news articles. If we had originally checked for plagiarism, it would have been a clear F. However, the answer was not considered good enough in the first place to raise suspicion of plagiarism.

This was an unfortunate situation and raises the question of whether the procedures that we now have in place are sufficient. The sensorveiledning was a good idea but not enough to avoid an unfortunate and embarrassing situation that undermines the integrity of SGO courses and is unfair to students. External commissions will always vary in the criteria they apply and may not always consider the exams within the context of the curriculum.

I propose that we create a standing commission of four people within the department to assess grade complaints. From my understanding, this is the process in political science. Although my experience may be an extreme case, it reveals the weaknesses in the current system and provides a strong case for a different solution.