**TIK’s Master Program Board – Meeting 13th June 2016 - Vedtaksaker**

**Some organizational changes in TIK’s Master programs**

Fulvio Castellacci, First draft: 13th April 2016

The four issues pointed out below in this document have previously been discussed several times at TIK (both by the Program Board as well as by individual teachers and other staff). In spite of a large consensus on the need to introduce these small organizational changes to our Master programs, however, these adjustments have not been actively followed up and implemented yet. It is now time that we do so.

**V-SAK 1: Five additional students per year.**

* **Issue:** TIK has already for some years considered to increase its number of Master students from 30 to 35. However, this suggestion was not actively followed up by TIK. Since the number of applicants to TIK’s Master programs have steadily increased in recent years, it is now reasonable and timely to ask the Faculty for this.
* **Proposed change:** TIK will in 2016 ask the Faculty to be allocated five additional students.
* **Internal deadlines:** To have additional students starting from the academic year 2017-18, the Faculty has to apply to the Rector/UiO on behalf of TIK by October 1st 2016. Hence, we will have to discuss this with Tone (Faculty administration) in August 2016, and thereby apply for this.

**V-SAK 2: Introduce graded exams.**

* **Issue:** TIK’s exams are not graded, but they simply lead to a pass/fail evaluation. This contrasts with Master-level exams in many other programs at UiO and elsewhere. By introducing graded exams, we intend to have a more specific and detailed assessment of students’ achievements, as well as to introduce a stronger incentive for them to actively work to prepare for the exams.
* **Proposed change:** We will introduce graded exams for all courses at TIK’s Master programs starting from the spring semester 2017.
* **Internal deadlines:** We have to send a notice to the Faculty before October 20th 2016.

**V-SAK 3: Introduce obligatory group work.**

* **Issue:** The two specialization courses held during the spring semester use to assign (individual and/or group) tasks to the students at the end of each module. The purpose is to encourage the students to work actively during the semester instead of waiting until the time of the exam. However, it is frequently observed that, every year, a number of students do not participate and contribute to these end-of-module tasks. This is a missed opportunity for these students. A better follow up system is needed to ensure that all students actively participate and work during the course.
* **Proposed change:** We will introduce obligatory work (individual and/or group) tasks for each module starting from the spring semester 2017. If the fall semester course (TIK4001) will in the future have end-of-module tasks, these will also be made obligatory for the students.
* **Internal deadlines:** We have to send a notice to the Faculty before October 20th 2016.

**V-SAK 4: Spring semester: Number of credits for the courses TIK4040, TIK4011 & TIK4021.**

* **Issue:** The three spring semester courses TIK4040, TIK4011 and TIK4021 do currently give the students the same number of credits (10 credits each). However, it has often been observed that this is not adequate. The two specialization courses (TIK4011 and TIK4021) provide a large number of lectures and require the students to read a large number of papers. By contrast, the course TIK4040 is not a fully-fledged standard course, but rather a practically-oriented course intended to help the students to define a topic for their Master theses. It is based on a small number of lectures (3-4) and a few group seminars, and it does not require the student to read compulsory material in order to take the exam.
* **Proposed change:** It is natural to adjust the numbers of credits of these courses based on the amount of work (lectures, literature, papers) that they require. Starting from the academic year 2016-17, the two specialization courses TIK4011 and TIK4021 will account for 15 credits each; whereas the course TIK4040 will only account for 5 credits.
* **Internal deadlines:** Formally, this would mean discontinuing (removing) the courses we have, and making three new ones. The deadline for applying to the Faculty for new courses for spring 2017 is August 20th. Lene will have a meeting with the Faculty adviser who is responsible for this asap (April or May 2016) to discuss our options. Lene will report back on this.