



---

## Meeting in the Educational Committee for PBA in Animation

---

Location:  
Online and at  
The Animation Workshop,  
Kasernevej 5, Viborg (lok. Big  
Meetingroom).

Meeting date:  
November 8 2022, 14.00-16.00

---

**Participants:** Astrid Refstrup, Julie Raunsmed Peitersen, Chris Ebeling, Shelley Page, Emile Gignoux, Gry Lindebjerg, Kristina Sletting Jensen, Uriel Kranot, Sebastian Barfoed, Karen Haldrup Lund Jakobsen, Magnus Møller, Kasper Kruse, Lotte Kronborg Thomasen

**Declined:** Mario Grosu, Lise Saxtrup

---

### Agenda

1. Welcome and approval of agenda (14.00-14.05)
2. Presentation of the members of the committee (14.05-14.20)
3. Working basis and tasks for the committee (14.20-14.35)
4. Election of chairperson (14.35-14.45)
- SHORT BREAK (14.45-14.50)
5. Introduction to the PBA in Animation (14.50-15.50)
6. AOB (15.50-16.00)

---

### Attachments

1. Working basis for VIA's Educational Committees
2. Rules of procedures
3. Curriculum for the Professional Bachelor's Degree Program in Animation<sup>1</sup>
4. Appendix 1 to curriculum for the Professional Bachelor's Degree Programs in Animation and Graphic Storytelling
5. [Bekendtgørelse om uddannelsen til professionsbachelor i animation \(retsinformation.dk\)](#)

---

## SUMMARY/ AGENDA

Meeting chair:  
Lotte Kronborg Thomsen  
Referent:  
Anna-Maj Geyti

---

E: agey@via.dk  
T: +4587554966

---

Date: 31 October 2022

---

1/2

---

<sup>1</sup> Appendix 3-5 is for information. We do not expect you to read it thoroughly.

---

## 1. Welcome and approval of agenda

### Presentation of the subject (Lotte Kronborg Thomsen)

- a) Head of PBA in Animation welcomes the committee to the first meeting.
- b) Approval of agenda and anything for AOB?

### Summary

Ad b) The committee approved the agenda. No points for AOB.

---

## 2. Presentation of the members of the committee

### Presentation of the subject (all)

Each member presents themselves and their motivation for joining the committee (max 1 min.).

### Summary

Each member presented themselves. The members not present will present themselves at the next meeting.

- Kristina Sletting Jensen, staff representative, former student at TAW. Working for a year as coordinator and now as an assistant professor.
  - Kasper Kruse, Head of The Animation Workshop (TAW), been working at the industry, in Viborg Kommune, and as Head of Arsenalet before starting at TAW.
  - Sebastian Barfoed, student representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Computer Graphics Arts Line,
  - Karen Haldrup Lund Jakobsen, student representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> year Character Animation Line
  - Anna-Maj Geyti, management partner at TAW, secretary for the Educational Committee
  - Emile Gignoux, represent former student, 2d animation, div. projects
  - Uriel Kranot, teacher at TAW for 10-11 years, staff representative and represent R&D at TAW
  - Magnus Møller, representative from Arsenalet, former student, Tumblehead – 3d animation
  - Gry Lindebjerg, appointed by T&S at TAW, head of T&S, working at TAW for 18 years with talent development and professional training.
  - Julie Raunsmødt Peitersen, representative from the Industry. Working at Ja Film, a VFX and 2D studio which get a lot of students from TAW
  - Shelley Page, representing the external examiners (Censorkorpset). External examiner at TAW. Has known TAW since 1998.
  - Astrid Refstrup, representative from the Industry. Run Tripple Topping, employs three team members from TAW and interns from TAW.
  - Chris Ebeling. Representative from the Industry. Creative Director & Co-Founder of Virtually Human.
- 

## 3. Working basis and tasks for the committee

### Presentation of the subject (Anna-Maj Geyti)

- a) Anna-Maj presents the formal working basis, rules of procedures and tasks for the committee. There will be time to answer questions from the members.
- b) The rules of procedures are put forward for approval by the committee

**Attachment:** “Working basis for VIA’s Educational Committees” and “Rules of procedures”.

Ad. a) The committee took note of the formal working basis and the rules of procedure.

Ad. b) The rules of procedure were approved.

---

## 4. Election of chairperson

### Presentation of the subject (Lotte Kronborg Thomsen)

The committee has to elect a chairperson among the members of the committee. The chairperson cannot be an employee or student at The Animation Workshop. The chairperson’s tasks are primarily to meet with the head of Animation before the meetings to set the agenda and to chair the meetings.

### Summary

Julie Raunsmed Peitersen was elected chairperson.

---

## 5. Introduction to the PBA in Animation

### Presentation of the subject (Lotte Kronborg Thomsen)

- a) Lotte presents the education in general terms and introduces the challenges and strengths and how these might lead to further development for the education for the next years.
- b) The members of the committee discuss and give input to the further development of the education.

### Summary

Ad a) Lotte presented the education:

#### One education, two specializations:

- Character Animation (CA)
- Computer Graphic Arts (CGA)

Preferably 52 students total per year.

We have tried to improve the communication about CG to get more applicants.

#### Structure

- Very small internal faculty
- Class coordinators
- Large external faculty – approximately 80 % of teaching performed by Guest teachers
- Education based on a production-like structure.
- Craft, collaboration, communication

First year: fundamental training.

Second year: 2d and 3d, collaboration with clients

Third year: Preproduction and production of third year production.

7<sup>th</sup> semester: Internship and bachelor project.

Collaboration with the National Film School of Denmark.

We would like to have more students to look broader at options for internship

#### Focus Areas 2021-2023:

##### Budgets

- Material Fee

##### Re-Organisation

- Fewer Class coordinators:
  - o Planner
  - o Study Counsellor
  - o Internal faculty/teachers

##### Optimizing Processes and Procedures

- Moving from person-lead process to process-lead
- Reduce fire-fighting

##### Understanding where we come from

- Surveys
- More than 100 conversations with current and former students.

#### Focus Areas 2023-2026

##### Admissions

- How to get more qualified applicants for CGA

##### Educational Development

- Games, XR, Metaverse, Flexibility, Process, Play, Reflection, Analysis, Critical Thinking, Design Thinking
- Financial

##### Social Sustainability

- Reduce stress, encourage new ways of working, less teaching – more connecting dots
- Focus on what you want your life to look like and not just on what you want to do.

##### More sustainable hardware & pipeline set-up

- Finances
- Stop investing in plastic and electronics

##### Increased collaborations

- Software engineers
- Meaningful collaboration with National Danish Film School
- Across the creative education in VIA.

Ad. b) During and after the presentation the members discussed and gave different input to the future development of the education. The inputs are summed below:

#### The content of the education

The committee discussed the future content of the education and how this apply to that the school is a craft school. Looking at pros and cons on how focus should be teaching specific tools/software compared to teach problem solving, how to apply knowledge and experience for new solutions and storytelling.

Other topics mentioned related to the content of the education was:

- How academic the education is supposed to be?
- The importance of professional training and lifelong / agile learning.
- The placement of the internship in the education.

#### Employment

The employment rate for Animation is okay, but it is a bit difficult to measure. E.g. are graduates working outside Denmark not counted.

Many are hired project based, which mean they have periods in between work that doesn't count. If our graduates do not manage to find jobs the Ministry can reduce the numbers of allowed seats.

In general, we have more female students, even in Computer Graphic Arts. Where do they go for employment and why? We need research on this.

#### Career opportunities

The students asked for more information from the Danish studios about their international collaboration and projects. Many students want to go abroad because they don't know that they can get international experience / careers at the Danish studios. It was brought up that the career weeks at TAW might also be for first- and second-year students.

Pros and cons regarding internships abroad and the effect on how many graduates that will choose to work in Denmark was discussed.

#### Students' mental health

The committee encourages the focus on the students' mental health. The school is rearranging the structure and content of the education (starting on first year) to reduce stress and other mental health problems related to studying. The school's first study counsellor started in August. The committee suggested different areas to work on:

- It makes the students stress when the school wants to present the students to as much as they do today. Important to keep it simpler – the students should have time to focus on the craft and the creative process.
- How should the school help them to be better to cope with pressure. Build them up to be robust.
- What choice do the students have to choose what they want to do during week? What would be the advantages and disadvantage to give the student flexibility to choose more for themselves. (e.g. to study at home).
- Guidance for guest teachers in the scale of the amount of assignments, teaching e.g. Explain the light versions of the assignments. Make it clear what the point of the assignments is and what the students should learn from it. Be clear about that the learning process is more important than the result. The school and the guest teachers should coordinate how many hours the students should work. The teachers should be able to change the scope if the program changes.
- Changes in the week program will happen in the industry. How can the students learn be more comfortable and confident in these scenarios?
- It is good to be flexible but watch out not to embrace the individual needs too much. Flexibility is good to a certain point but it should also fit the world outside. There is a tendency that we take care of everything as it is a problem, even if it is not, and this will make the students less resilient and ready for their first job.
- Put focus on strong teamwork and good group dynamic will ease individual stress.
- Some things are difficult to teach or work on online, e.g. pitching and creative processes.

---

## **6. AOB**

### **Summary**

No topics for AOB.