

## Meeting SAT Computer 13-03-2024

### Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoSP BSWU)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoSP BSWU)
- Patrick Bahr (HoSP KSD)
- Therese Graversen (HoSP BDS)
- Alessandro Bruni (sub.HoSP KCS)
- Malthe Rødsgaard Pabst Lauridsen (KDS)
- Lena Winther Jensen (KSD)
- Cristina Avram (BDS)
- Nicklas Ostenfeldt Gardil (SWU)
- Paolo Tell (guest)
- Mette Holm Smidt (ProCoor BDS/KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (ProCoor SWU/CS)
- Marc Kellaway (ProCoor SD, Secretary SAT CS)

### Absent:

- Trine Møller (Study & Career Guidance)
- Marco Carbone (HoSP KCS)
- Theodor Christian Kier (KCS)
- Luca Maria Aiello (HoSP KDS)

### Minutes:

#### 1. Approval of agenda

*An additional point regarding the Study Programme Report for SWU was added to the agenda. Trine could not make it today, so Information from the Study and Career Guidance was removed from the agenda. Beside this, the agenda was approved.*

#### 2. Approval of minutes from meeting 21-02-2024

*Beside the SAT-members, the minutes has also been sent to the guests from SWU at the last meeting. No comments to the minutes have been received within the 10 working days period, which means that the minutes are approved.*

#### 3. Graduate Report 2024

*SAT had the following comments:*

*a) The report shows great employment numbers for the programmes under the CS-department which might be an argument for awarding more study places in the future.*

*b) The report is not always easy to understand, especially regarding the numbers for the (old) SDT programme vs. the (new) SD programme, and a few places, where there is written about numbers, but percentages actually are used.*

#### **4. Research Project Introduction – Should we do something differently and/or earlier?**

Louise: It seems the main issue is finding supervisors.

Lena: I know some people who have written to a lot of people but not heard anything back right up to the deadline. Some early reminder on what is going to happen might be good thing.

Marc: We tried to have a semester meeting last spring on KSD, but almost no one showed up. Sofie's event with students presenting their project was very popular though.

Paolo: What are the rules regarding if people do not find a supervisor. Our problem as teachers is, when they come in just before deadline and say they have written a lot of people. We might be forced into a supervision we have no stake in.

Mette: Is this happening often?

Paulo: Yes.

Mette: We also have experienced more people having difficulty finding a supervisor this year. Normally the HoSP would be the one to help if people have problems, but this year for the BA-projects on BDS it went on a little to long before all was settled.

Dan: I experience every year that students come in two days before the deadline without neither project nor supervisor.

Lena: I think we have discussed this before. There is a personal responsibility for the students but also some responsibility for the teachers. No matter what, I do not think it is ok forcing people to supervisors. So how do we support getting people to start earlier? I know when you are caught up in the semester it can be hard also handling things coming up next semester at the same time.

Therese: For the BA-projects we have an information meeting early before they need to get started, but it can still take a long time to find a supervisor for various reasons. A solution that has been floated among faculty is we might have sort of cut-off date, where you will be allocated a supervisor, if you haven't found one yourself.

Marc: The issues you know of with people not being able to find a supervisor – have these been mostly for the Research Project, or also the thesis?

Malthe: At KDS right now I think we as 1<sup>st</sup> year students have no idea what is going to happen with the Research Project after the summer vacation. It feels unclear where to start and what the scope will be. Do you know if Luca plans to hold an event like the one for the BA-project?

Allette: We have a meeting like this in week 35 for KCS, KSD and KDS, but I think the question right now is, whether we should move it to the spring semester. We discussed this in SAT before, and it was not clear whether it would be too stressful to have it already in the spring semester with all the other courses going on, and the exams coming up.

Lena: Marc, to answer your question: As far as I know it is more difficult finding a supervisor for the Research Project than for the thesis.

Dan: A small project is relatively more work for the supervisor. There is almost just as much work in a 7.5 ECTS project as for a thesis, so this might be the reason it is more difficult. Typically, it is also more fun for the supervisor to supervise a thesis than a small project. At SWU we try to make the students getting into group projects, as this is more feasible – both for the students and for the supervisors.

Lena: I remember the feeling Malthe describes of not knowing what would happen after the summer holidays. The event Sofie held made much sense and made it easier to continue from there, but it would need to be before the exams.

Malthe: I agree, and think it would be good placing an information meeting before the summer break.

Louise: At SWU we moved the meeting about the BA-project earlier, and also made a time-plan for the students to follow. “By this date, you should have done this” etc. For some students it is nice, and for some students it is stressful, because they think all is lost, if they miss one of the suggested deadlines.

Mette: We do the same at BDS for the BA-project, but perhaps we should try to coordinate and do it more at the same time? Perhaps even do something joint together?

Louise: Perhaps we as HoSPs should have a meeting about this, where we can share ideas and coordinate?

Lena: Would it make sense to do something like Sophie did again?

Marc: I think it would be great!

## **5. Study Programme Report 2024 for SWU**

Dan: What you have is the report as it looks now. After I have gone through it and listened to your eventual comments, we will send this to the Dean of Education. Last year we had four goals:

- 1) We wanted to look at the onboarding - how to make the students feel welcome and transition well from high school. We have worked on several things here. For instance, we found out some years ago that the information on the programme at itu.dk for new applicants was not always aligned

with what we expect from the students. We have looked into this and made a process, and also talked to the tutors to try to set expectations better and ensure alignment. Lousie has also received funding to conduct a structured investigation on what causes people to leave or stay on the programme.

2) We have investigated scaffolding throughout the programme - what the expectations are from the teachers regarding what the students are able to do when starting their courses. We have talked to the teachers about this, and it is amazing how much thinking about teaching most of our teachers do. But we have also identified things we need to work on.

3) We wanted to start a semester café meeting for the students, which we have done.

Louise: The reasons for the café are that there have been some communication issues after Corona, and some traditions for dialog seem to have been lost, so we have tried to start this up again to avoid issues growing into conflicts. We want to listen to the students, but we also need things to be constructive.

Dan:

4) We wanted to strengthen the coordination of the StudyLab.

Then we have some goals for this year:

1) We want to implement changes in the programme to ensure the scaffolding of programming competences throughout the programme. We start with the 1<sup>st</sup>-semester courses in the spring, but have more things in the pipeline.

2) We want to develop the semester cafés further, as very few students have shown up until now. So, we need to figure out how to make it relevant for the students to show up and being heard.

3) We want to be better making clear from the beginning what students as well as teachers can expect regarding ECTS and workload. We need to align the expectations of both parties and improve the communication here.

4) Generative AI is a general problem for the exams, so we still have the issue of what to do here. For some of the courses the teacher initially thought that there were no issues, which led to some very late changes to the courses with a too short notice. That is of course bad for the students, so we also want all teachers to be more informed on when to act, and check things early.

5) We have the strategic goal at ITU for green profiles and need to figure out how to handle this and where it actually makes sense to implement on SWU.

Finally, we had two red points in the quality goals. One was the number of projects with supervision by external supervisors, but there was no real problem in this case, as it was people with PhDs and previous teaching experience from ITU. And then the completion rate is below the 70% that is set as the goal. My

comment here is that this is low, but we have done several things to ensure more students complete on time, and also that our numbers are better than the equivalent educations.

Therese: It is also “not completed within four years”, which is not the same as “not completed.”

Dan: Yes, sometimes students just are just missing one course. We made some special sessions for the students missing Functional Programming. For some it worked, and for some the course remained too difficult.

Paolo: Did you manage to segregate this in relation to the number of hours of self-reported work?

Mette: The data on the self-reported work is from the survey run by the ministry, so we do not have comparable numbers.

Marc: We should have the survey on the agenda for the next meeting, if the report is ready by then.

## **6. Information from SAT Members**

Malthe: Nothing to report from KDS. All is going well. Most teachers have open office hours, and the students seem to like this and make use of it.

Cristina: I have gotten some new responses from the webform. A few are about Algorithms, where people complain that a lot of the examples are in Java, since we only learn Python. But I know that people have had the option to go to the Python room, and in my experience there are no real issue as nothing in the examples are really Java-specific. For the statistics course some people find it confusing to have six different teachers each with their own teaching style. I also know from myself that this can be hard.

Therese: I agree, and we are trying to find a solution to this.

Cristina: Some people also are unhappy that we do not have time at the exercise sessions to go through every single exercise. But then I have also had complaints about the opposite, when we have been going through them all. The could perhaps be fixed if more people got help about statistics in StudyLab, but people seem to only ask about algorithms there. Perhaps we should advertise that there is help for statistics in StudyLab also.

Therese: And say, that they can start working on the exercises in StudyLab.

Louise: I would also be worried, if students are expected to work eight hours on the exercises, and then you could go through them all in two hours.

Cristina: Yes, sometimes it is kind of like a speed run.

Therese: Usually, they are designed to take the two hours.

Paolo: A suggestion might be to ask the students which exercises they want you to go through, and then give priority to these.

Cristina: Yes, we already kind of do this. Usually, we start with a Mentimeter on what to present next time.

Therese: The exercise classes should also be primarily about discussing the exercises, not mini lectures on subjects.

Louise: Perhaps this could be a subject for a discussion later about what works and what does not work in the exercise classes?

Marc: I have made a note of this.

Lena: The main thing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester students on KSD is as usual the workload in the Algorithms and Database Systems courses. They are overwhelmed, but so far I think they are good.

Nicklas: I do not have so much to report from SWU. The only thing I heard some people complain about has been some lectures being very late, and then running very long.

Louise: We know this is a general issue due to the lack of rooms. We also had the Introductory Programming class running 14 – 18 in the autumn.

## **7. AOB**

*Co-Head of the CS department Thore Husfeldt has asked whether SAT would be ok with him as a guest at the meetings to gain more knowledge on the students and the current issues with the programmes. SAT was in general positive about the suggestion, though perhaps with Thore not being a fixed member at all meetings, and all could see the value for the department of this.*