Meeting SAT Computer Science 5 October 2022

Minutes Approved

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP BSWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoP KCS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoP KSD)
- Luca Maria Ariello (HoP KDS)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoP BSWU)
- Nynne Grauslund Kristiansen (Student rep., BSWU)
- Sofie Kramshøi Nielsen (Student rep., KSD)
- Juraj Septák (Student rep., BDS)
- Anne Brix Damgaard Fransen (Student rep., KSD)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., KCS)
- Paolo Tell (Guest, faculty)
- Marc Kellaway (Observer, Prog Coor KSD)
- Mette Holm Smith (Observer, Prog Coor BDS + KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor BSWU + KCS) (Minutes)

Absent:

- Jesper Bengtson (Guest, faculty)
- Sara Gjerløv (Observer, Study and Career & Guidance)
- Therese Graversen (HoP BDS)

Minutes:

1. **Approval of agenda:**
   Agenda approved.

2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 5 September 2022:**
   If no comments to the minutes received by Friday 30 September, minutes will be approved.
   Status will be given at the meeting:
   Status: Minutes approved.

3. **Information:**
   On the BDS-course, Security and Privacy, students suggested to gather feed-back via a link. This might be an idea for other courses.

4. **Update from study programs:** / Students.
   KCS, (Theodor):
   1 semester: 3 out of 4 courses did not do the mutual alignment of expectations yet.
   KSD, (Anne):
   Courses on KSD have not done it either.
   Question from SAT: What do students expect from having this mutual alignment with the teacher?
   Answer: It provides a possibility to:
   - share good ideas with teacher,
   - to be heard by teacher,

- provide feed-back to teacher
- etc.

Comments from SAT:
- In previous semesters, teachers were reminded to do this mutual alignment, this semester no reminder was sent; reminders might be helpful for some and not for others.
- It is important that the mutual alignment is done and it is fine that teachers can decide for themselves, how they carry out the process, as long as they do it.
Marco will bring this issue to the department faculty meeting.

KSD (Anne):
The workload on Research Project is too much for 7,5 ECTS.
Comments from SAT:
- Research Project is a project, not a course and it is sometimes difficult to set the right level of workload on projects. When such things happen, students should contact the head of program, who can react immediately.
- In some cases, issues of workload have a systematic issue to address, but in other cases the problem is of a more individual kind and is best solved between student(s) and supervisor. Before bringing issues of workload to SAT, please consider if the issue is systematic and thus, a case for SAT. In other cases, refer students to contact the teacher/supervisor.

5. **Mandatory activity (MA) and the time students spend on them** / Nynne.
   On last meeting, SAT agreed that student members should try to collect data about the workload on the courses, which can form the starting point for further discussions about workload in general.

   BSWU: Nynne collected data and presents it to SAT:
   The data shows the time spent on mandatory activities. Data is gathered from 3rd and 5th semester students on BSWU.
   Comments from SAT:
   - It would be interesting to explore the answer "6+ hours".
   - The number of MAs might not be the issue, but rather how much time students spend on them and which expectation for passing teachers set - should it be flawless or "just" an honest attempt.
   - Programs as Data have a good take on this: The course is applied and thus, exercises are necessary. The teacher specifically state, which topics are important, and MAs make students practice those specific topics.
   - Experience: A teacher used the same assignment two years in a row but set very specific framing in year two. This made a difference for students.
   - Some courses have preliminary non-mandatory exercises which build op to the MAs; if students do not solve those but jump right to the MAs, they lack requirements to solve them.
   - when considering workload, time spent on preparing for lectures, attending lectures etc. should also be included, not just the mandatory activities.

   BDS: Juraj counted his time spend on BDS 1 semester:
   The number of total hours spend on the study approaches 40 hours/week. excl. job.
   Comments from SAT:
   The number of hours seems to be in line with what ITU expects from students (not considering the job)

KSD: Sofie has had access to preliminary data from a survey among 1st year students:
- 1/5 of respondents spend more than 44 hours in total on the study per week.
- 1/3 of respondents spend more than the expected time per week/course on the course, Discrete Mathematics (7,5 ECTS).
- 1/6 of respondents spend more than the expected time per week/course on the course, Introductory Programming (15 ECTS).
- 1/4 of respondents spend more than the expected time per week/course on the course, Software Engineering (7,5 ECTS).

Comments from SAT:
- It seems that workload is problematic on some programs and semesters while other seems ok.

KCS, Theodor:
1/5 of the 1st semester cohort spend 40 hours/week on the study. The time fluctuates from person to person. The general perception is that there are too many MAs and that this affects the learning quality.

Comments from SAT:
 - What would happen if MAs were no longer mandatory on a course?
Answer: This was tried on the Introduction to Database System course followed by a drop in average grade. However, in the functional programming course, lowering the MA requirements made the average grade rise. It seems that in some way lowering the number of MA requirements had a good impact on the course.
 - On the first semesters, students participate very actively in the exercise sessions, but later, they seem to stay away – What causes this?
Answer from students: If TAs cannot help, it seems a waste of time to attend.
SAT: If this happens, students should go to CM.
- Teachers can put a limit on the time they expect students to spend on solving a MA and make sure to communicate this limit to students.

SAT concluded that the discussion had been fruitful and made a good starting point for further exploring the issue of workload.

6. **AOB:**
    - Theo: the students on KCS 1st semester are pleased with the teachers on the courses.