

Meeting SAT Computer Science 6 December 2022

Minutes Approved

Present:

- Marco Carbone (HoP KCS)
- Therese Graversen (HoP BDS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoP KSD)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoP BSWU)
- Nynne Grauslund Kristiansen (Student rep., BSWU)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., KCS)
- Anne Brix Damgaard Fransen (Student rep., KSD)
- Simon Johan Skødt (Student rep., BSWU, member for 2023)
- Marius Thomsen (Student rep., BSWU, member for 2023)
- Paolo Tell (Guest, faculty)
- Sara Gjerløv (Observer, Study and Career & Guidance)
- Marc Kellaway (Observer, Prog Coor KSD)
- Mette Holm Smith (Observer, Prog Coor BDS + KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor BSWU + KCS) (Minutes)
- Christoph Seidl (Guest, faculty) - participated point seven.

Absent:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP BSWU)
- Luca Maria Ariello (HoP KDS)
- Sofie Kramshøi Nielsen (Student rep., KSD)
- Juraj Septák (Student rep., BDS)
- Jesper Bengtson (Guest, faculty)

Minutes:

Nynne chaired the meeting.

1. **Welcome to new SAT members and goodbye to old ones:**
Participants presented themselves.
2. **Approval of agenda:**
Agenda approved.
3. **Approval of minutes from meeting 3 November 2022:** Appendix 2A.
Sofie asked for the following note to be added: - "Some students complain about the quality of the course Applied Information Security."
Minutes approved.
4. **Information:**
Nynne received Department of Computer Science's new Connectivity Award.
Congratulations to Nynne.

5. **Update from study programs: / Students.**

BSWU, Nynne:

- Student Council had a meeting with Pernille, Dean of Education about inclusion on ITU. Students question the way ITU work with inclusion. One issue is, how ITU manage student-groups that do not work, especially the cases where students are left in a group that does not work?

Comments from faculty members:

- Dept CS recently, had a meeting about group formation.
- It is difficult for teachers to ensure that students, left alone because everyone in the group dropped out during the semester, are designated to a new group.

BSWU, Marius:

- In the start of the semester, focus in Grundlæggende Programming is on less experienced programmers, which is good. Later in the course focus lifts, which is unfortunate.
- Deadlines for the semester's courses clash.
- Naturally, teachers have different focal points and teaching styles. But if this is distinct and happens on a course the result may be a chaotic structure on the course. This is the case on two courses on first semester.

KCS, Theodor:

- Security 1: Students on KCS 1st semester report that teaching proceed in a chaotic way. This is due to an extraordinary situation beyond teachers influence.
SAT agrees that the situation in the course is disturbed this semester.

In general:

- Across ITU, a project about TAs is in progress, gathering input from different stakeholders.

6. **Restructuring specialisations on KCS / Marco**

Work is still in progress, and Marco presents the preliminary plans.

Background:

The original reason for having fixed specialisations were to secure depth in the program, which the employers found important at that time. However, employers are less concerned about this nowadays. Thus, it is possible to look at alternative ways of structuring the specialisations.

Challenges in the present specialisation structure:

- 15 ECTS courses are too big.
- Too few students on the specialisation courses.
- Presently, very few electives are on offer in the autumn semester, as the study structure did not have electives on third semester from the start. However, the need for electives in the autumn are beginning to show.
- Alternative course combinations in the specialisations are not allowed.

New specialisation structure:

- A pool of courses is offered a specialisation courses; students choose which to take.
- All Specialisation courses are 7,5 ECTS.
- Certain pre-defined paths of specialisation exist, but those will be a recommendation instead of mandatory.

What do SAT think of this?

Comments from SAT:

- Good suggestion: Would this be an option also for KSD?
- Good to loosen the grip on students.
- A new structure might encourage students to take KCS, instead of going somewhere else.
- Promising idea – But who says 15 ECTS courses are too big? - some students find it nice to have a larger course on third semester.
- Look to Physics at KU for good examples of getting flexibility into the study structure.
- The new structure will add flexibility working together with the 22,5 ECTS registration requirement.

Marco plan to present the suggestion for Employers' Panel.

7. Shortening the written exam on BDs courses Software Development and Software Engineering (SDSE) from four hours to two hours / Christoph Seidl

Christoph participated in the meeting and presented the proposal.

The present 4-hours exam is too long for this course and stresses the students. The suggestion means cutting the exam in half.

A questioning among the participants reveal that 10% prefer a 4-hour exam, 40% prefer a shorter exam, 50% prefer both.

The exam will remain a closed book written exam.

Comments from SAT:

- Will the exam cover all ILOs?

Reply from Christoph: Yes, it will be constructed to cover all ILOs.

- What about having a mock exam, will it make students feel less stressed?

Reply from Christoph: There is already a mock exam on the course.

- What about keeping the 4-hours exam and cut the question to fit 2-hour, to ease the pressure on students?

Reply from Christoph: In practice, this would mean lowering the academic bar and as such it is not a way to go.

- Will the shift in time make the difference?

Reply from Christoph: Students on the course find a 2 hour exam will be helpful.

As Christoph have done research among students that shows, many are in favour of a 2-hours exam, SAT support trying out such an exam.

8. Meeting dates for Spring semester 2023.

SAT set the date for the first meeting in the spring semester 2023:

Wednesday 1 February at 14 - 15.30

9. AOB:

- Mette will write to the 2023 SAT CS student members and ask them to decide who should be appointed member of Board of Study (BoS) for 2023.

Theo reports from the Exemption committee that students from BSWU, KCS AND especially KDS seem to need exemptions more than others. Theo will come back with data.