

Meeting SAT Computer 05 September 2024

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoSP BSWU)
- Michele Coscia (sub. HoSP BDS)
- Malthé Rødsgaard Pabst Lauridsen (KDS)
- Mette Holm Smidt (ProCoor BDS/KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (ProCoor SWU/CS)
- Marc Kellaway (ProCoor SD, Secretary SAT CS)
- Paolo Tell (guest)

Absent:

- Patrick Bahr (HoSP KSD)
- Cristina Avram (BDS)
- Marco Carbone (HoSP KCS)
- Luca Maria Aiello (HoSP KDS)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoSP BSWU)
- Nicklas Ostenfeldt Gardil (BSWU)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 12 June

No comments to the minutes was received within the 10 working days period. Minutes approved.

3. Course evaluations - spring semester (60 minutes)

Moved from June meeting. The KSD, KCS and KDS evaluations will be moved to the October meeting, as neither Patrick, Marco nor Luca was present.

BDS

Michele: The response rate was very low in general, with BDS having the lowest response rate at ITU overall. This makes the evaluations not really representable, and therefore not very useable.

An action point for next time will be to have better information channels, and make sure that all teachers set time aside for the students to do the evaluation in class. Information from SAP was also missing this time due to having no Dean of Education, so hopefully this will be better next time.

There is a coherent response in comments for Applied Statistics that it has too many teachers. This is a known problem – also by the teachers - and we are aiming to make it work better next time.

Dan: Many teachers might not necessarily by default be a problem, if the communication to the students on how the course will run is clear.

Michele: It has been an issue in this case, but we are working on it. One solution could of course be to have less teachers, but I think a better solution will be to have one teacher take responsibility for all communication within the course, so this is more clear for the students.

Mette: Right now, we are also talking about who should teach the course next time. Louise is working to ensure better communication between the teachers on the course. We should also keep in mind that this was a new course running for the first time.

Dan: When a course runs for the first time, evaluations will always be worse. We should be better to tell the students "This is a new course. Please tell us *during the course* if something does not work, not first at the evaluation."

Michele: For Data Visualisation and Data-Driven Decision-Making the issues was mainly due to the original teacher going on a sabbatical, and the replacement teacher stepping in with very short notice and not enough time to prepare. We should work on being better at onboarding people stepping in as replacements better in the future.

Apart from this, I do not have anything particular coherent for the other courses.

KDS

Malthe: For the record, I have been talking with Luca about the evaluations and the semester. In general, the spring semester has been really good. There were a few issues with the structure of the Algorithmic Fairness course, where everything was a bit delayed. In general, the exam schedule for the programme was too tight.

Mette: We are aware of this, and will look into it for the next time.

4. We are missing student representatives from KSD and KCS

Marc: It would be good to have representatives from KSD and KCS for the remainder of the semester. Please reach out if you know someone who might be interested, and you think might fit. Please also make sure they are aware of what SAT is and is not. It is not really a forum for complaints or solving here-and-now issues, but more a place to participate, if you want to be part of the development of the programmes in the long run. You are also welcome to refer eventual interested candidates to me, if they want to know more about the workload and the expectations.

5. Information from SAT Members

Malthe: The whole process of finding a supervisor for my research project group has felt pretty stressful due to the tight schedule and deadlines.

Dan: The issue is always that if we do not have deadlines, then people are too late, and if we do have deadlines, then people find it stressful.

After a discussion, the following was decided as an improvement going forward:

- *For the next Research Project intro autumn 2025 we will make the slides for last year's intro available on the LearnIT page already from June, thus giving people an idea on the research groups, making earlier preparation possible.*

- *In the text on the Research Project wiki as well as in the introduction at the meeting, there should be more emphasis on, that while the research projects optimally lead into the thesis, it can just as well be used to explore possibilities, and having no direct connection between the two can be fine too.*

6. AOB

Dan: I have heard a few examples recently of teachers being spoken to in an inappropriate way by students. It is important that the students are aware that the teachers are doing their best, and still are human beings.

Mette: This is of course not acceptable. Lene Rehder would be the one the teachers should talk to in situations like this.

Michele: Regarding wellbeing, some BDS students experience high levels of stress during the third semester and seem to be confused what measures ITU has in place re. mental wellbeing. I also know that the BDS students are the ones using SAP the least, so I have tried to make them more aware of what is offered. We will see if this helps.

Dan: Stress, or just that they feel it is too hard?

Michele: I have been clear with the students about the difference. It is not about the programme being hard, but about people not being able to cope and dropping out. There is a very big difference between the second and the third semester.

Dan: It is the same at SWU. But some people are dropping out due to their own ambitions. When their expectations for themselves are too high regarding grades they end up feeling like a failure, even when doing ok.