

Meeting SAT CS – 19-02-2025

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoSP BSWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoSP KCS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoSP KSD)
- Luca Maria Aiello (HoSP KDS)
- Michele Coscia (HoSP BDS)
- Malthe Rødsgaard Pabst Lauridsen (KDS)
- David Martin Sørensen (BDS)
- Mette Holm Smidt (ProCoor BDS/KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (ProCoor SWU/CS)
- Marc Kellaway (ProCoor SD, Secretary SAT CS)

Absent:

- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoSP BSWU)
- Omid Sabihi Marfavi (KDS) – afbud
- Wiktor Pedrycz (BDS)
- Julia Bijak (BDS)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 29-01-2025

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

3. Study Programme Reports

KSD (Patrick)

- Comments on action points for 2024:
 - KSD courses has been surveyed for elements of sustainability. Two mandatory courses identified here: *Software Engineering* includes a project on sustainability, and *Algorithms and Data Structures* has a strong focus on algorithmic efficiency.
 - Downward trend in completion rate has been surveyed. We see a rise in the average delay among the students, which matches that we know that students are delaying courses. The workload of the mandatory activities still seem to be a major contributor to stress, so some courses has had adjusted the workload here.
 - We still want to revise the exam for Introductory Programming in light of the GAI issues, but is waiting for implementation of WISEflow for now.

- The numbers are fine and the programme in good shape. No alarming things in general.
- Action plan for 2025 is focused on getting the new specialisation structure in place – basically the same approach as KCS. Instead of having fixed specializations, the programme will have a pool of specialisation courses, and then recommended specialisation.

KDS (Luca)

- The numbers are fine.
- Comments on action points for 2024:
 - Input has been received from the programme review by the end of 2024, and a plan for a reform of the programme is in place with plans of implementation in 2025.
 - Two new hires in the Data Science section should provide additional stability for the BSD and KSD programme, but staff remains a critical point of failure.
 - Gender balance is slowly getting better, though no specific actions has been taken. There has been plans to reach out to the Communication Department, but no resources to do something extra.
- Action points for 2025:
 - all focused on reforming the programme, boiling down to the following three courses:
 - Data Science in Production – will be redesigned to have less overlap with BDS, and some content split into a separate elective.
 - Seminars in Data Science – major change in course content and exam format.
 - Data in the Wild – will be updated to have less overlap with BDS and be more advanced.
 - Additional recommendation from the panel we should keep in mind, though it is more like an action point for Jacob: We need to have incentives to keep good representation in the teacher cohort also.

BDS (Michele)

- Comments on action points for 2024:
 - Software Development and Software Engineering was revised and ran to completion. The status is good, but not excellent, as the course got a fairly low score in the evaluation. Not so worrisome, though, since the course is new, but if the score is not better next year, we should follow up.
 - Electives keep being an issue. The programme has a very little pool to offer from, but hope to develop a few new ones over the year.
 - Recruitment within Denmark. This is an ongoing effort.
- Action points for 2025:
 - Electives are kept as an area of focus, and at least one extra course should be added to the pool in 2025.

- BDS has been lacking a bit behind in the green competences process, so it is an action point to map this and perhaps improve the programme in this area. Mapping is currently proceeding well, and wishes on additional activities that could be done has been collected from the course managers.
 - Completion rate is off target, so it will be investigated how to improve this. It is also an issue here that drop-outs count with the slow completion rate.
- In general, the courses are pretty healthy, but we need to talk about generative AI, and how it impacts the exams and the students.

BSWU (Dan)

- The numbers are a bit low. A reason might be that an ill planned first semester might have scared some away
- Action points for 2025:
 - Improving the 5th semester.
 - Developing the Semester Cafés (=all semester meetings merged into one), as attendance is very low, and we really want the feedback.
 - Making changes to the first semester. GIT will be implemented in a scaffolded way doing the first 1½ year. And we will make changes to the first-year project to address the green competences.
 - Looking into how to make the exam scheduling of the long days better for the examiners.

Comments from SAT:

David: First of all, it is good to have GIT in the early part, and also good how you have implemented live coding. I am curious on how you have been handling Generative AI? I know there have been workshops on this.

Dan: Generative AI is a challenge, but can also be an advantage. We are looking into how we – based on research – can make it an active part of the teaching. We still have to be concerned about the exams, though.

David: In the action plan for 2024 there was a point about improved communication about workload. I guess it has always been a problem, since it can be hard to define the average student and the average time use?

Dan: This is something we continue to work on. What we see in the student evaluation is, that some courses seems harder to the students than others, and so when they compare the courses, they say “why is this course to harder than that course, since they are both 7.5 ECTS?”, which is an issue, if the students use an easier course as a baseline.

David: I think the issue is also about that one thing is using a lot of *hours* on something, another is when you have to use a lot of *energy* on something – so this is also about what *feels* hard, which might not be 100% following how many hours you need to use. Is this also taken into consideration in the discussion?

Dan: Right now, we only look at the numbers. This is the work you need to do, which gives this number of hours per week when compressed into the semester.

David: Other than that, it sounds great. I am excited to see how the new first year project will go, and how you will approach generative AI in the programme.

KCS (Marco)

- Comments on action points for 2024:
 - One point was to increase the number of students, but that haven't actually worked. We was expecting 120 students but ended up with 101. As we made a high number of offers this worries me, so next year this number should go up. The challenge is getting enough qualified applications. We get around 70% from SWU, which are usually fine. The challenge is getting the right people from the programme from outside ITU.
 - The other action point was the implementation of the new specialisation structure. A couple of courses had to be cancelled due to too few registrations, but otherwise things seems to be going as planned. We will be looking at the distribution among the courses next year.
- The numbers are mostly fine. We had a few breaches in regard to thesis supervision by non-VIP, but we are always very strict with this, so the supervisors in question had the right qualification.
- Action points for 2025:
 - Reproposing increasing the number of applicants.
 - Monitor the new specialisation structure.

SAT talk SAT

*Suggestion from Marc that we from next meeting add a recurring point of "Agenda for the next meeting".
Suggestion from David that we also talk about how to follow up on things from previous meetings in general. Both will be at the agenda for the next meeting.*