

Meeting SAT CS – 29-01-2025

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoSP BSWU)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoSP BSWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoSP KCS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoSP KSD)
- Michele Coscia (sub. HoSP BDS)
- Luca Maria Aiello (HoSP KDS)

- Malthe Rødsgaard Pabst Lauridsen (KDS)
- Wiktor Pedrycz (BDS)
- Omid Sabihi Marfavi (KCS)
- David Martin Sørensen (KCS)

- Mette Holm Smidt (ProCoor BDS/KDS)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (ProCoor SWU/CS)
- Marc Kellaway (ProCoor SD, Secretary SAT CS)

Absent:

- Julia Bijak (BDS)
- Paolo Tell (guest)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda

After a short presentation round, and a short presentation of SAT by Mette, the agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 12-12-2024

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

3. Course evaluation autumn semester 2024

BDS

Michele: In general, all the averages look good. There is also a much higher response rate than last semester, which is very good. These are averages though, and some courses still have lower response rates, so some teachers still need to motivate people better to do the evaluation. The same thing goes for the ratings of the scores – the averages look nice, but there are individual courses with lower scores.

Software Development and Software Engineering has a low score, but for now I am waiting with actions, as the course has been totally restructured, and these things happen on the first-time round. I will put a pin in that, and see if the low score repeats next year, and then suggest actions.

Technical Communication will get a different teacher, so we'll see if that makes any difference.

From the comments in general I can see that a discussion on the exercises sessions is needed. Whether they are relevant for the courses, or the exams are a common theme, and a general issue from the comments is that the exercises sessions wasn't as good. This is where I will look for improving the semester.

Wiktor: From the comments you mentioned, I think there is a general sentiment that the exercises are less usable.

Michele: I am taking note of that, and agree that the exercise sessions can be improved.

Wiktor: In general, for the semester there was issues with the Statistics course.

Michele: I am aware of this. The main problem is that the course is very big and taught by four different teachers. This give fragmentation with different teaching styles, so I think the issue is that nobody owns the course.

Wiktor: Having one person in charge would probably improve things. People did not mind the style of any of the teachers, but the mix of styles was confusing.

Michele: One last thing to mention – it seems that people do like the teachers a lot, so the teaching environment seems good, it is just the structure, that seems to be lacking.

BSWU

Dan: Generally, the courses are ok, and we also had a slight increase in participants. There are some courses we have to pinpoint though.

For Discrete Math the teacher had decided to make a restructuring, but did perhaps not have time enough to adapt this properly. When he is back from paternity leave, I will have sessions with him to help prioritize for next year.

Louise: The lecturer is on parental leave, and unfortunately did not have time to structure the course, so the person brought in from outside had a tough start. Last year the score was high, so we do not worry too much. We will also have a new CM next time. Unfortunately, the grades are late due to an IT related issue with the censor not having access.

Dan: For Operating Systems and C, the comments from the students was mainly that they are overwhelmed with workload. I will have a talk with the teacher to see, if we can adjust.

[closed point] ... [/closed point]

KCS:

Marco: Overall, the results are pretty positive, and the respond rate is also pretty high overall. The scores also roughly reflect what we had in the previous years. Machine Learning is a little low, though. Maybe Dan has some comments in this?

Dan: Some of it I still don't know what is. I try to be meticulous in understanding the issues, have talked with Luca for feedback and spend a semester correcting things. For instance, an issue was that the course material was scattered across multiple platforms. Now we have a webpage as a notebook with an overview for each week. Another point of critique has been that the lectures was running very long. I have also asked the TAs to count how many people was showing up for the exercises. So, in general we are trying to understand where there are issues.

David: I took the course and felt that it in its entirety was a good experience, though not all my peers agree in this. The main points I know from the course was that the course material was scattered, so people were using too long time finding it, and that the lectures was too long. Regarding the course material – the website is great, but is issue remains, that there are also stuff on OneDrive and LearnIT, and legacy material on GitHub from last year. When things are tricky to find it probably also create a negative feedback look where people agree among themselves that it is difficult, and just google things.

I was on a lot of the exercise sessions, and as far as I remember a lot of people was there. I also know the format of the exercises sometimes was an issue – mandatory exercises referred to stuff done at the non-mandatories. There also seemed to be an issue that the difficulty mentioned did not always fit. People could spend long time on the easy exercises, and sometimes do the difficult ones very quickly.

I also agree about the long lectures – sometimes it was not easy to grasp the red thread.

Omid: I also took the course, so to expand on what David said: Coming from SWU, the first semester at KCS is the first time we have had four courses at once. Since this course – compared to the other three – was the one having most new concepts to grasp, it did feel like a bit too much for 7.5 ECTS.

David: A final general comment. I think the course is suffering a bit from the same as Forretningsmodeller on SWU in that it introduces stuff that it is not directly programming related. A lot of my peers has issues beginning to grasp the use of it from that reason.

Marco: To wrap it up - from my point of view this is normal with new courses, they need a few iterations to settle. I want to investigate how this course felt more heavy compared to the other courses. Maybe we could also discuss a better way to get feedback on this.

KSD

Patrick: To start with the positives, we had an excellent response rate – much better than last semester. The only exception was Technical Interaction Design, which usually has a very good response rate, so I do not know what happened there. Another positive is that Applied Information Security, that in previous evaluations has had a low score, this times scores very well. This should mean there is a chance to co-teach it with the SWU course, as both seems to be running ok now. Another improvement is that Data Mining scored well, so it seems the new CM is doing a great job. The course had low scores in the past, but has gradually improved, and the students seems happy with it now.

As for the negatives, Software Engineering scores low. This is nothing new, we have a long-running problem with the course sitting awkward in the curriculum, as we have it in the first semester before the students have had the chance to learn programming. Apart from this, there seems from the student feedback to have been a bit of lack of coordination between the teachers and the TAs. Another difficulty has been that the students who postponed it on their first semester now had issues with the scheduling. But it seems the course manager managed to solve it in a constructive way.

That said, there has been a lot of constructive feedback in the comments, and the CM also had other plans to improve the course, so I will be talking with her.

Marco: This course has always been difficult due to the placement – this was also an issue back on the SDT Programme.

Patrick: Just for the record, we have already looked into whether it could be placed differently, but this would just create other issues, so does not seem to be an option.

We also have two other courses with borderline scores. For Big Data Management the comments are quite positive, but a common complaint is a lack of connection between the lectures and the assignments. For Applied Algorithms the comments hold lot of praise for the teachers, but they seem also to be very ambitious with the course, so the workload seems a bit too big and difficult right now.

KDS

Luca: We had five courses, two of which were electives. The electives are especially well received. For two courses the scores are critical: Advanced Applied Statistics and Seminars in Data Science. For Seminars we have a downward trend in the scores, whereas Advanced Applied Statistics has never gotten positive response.

The general issues with Advanced Applied Statistics seems to be that: 1) the book is (still) very bad, and not integrated properly into the courses. 2) The content is perceived as too hard and not applied enough. 3) The TA for the autumn semester was not an optimal choice, as they did not come with a data science background. For next year we hope to get a TA with a background in Data Science, but it is in general difficult for us to get TAs at all. We will also make more effort in improving the integration with the book. Due to the BDS redesign the 2025 cohort should have a stronger stats basis, which hopefully will help with the difficulty.

For Seminars in Data Science a major overhaul is needed – which also was recommended by the panel in the recent programme review. We need to look into the organization in general, and get a better coordination between segments of the course, as well as between the course and the exam. One idea is to make the students reproduce papers and having in-class activities of paper discussions, but other input would be appreciated. The course has potential, but it has never worked as intended.

Data in the Wild just about hit the 4.5 mark, but can still be improved. The course will undergo a major overhaul and reorganization for next time, introducing more advanced concepts and leaving basic concepts as videos for people who need to catch up.

Malthe: I think it is the right thing to do to make Data in the Wild more advanced. For Seminars I think the idea of reproducing papers sound interesting – this might prepare the students for the exams. Regarding Applied Stats, when I took the bachelor course, I did not learn much statistics. Partially due to the fact that it was on Zoom due to Corona, and partially due to the teaching style.

Luca: Sometimes this is an issue of staffing – which skillset do people have? We are looking into how this process should be in the future at the moment as part of the ITU management restructuring.

David: One final quest on a more general level: Can we compare data between the scores and the final grades?

Marc: Not directly on a 1:1 basis, but the data is available for both for the course managers in Qlik.

Louise: Previously Yvonne used to do this when she was head of programmes. For me grades are not a stable thing from year to year – sometimes it reflects the students too, or other issues with the course.

David: It is not critical, but could still be interesting.

4. SAT talk SAT

Postponed to next meeting

5. Information from SAT

Postponed to next meeting