

Board of Studies (BoS) – 4 March 2022, 13:00-14:15

- Present: **Stine Gotved** (directly elected faculty), **Martin Pichlmair** (faculty, SAT Games), **Therese Graversen** (faculty, SAT CS), **Baki Cakici** (faculty, SAT Business)
- Theodor Christian Kier** (directly elected student), **Sofie K. Nielsen** (student, SAT CS), **Khurram Murtaza Kahn** (student, SAT Business), **Peter Bech Astrup** (student, SAT Games)
- Ea Feldfos** (assigned guest, SAP), **Pernille Rydén** (assigned guest, Dean of Education), **Dorthe Stadsgaard** (secretary, SAP)
- Allette B. Bundgaard and Marc Kellaway** (SAP Scheduling Team, guests for item 7)
- Absent: **Signe Louise Yndigeegn** (faculty, SAT DD), **Thomas Flodgaard Kaufmanas** (student, SAT DD)

Minutes

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 3 February 2022

The minutes were approved.

From this meeting, Dorthe will adjust the procedure for approval of minutes to get them approved and published sooner. Asap after a meeting (usually the following weekday), the minutes will be sent to all BoS members for approval. Comments are to be sent to Dorthe right away. Members who do not respond within 4 weekdays are considered in agreement with the draft minutes. The ambition is to finalise and publish the minutes one week after a meeting.

Martin: Can you attach the minutes from the previous meeting when you send out agenda and appendices for the upcoming meeting?

Dorthe: No problem, will do.

3. Decision: BoS' student member of the Exemption Committee

A decision was not made in December: Should the rule be that it is the directly elected student who is the student member of the committee, or should BoS' students elect the student member (every year)?

Decision: *Members of the Exemption Committee will be the directly elected student and directly elected faculty. In 2022 they are Stine Gotved and Theodor C. Kier.*

4. Information: Introduction of plagiarism tool for supervisors

Ea: Some faculty probably already know the tool and it has been used by other universities for some years. ITU has spent a couple of years discussing plagiarism with supervisors and faculty – how big a problem is it etc. The tool we are introducing used to be called Urkund, now it is called Ouriginals. It is a private company, and we pay an annual licence based on the number of full-time students. We did a test of the tool with teachers from DD and got feedback. Some faculty from BIT have also tested the

tool. Now we are implementing it for all faculty from late March/early April 2022. The tool can only be used on text, not images, code or other.

Baki: What happens to the data we upload? What is the business model behind this?

Ea: I am not entirely sure, but ITU's Legal Department has approved using the tool.

Baki: I just want us to know what happens with data.

Ea: ITU will not deliver data to Ouriginals, but the company has access to a number of databases, periodicals etc. to which ITU probably contribute. On Ouriginals web page they state: "Licensed content from quality sources: We are committed to expanding our comprehensive database to ensure it remains relevant and current for our clients using our writing styles analysis and text-matching features. In addition to open access content available on the internet, our editorial strategy includes the aggregation of important scholarly content from academic publishers such as Springer, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, IEEE and Gale/Cengage."

Baki: What happens to false positives? Our current procedure has some flaws.

Ea: SAP only knows about such cases if the examiner informs us. If we have been informed, and it turns out to be a false positive, the case will be dismissed by SAP. SAP has investigated handling it the same way we handle exam complains: We consult the student(s) involved, send their input to the examiner and Head of Study Programme who recommend a decision after which SAP decides the case.

Stine: Does the plagiarism tool understand Danish and other Nordic languages?

Ea: The tool does not exist in Danish (or other Nordic languages). But as it is a text comparison tool a text in Danish will be compared to a reference in Danish. On Ouriginals' web page they state: "Analysis powered by sophisticated algorithms: When the system finds similarities in the text, it not only records the degree of the matches but also considers any paraphrasing and usage of synonyms as well as any evidence of ghost writing and contract cheating. Our algorithms work regardless of language and can detect similarities across most widely used languages."

Stine: What text will you have to base the case on?

Ea: I can give you an example, a case from January 2022: A supervisor came to SAP saying he thought there might be plagiarism involved in a project. He collected two pages with text he thought was plagiarized and sent it to SAP. SAP did their own analysis of the entire project and found more plagiarized text.

Stine: The last § in the appendix: Please include that SAP has the report as well.

Ea: Good point, I will make sure it is included.

Khurram: Will all projects go through a plagiarism check? And who has access to the results?

Ea: Yes, the tool will be used on all projects. Only the examiner and SAP will know the result – and the student(s) of course if plagiarism is discovered.

Martin: Should the students also have access so they can check if they are in danger of plagiarism?

Ea: That would be a different tool, Ouriginals cannot be used that way.

5. Information: Delayed grades – follow up by departments in 2021

Pernille: I have no further comments than what is in the appendix. Like with other issues, once you dig into them, they turn out to be complex.

BoS thanks for the feedback and awaits the overview of delayed grades from Winter exams 2021-2022 which will be on the agenda 30 March 2022.

6. Information: Task force for equality in teaching activities - Better conditions for students with functional impairments

Ea: The Ministry (UFM) issued legal injunctions concerning students with functional impairments. There is a lot of focus on the area at the political level. This is an update, including two reports published lately, one by UFM and one from the Danish Center for Educational Environment (DCUM). The reports are currently being translated to English. Last year BoS decided to establish a task force to discuss how we approach and work with this area at ITU. At present, all students with functional impairments must have their special conditions renewed every semester. This is both time consuming and a strain on the students involved. The task force has met and discussed how to go about their task. We hope to be able to have a proposal for BoS in June 2022.

Sofie: How do you make sure the student voice is part of the task force?

Ea: There are student members in the task force. The SPS student counsellors are also part of the task force.

Sofie: I did a small Facebook survey about this – what are your needs etc. Several students said it was nice to be asked.

Ea: Please let the task force use this data.

Therese: Will Course Managers and Heads of Study Programme be informed about functional impairments among their students? It would be useful information when planning a course.

Ea: We do not know yet, some students prefer openness while others prefer privacy.

Therese: To accommodate needs, I need information.

Ea: Concerning exams, SAP is already handling special needs. But perhaps we could provide Heads of Study Programme with an overview of how exam forms translate to cater to special needs.

Pernille: Those students also bring in strengths. The wording may be problematic. Please take care to keep an inclusive environment.

Ea: One of the task force members have brought it up and we are aware of it.

Stine: This is not directly related: Initially the idea was to establish a task force on mandatory activities. We might want to discuss mandatory activities as a separate topic. We should not forget this topic.

Ea: I believe Learning Support is doing something on this?

Pernille: There are activities going on concerning mandatory activities.

Decision: *Dorthe (BoS secretary) asks Learning Support to give BoS a status.*

7. Discussion: Introducing the academic quarter at ITU?

Stine: As the appendices show, there is no agreement in the SATs on this.

Martin: SAT Games discussed it yesterday and we also came up with both pros and cons. For us it is proven concept that works. On the other hand, it is not much better or different than what we already have. But somehow, it is easier to start late than finish early. And then again, late participants will just be even more late.

Baki: SAT Business is concerned that introducing the academic quarter will mean less time for teaching.

Stine: The current system (ending the last class 10 minutes early) has been in place for many years. We have tried to communicate it to teachers and students for years and it still does not work.

Theodor: I think the problems with the current system can be solved using communication – but I do not know what the communication should look like to make it work.

Pernille: Is it a problem that people/departments/teachers disagree? Could departments not have different practices?

BoS: Departments and study programmes share teaching rooms, some courses include students from more than one study programme and some courses are taught by teachers from another department so having different practices would not work.

Khurram: How difficult is it to implement the academic quarter in the booking system?

Marc: Please be aware if you are discussing a change in behavior or in how we book classes.

Khurram: If we have a communication problem now, will we not have it with the academic quarter as well?

Stine: It is possible, but the academic quarter is a proven concept in many countries – many faculty and students know it already.

Baki: Could we run a university-wide referendum on this among both faculty and students?

Pernille: I do not think it will solve the differences of fluid versus fixed time conceptions.

Stine: I think a referendum is a good idea. But how do we go about it?! It is potentially a huge operation.

Pernille: It also requires that participants get the context.

Stine: Will a BoS member find out how to do such a referendum? The practical set-up and timeline etc.

Sofie: I would not mind, but how much work will it be?

Marc: Will the decision (whatever it will be) influence the booking?

Stine: We will aim for a solution that will not influence the way rooms are booked.

Decision: *Stine and Sofie will investigate the work involved in making referendum and report back to BoS 30 March.*

8. AOB (Any other business)

- a. **BoS' vice-chair:** *BoS' student members have chosen the vice-chair for 2022: Thomas Flodgaard Kaufmanas.*
- b. **Theodor:** *Information: Student Council is planning a hyttetur for all active students (boards, organisations, café etc.). We will discuss all kinds of study related topics (quality etc.).*
- c. **Theodor:** *We have created a group for all chairs of student organisations at ITU, the group will meet at least twice a year. We call it the Chairs' Guild.*
- d. **Dorthe:** *Next week the Institutional Accreditation panel and Accreditation Institution conduct their second site-visit at ITU. Since the site-visit in November 2021, they have selected two focus areas: 1) using student feedback, 2) Ensuring student contact with research environments. They will meet with students, teachers, SAT students, Heads of Study Programme, Heads of Department, Education Group and Executive Management. In June, they will send us their report with a recommendation of either positive, conditional positive or refusal of accreditation.*