

Meeting SAT Computer Science 2 March 2022

Minutes Approved (No comments received by March 22).

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP BSWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoP KCS)
- Therese Graversen (HoP BDS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoP KSD)
- Luca Maria Ariello (HoP KDS)
- Nynne Grauslund Kristiansen (Student rep., BSWU)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., BSWU)
- Sofie Kramshøi Nielsen (Student rep., KSD)
- Juraj Septák (Student rep., BDS)
- 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)
- Viktor Shamal Andersen (Guest, BDS)

Absent:

- Anne Brix Damgaard Fransen (Student rep., KSD)
- Paolo Tell (Guest, faculty)
- Jesper Bengtson (Guest, faculty)

Minutes:

Marco chairs the meeting.

1. **Approval of agenda:**

Agenda approved.

Welcome to Luca new Head of Programme for KDS as of March 1.

2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 2 February 2022:**

Appendix 2A.

Minutes approved.

3. **Information:**

A) Several stakeholders need information from the SAT meetings. E.g., Study Board (hearings and other input) and students in general. The present procedure is that SAT minutes are approved on the following meeting and thus, it takes more than a month to release information.

The new procedure for approval of SAT minutes is: Once, the minutes from the meetings are released, SAT members have 10 working days to give comments. If no comments arrive, the minutes are considered approved and will be published in the usual place on ITU student:

<https://itustudent.itu.dk/Campus-Life/ITU-Boards/Subject-area-team---Computer-Science>

SAT CS finds this change in procedure appropriate.

4. **Update from study programmes:** / Students.

SWU, Nynne:

- Functional Programming, on 4th semester: Students on the course report they are pleased with the changes in the course.

KSD, Sofie:

- In general, students are quite content with the courses on the semester. However, reports are that the workload is still huge and some students have applied for exemptions not to study full time.

- The application process for exchange is slow and heavy.

Comments from Patrick:

-The workload has been unchanged during the past years and Patrick knows it is close to the limit. Thus, new initiatives are in the planning to help new students coping: BootMAT (pre-start workshop in mathematics) and BootIT (pre-start programming workshop).

- SAP and Student counselling work with HoP on alternative study plans.

BDS, Júraj:

- 1st year project: The Python skills to be used in the first project are not yet taught and thus, students must study this by themselves. In this way, the progression is disconnected.

Comments from Therese:

- This is a general problem on 1st year project, and Therese will include this comment in the general evaluation.

5. **Program review of KCS in autumn 2021.** / Marco. (Postponed from last meeting).

Please find the report as Appendix 5A.

Marco presents highlights from the review:

- The panel recommend removing CrossDIT from the program: It has been decided to remove CrossDIT from all study programs until another Cross-disciplinary replacement are found.

- The panel support replacing Security 1 with Introductory Machine Learning: This change will come into force for students admitted autumn 2023.

- The panel recommend that emphasis in the program is on keeping the practical involvement balanced with less standard theoretical stuff.

- The panel recommend addressing the workload on KCS. It also seems that many students work a lot despite this program being a full-time program.

- The panel find that study abroad is hard to plan on KCS. The best time to go is on 2nd semester but the application deadline is only a few weeks after study start on 1st semester.

- The panel recommend introducing 2.5 ECTS courses as this can probably help solving the workload issues.

- The panel recommend working with the gender diversity on KCS. Many women reject a study place, and it is unknown why this happens.

- The panel recommend increasing collaboration between students and employers.

- The panel recommend keeping an eye on the specialization balance.

Comments from SAT:

- Reflection from student who have studied both on ITU and at KU: it is easier to align a study job with studying at KU compared to ITU.
- The workload is not evenly distributed on semesters.
- Students cannot scale down the amount courses on a semester due to the rules of progression.
- ITU are running the progress requirements in a very strict way compared to other institutions.
- Also, students without a job on the side finds the workload tough.
- It is about finding the balance.

Students Council are presently working with Dean of Education and others to address the issue of workload.

6. **Study Environment Assessment - new reports and action plan process.**

Please find introduction letter and other documents in Appendices 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D and 6E.

Comments from SAT:

- The point about feedback and accessibility to teachers might be worth looking into.
- SAT finds it important to notice that the survey shows, ITU students seem to care for and help each other out when needed. But stressed students cannot help fellow students out in the way they can if they are not stressed. Thus, if more people are stressed, less will be able to help fellow students.

7. **Study Program Reports /HoP.**

Please find the reports as Appendices 7A (BSWU), 7B (KSD), 7C (KDS) and 7D (BDS)

BDS, Therese presents highlights from the report:

- Based on the results of the external review report, mathematics and statistics should increase in BDS. This issue is currently discussed among faculty.
- Another focus point is to consider the amount of "unguided" project work especially in 1st year.
- Focus is also on students who have only little coding experience when entering the program and means to make them cope better in the program.
- Until now, BDS offered no electives of their own. As the two tracks on the program is now discontinued, 2 x 7,5 ECTS is free for electives. Thus, investigations on the possibility for BDS to offer electives is in progress.
- Applied Statistics has low score in the course evaluation again and actions are in progress.

Comments from SAT:

A problem on Applied Statistics is that lectures are very heavy loaded, and the teaching stuff piles up quickly during lectures. Students getting lost simply cannot catch up, making it hard to keep the engagement.

BSWU, Dan presents highlights from the report and focal points for the year to come:

- The drop out and delay rates are too high. Some students report that they become very surprised about the high expectations on the program once, they are admitted and start on BSWU. A way to solve this issue is to be careful to communicate the high expectations to potential students already when they consider applying to BSWU.
- The progression rules force students to take programming courses even if they fail a pre-requisite course on an earlier semester. Proposed solution would be that students retake the pre-requisite

course in the next semester by following non-ECTS-giving catch-up activities run by TAs, instead of going for the next course.

Comments from SAT:

Regarding the non-ECTS-giving activities? Where will finance for those activities be found?

KDS, Luca:

Overall, the program is in good shape and students are doing well. Two issues will be in focus for the coming year:

- 1) Extend the outreach to potential applicants.
- 2) Data Science is very tight on staffing.

Comments from SAT:

None.

KSD, Patrick:

Two issues will be in focus for the coming year:

- 1) The workload on the program is high.
- 2) The dropout rate raises.

Means to solve the issues will be:

- Introducing onboarding activities: Study Lab and BootMAT.
- Teachers coordinate the mandatory activities on 1st semester to distribute the workload more evenly.

Comments from SAT:

None.

Program report from KCS will be circulated later.

8. **Graduate Report 2022.**

Please find the reports as Appendix 8A.

Comments from SAT:

Presently and in future the labor market has a huge demand of graduates from the CS-corner. This shows in the very positive numbers in the report.

However, ITU must be careful not to rest on the laurels in this pleasant situation.

9. **Change of meeting date 22 June / HoP.**

The next meeting date overlaps with a Meeting in which all Head of Programs must participate.

Thus, it was decided to reschedule. The new time is on the same day, 22 June at 14.30 to 16.00.

10. **AOB:**

Discussion continued from last meeting:

Student Council feel that throughout the semester, continuous feedback and evaluation should be systematized and tools provided for students.

Two approaches emerged on last meeting:

- 1) Having an open mailbox, where students can give feedback when they want to
- 2) Ask students for feedback after every lecture.

Student Council plan to set up and provide a tool that reaches in between:

The plan is to distribute an e-mail to a subset of participants on the courses after each lecture. The survey will have one simple question like: "Did you benefit from this lecture" or the like. Answers will be by rating. Additionally, students can give comments.

Victor has set up a prototype ready to try off. He wants to present it to Sofie, Dan and Marco.

Comment from SAT:

- The comments would be beneficial for teachers not the actual rating.
- will a continuous survey like this run the risk of adding to the survey-fatigue that already exists among students?
- Will this continuous survey undermine the official course evaluation, set by law and used by the ministry to measure the quality of our study programs?.
- It might be that students are encouraged to answer if the e-mails come out right after the lectures.