Board of Studies (BoS) – 4. meeting 2024

26 April 2024

Present:  Hanna Wirman (faculty, SAT Games), Irina Papazu (faculty, SAT Business), Signe Louise Yndigegen (faculty, SAT DD), Patrick Bahr (faculty, SAT CS), Christian Balslev van Randwijk (secretary to BoS, SAP), Tiago Fernandes (student, SAT Games), Alexander Senderovitz (directly elected student)

Guests:  Lise Lawaetz Winkler (SAP), Viktoria Hofbauer (SAP), Annelise Agertoft (SAP, LS), HoSPs, Peter Sestoft (HoD, CS)

Absent: Lena Winther Jensen (student, SAT CS), Emil Ulrik Gregersen (student, SAT BIT), Magnus Borum Green (student, SAT DD)

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda

2. Study Environment Workshop and Action Plan
   Summation of the results from the workshop and discussion about possible actions for the Action Plan.
   Appendix 1
   Guests: Lise Lawaetz Winkler & Viktoria Hofbauer, DoES, Annelise Agertoft, LS

3. [Closed subject] Discussion about ITU Restructuring
   A discussion about the upcoming restructuring. Since it is a closed subject, no minutes will be taken.
   Guests: HoSPs

4. AOB (Any Other Business)
Minutes

Ad 1
The agenda was approved.

Ad 2
Lise introduced the topic and the process.
Lise presented the workshop, how it went, the topics discussed, and the output from the day.
The overall topics for the day were Learning Environment, Wellbeing, and Physical Environment.
Lise presented a draft for an overview of 9 possible focus areas for the upcoming action plan. Probably this year, the approach to the action plan will be more holistic, since many of the topics or focus areas overlap or supplement each other.
Lise and Viktoria also suggested that, going forward, it would be better to use the term “Students with disabilities”, rather than “students with impairments”.
Lise asked for comments about the overview.
Alexander stated that all the focus areas summarized the questionnaire really well. And that some things are short term some are more long term. Possibly physical environmental issues could be addressed in the short term. He mentioned that the feedback topic is important to many students, and that it differs a lot from one course to the next. As an example of good feedback, he mentioned a teacher who took the time to give both verbal and written feedback on a written assignment. He also mentioned that the alignment of expectations is extremely important. He added that it is also very important to remember that some TAs are not only good at academic content, but also have teaching and feedback competences.
Hanna added that these were valuable comments, but that it is possibly difficult to give good feedback, if you have never received good feedback yourself, which makes it even more important to provide good feedback, so TAs have experience with it. She added that both providing and receiving feedback are skills.
Patrick said that it is also important to see if it is possible to keep the same TAs for a longer time, since a lot of knowledge is lost every time new TAs replace experienced TAs.
Lise asked who they thought should be responsible for this focus area. No clear-cut answer was arrived at.
Lise asked about the focus area about workload, should this be a focus area in the final action plan? There were not a lot of concrete thoughts about this subject, so possibly leave it out of the action plan.
Lise asked about “Inclusive and constructive group work” This was quite a big theme in many discussions at the workshop.
Signe mentioned that they are working with developing this area. But group work is a big thing in general at ITU, and maybe it is not quite clear for prospective students how much group work is actually required when studying at ITU. She mentioned that it could be a good idea to focus more thoroughly on how to facilitate group work and group formation.

Alexander stated that his experiences of group formation differed a lot from course to course, and from programme to programme. So, it could possibly be a good idea with some form of common guidelines for group formation. Also, it is often something that is left to TAs to handle, and that is a big responsibility for them.

Hanna added that the new exam format where you can be an individual or a group could have some risks for students who have difficulties finding a group, ending up having to do individual exams.

Annelise stated that LS would be happy to be involved in this.

Lise mentioned the topic “Wellbeing, discrimination and harassment.” Issues here were mostly about communication, process and roles related to this. Maybe the committee will be involved in this.

Lise presented the topic “Students with disabilities.” In the survey, a third of students report as having some form of disability. Hanna stated that it would be a good idea to further develop ITU competences in this area.

Finally, Lise presented “Physical environment”. A number of concrete issues about the use of EHK and optimizing teaching rooms.

Annelise mentioned that LS have established a forum with FM.

Lise and Viktoria left the meeting, and DoES will continue facilitating the new Study Environment Action Plan.

**Ad 3**

Closed subject – no minutes.

**Ad 4**

No further business.