

Meeting SAT Computer Science 3 March 2021

Minutes Approved

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP SWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoP CS)
- Therese Graversen (HoP BDS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoP SD)
- Viktor Shamal Andersen (Student rep., DS)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., SWU)
- Niclas Hedam (Student rep., CS)
- Andreas Blanke (Student rep., CS)
- Paolo Tell (Guest, faculty)
- Sanne Louise Aaby-Diederichsen (Observer, Study and Career & Guidance)
- Mette Holm Smith (Observer, Prog Coor BDS + KDS)
- Marc Kellaway (Observer, Prog Coor SD)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor SWU + CS) (Minutes)
- Pernille Rydén (Dean of Education, Guest)

Absent:

- Sara Gjerløv (Observer, Study and Career & Guidance)
- Barbara Planck (HoP KDS)
- Jesper Bengtson (Guest, faculty)

Minutes:

1. **Approval of agenda:** Theodor leads the meeting. Agenda approved.
2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 3 February 2021.** Appendix 2A. Minutes approved.
3. **Information:** Nothing to report.
4. **Election of SAT CS faculty member to the Study Board.** Heads of Programmes should appoint a member to Study Board.
Decision: Head of programs decided to rotate the task between them every 6 months.
Marco takes the first turn in 2021 (incl. June).
Patrick follows for second half of 2021 (incl. December)
5. **Update from study programs.** /Students.
KCS, KSD and BDS: Nothing to report.

BSWU, Theodor:

Functional Programming: Problems on the course have been reported over a period and the average grade from the exams are very low. What have been done to solve the challenges?

Patrick explains:

- The number of exercise sessions has been doubled.

- The number of mandatory activities has been reduced.
- It is now clearly marked on each assignment, which of them leads to the project.
- The switch from regular lectures and exercises to project work in the middle of the semester has caused troubles. The project will be clearly introduced this semester.

In general:

Well-being of students: The e-mail from ITU to students with a guide to where to get support with mental well-being has been well received by students.

Exam grades from written exams come late: Grades from written exams are often delayed on all study programs in the CS-corner. Thus, the grades come very close to the re-exam.

SAT discussed why this happens and what can be done:

Key words from the discussion:

- It would be interesting to know, how many grades are just a few days and how many are delayed with week(s)
- For the autumn '20, some delays are caused by the Corona-situation, where the exams were moved. Thus, teachers would grade the exam assignments simultaneously with teaching.
- Delays are a recurring problem and happens each semester – some time ago SAP investigated the issue. The result showed that the problem mainly prevails in the CS corner.
- The grading period might be too tight; specially with the increased number of students?

Pernille summed up the discussion:

Delays are a pain point, and not just at ITU. Several factors affect delay e.g., external censors do not grade on time, general peaks in workload during grading time.

There is a bias between having quality in grading and the time disposal for grading. ITU investigate solutions right now, but no clear solution is around the corner.

6. **Student involvement in the re-opening of ITU:** /Pernille, Dean of Education.

ITU hopes for a slight re-opening after Easter. There will be no lectures and exercises, but group work and hopefully also labs will open for students. At first, probably 20% of the student cohort will be allowed at ITU at a time. Reopening will of course involve testing and control. Testing logistic and economy are still unsettled between ministry and universities.

One proposal might be that alle students have one day at campus per week. This will be a logistic challenge, but it will be better for well-being of students.

Pernille asks SAT: what are students' needs, what should be the priorities?

Comments from SAT:

- Giving priority to first and last semester students might benefit those students, but the students on the middle semesters might be worse off.
- How many students will actually want to go back – with COVID still in the society and no vaccine for those groups for still a while?
- Opening exercises and Study Lab might also benefit students.
- Online teaching at ITU in general works very well for students and teachers are very good. What is missing is the social interaction.

- Already, student can work in groups of max five, However, presently not at ITU.

7. Hearing: Application for non-standard examination form on the BSWU course, Analysis Design and Software Architecture. Appendices 7A and 7B.

The course manager on the course want to introduce a non-standard examination form for the course. As part of the application process, several stakeholders can comment on the application. Study Board decides the outcome of the application.

The aim of the hearings are:

- To discuss questions about non-standard examination forms in a broader perspective.
- Let student representatives take part in the discussions.
- Make sure that demand for resources (time, room, logistic etc.) for non-standard examination forms are included in considerations about exam resources at ITU in general.

Paolo, who is the course manager on the course explains: The exam of the course used to be a combination between a project and a written exam.

Eventually, the project was removed from the course and thus, the exam consisted only of the written part. This did not work well for neither the course, the learning nor the students.

Last year, the project was re-introduced, but not as part of the exam. Experience showed that students did not put their full effort into the project but spent it on the mandatory activities of the course instead.

Thus, the old examination form including both project and written exam should be re-introduced.

Comments from SAT:

- It makes good sense to have a medium size project connected to the exam in this course.
- Re-introducing the project as part of the exam and, at the same time, keeping the mandatory activities unchanged may shift students' workload to this course from the other courses on the semester.
- If his exam form is approved, SAT asks Head of Program and course managers to keep an eye on the workload of the entire 3rd semester to see, if students shift their effort towards this course.
- Is it possible to have the project as a mandatory activity instead of having it as part of the exam?

SAT discussed, if this exam form may be approved as a standard exam form at ITU. Paolo investigates this.

SAT supports the proposal.

8. Quality assurance of credit transfers in the CS study Programs. Appendix 8A.

Postponed from last meeting.

SAT has no comments to the credit transfers.

9. Course and supervision evaluations Autumn 2020. Appendices 9A, 9B and 9C.

Follow up on the results of last autumn's evaluations.

Appendix 8A contains an introduction letter.

BDS, Therese: The response rates are shockingly low and makes it difficult to draw any conclusions. However, it seems that nothing alarming is going on the BDS courses. Courses, which had low scores earlier seem to be raising.

KCS, Marco: No courses with need for concern.

General comments from SAT:

- The low score might be caused by students being overloaded with questionnaires for internal and external surveys.

- The course evaluation consists of many steps and might be trying for both students and teachers to carry out each semester for all courses.

Students agree in this, but nevertheless find that the early part of the course evaluation is useful, as it is possible for both students and teachers to react and adjust on an early stage of the course.

- Even if the course evaluation scheme is extensive, the different parts may be difficult to leave out. However, the present scheme is overwhelming.

- It is also necessary that the evaluation have a somehow fixed form

- Why are TAs not evaluated?

Mette explains that experience shows that TS do not benefit from evaluation on the same premises as teachers. Thus, TAs were left out of the evaluation. If reintroduced, specific means must be developed.

Course evaluations from the rest of the HoPs are postponed to next meeting.

10. Employers' Panel Reports 2021. Appendix 10A.

Each year, the Employers' Panel for the CS-programs submits an annual report, elaborating on the relations between the study programs and the labor market. The 2021 report is ready.

Postponed to next meeting.

11. Use of video in classes: /Dan

We will only discuss this point if there is enough time for a discussion. If not, the point goes on the agenda for next SAT CS meeting.

Dan made a quick presentation of the point, and discussion will go on at next meeting.

12. AOB:

Nothing to report.

