Meeting SAT Computer Science 29 March 2023

Minutes Draft

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP BSWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoP KCS)
- Therese Graversen (HoP BDS)
- Patrick Bahr (HoP KSD)
- Luca Maria Ariello (HoP KDS)
- Louise Meier Carlsen (Co-HoP BSWU)
- Marius Thomsen (Student rep., BSWU)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., KCS - chair)
- Sofie Kramshøi Nielsen (Student rep., KSD)
- Simon Johan Skødt (Student rep., BSWU)
- Mette Holm Smith (Observer, Prog Coor BDS/KDS) (Minutes)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Observer, Prog Coor SWU/KCS)
- Lena Winther Jensen (guest student KSD)
- Maja Styrk Andersen (guest student KSD)

Absent:

- Juraj Septák (Student rep., BDS)
- Paolo Tell (Guest, faculty)
- Jesper Bengtson (Guest, faculty)
- Sara Gjerløv (Observer, Study and Career & Guidance)
- Mads Kjeldgaard Caspersen (Study & Career Guidance)
- Marc Kellaway (Prog Coor KSD)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda:

Approved

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 01 March 2023:

One correction, no other comments received within the 10 working days period. Minutes

approved.

3. Information:

None

4. Update from study programmes: / Students.:

KSD/Sofie: Have gathered online feedback. 5-7 students wrote back:

Again, the recurrent feedback that **workload is too high**. Students write: First semester hardest ever during my education – pushed me to my limits. Very overwhelming.

Mandatory assignments (MA) are too demanding. Students don't have time to do exercises and read for classes due to the MAs. Inhibits students from learning what they should learn.

Happy about the **22.5 ECTS registration** requirement option.

Positive feedback about TAs being very helpful.

The Software Engineering course at the first semester seems to be too detached from the rest of the courses. One student had a very bad experience at the oral exam and found the handling of the exam very unprofessional. The external examiner was impolite and used swear words. Furthermore, the exam went 15 minutes over time and the questions and feedback on the assignment handed in were poorly formulated.

Patrick asked what courses cause the most stress. Sofie answered it is **Introduction to Programming.** With no background in IT the course is very time-consuming. Study lab and TAs are very helpful – but the TAs are only helping with exercises.

For next autumn: Make sure there is TA help available for the mandatory assignments – schedule deadlines for MA and TA hours to make it possible.

Current semester **Algorithms and data structures** is the heaviest course – both content wise and many MAs – even if the numbers have been reduced from 10 of 14 to 8 of 10. Better to decide before the course starts than during – but as there are fewer MAs it is formally OK.

The course is very well structured with TA hours for getting help with exercises. But as the course is co-taught between BSWU, BDS and KSD the number of different TA hours for exercises both for getting help and getting feedback and adding study lab hours on top the scheduling gets somewhat complicated.

Therese added that the new structure should not take over the study lab or be scheduled at the same time as exercise classes.

Lena said that the issue is to know when to get help for mandatory assignments.

Sofie ended by saying there is also positive and thankful students.

BSWU/Marius: ALDAS takes too much space; First Year Project been well received – most groups follow the time plan for the course and have regular meetings with TAs helping and giving feedback. UX had a bit of an issue with illness but trying to get back on track.

BSWU **study lab** is scheduled Monday to Wednesday, and it would be nice with a lab by the end of the week Friday. Wednesday study lab is the only activity scheduled.

About study lab on a day without classes, Theodor encourage Marius to write to Jakob Israelsen who is coordinating the study labs about possibilities for moving to another day.

BSWU/Simon: The 6th semester students have had a good townhall meeting with Dan and Louise – will be adapted to other semesters also. Maybe also for other programmes.

CS/Theodor. Lots of good words about teachers. A semester of electives. Cryptography had to be moved online for four weeks impacted a little due to teachers.

But again, the same feedback as before: **Too many mandatory assignments.**

After the security exam issue the internal understanding between programmes has somewhat changed. CS programme students think there are more issues and studying are harder compared to programmes at other departments.

5. Study Programme Reports

Head of Programmes discuss their report (issues, analysis, action points etc.) with SAT

• Appendix 5A: Study Program Report – **BDS/Therese**

Have been discussed with Education Group and Head of CS Department.

The revision of BDS has been approved – now it is the task to develop courses and find teachers.

Two new elective courses – Algorithm Problem Solving. Foundations of Game AI together with Games – 11 students.

Offer more admission to meet the target of 80 students – reach out to more Danish highschool students.

Marius comments: more students it is already crowded. Lack of rooms for group work. Theodor: FM is looking into it. E.g., make it possible to sit at the end of the tables on the balconies.

• Appendix 5B: Study Program Report – **KDS/Luca**

Higher participation rates in the course evaluation.

Some courses were below for various reasons. Are being handled.

Admission – at a good spot – the number of applicants is increasing.

Would like to admit more female applicants though – no quick fixes.

• Appendix 5C: Study Program Report – **KSD/Patrick**

Too few students after dropout – give more offers at coming admission.

Keep an eye on the dropout rates.

The issue with workload will be a continuous focus point.

Sofie commented: About the Study lab evaluation – people don't come to the workshops – align the workshops with the actual course where it is used – Git just before the IP project – place it more strategical. Patrick agrees – will be fixed. Maybe even offer LaTex on the third semester.

Sofie: BootIT camp was too fast track for those with no programming experience. Patrick: we have extended feedback from the students and will adjust.

Could we experiment with having fewer MA with more intensive feedback?

Marius: Workshops work fine – maybe train study lab TAs to teach – it would be nice if workshops had course teachers help planning and providing material. Dan: we are looking into having a more stable study lab coordination. Study lab is not a course and TAs will also learn from planning and teaching.

Have feedback on MA in due time from week to week before next MA – please work on that.

• Appendix 5D: Study Programme Report – **BSWU/Dan-Louise**

Four points:

1. Onboarding – the first experience. Intro week.
2. Looking at all programming courses to make sure topics a well scaffold, what is taught when.
3. Study lab a continuity in the coordination.
4. Drop out reasons – are tight up to point one and two.

Semester meetings – will be re-introduced.

Marius: What about different ECTS sizes and flexibility? Dan: it is currently only a wish – not anything that will be introduced for now. Have been pushed up to management.

Theodor: What about workload and mental being. Should be investigated.

Marius: – we have fewer MAs. Only on ALDAS still many MAs. On UX MAs are not mandatory but it is recommended if you would like to pass. Missing devices for mentoring wellbeing

It worked well on discrete math with MAs every second week and the other week peer feedback.

Louise: we always discuss with teachers before the semester at semester meetings– ask our course managers only to request the absolute necessary numbers of MAs. But teachers are afraid that they have no way of ensuring that students learn and progress. We will point it out again.

Dan: All activities including MAs should be within the workload of what is expected.

Patrick: At the functional programming course we reduced the number of MAs and made some of them optional – it works fine.

Marco: Do you have both exercises and MAs on the same course? Students answer that it is so on most of the courses with MAs. At least the exercises and MAs should support each other.

• Appendix 5E: Study Programme Report – **KCS/Marco**

Admission: Last year there were not enough applicants of good quality. Increased number of applicants this year, but not yet evaluated.

Specialisation reform is in progress.

Study lab first year in autumn 2021 was not enough advertised. This year more students. Consider also having study lab on the second semester.

Admission requirements. Revised – see itu.dk

Introduction to ML will replace Security course on first semester – OBS on **workload**. Simon commented that future KCS students are worried and plan to read 22.5 ECTS. – Practical Concurrent and Parallel Programming is the course that can be postponed.

6. Follow up on the statement from the delegation of SWU students 1 February

• Appendix 6: Statement from the students.

Update on meeting with the students from sixth semester.

Marius: **Late grades** – not sure what we can do about it.

Louise: After meeting with students – if the grades are delayed make sure that it is communicated when they can expect the grades. Difficult with programmes with +100 students. It is a matter of resources for grading.

Theodor: Time is running out - can we wrap it up: Dan and Louise have met with the students and discussed the issues raised thoroughly and will followed up on them.

7. Programme specific employer panel report

Heads of Study Programme discuss the report in SAT

• Appendix 7: Programme specific employer panel report

Postponed

8. AOB: