Board of Studies (BoS) – 31 May 2021, 09:30-10:45

Present: Stine Gotved (chair, directly elected faculty), Signe Louise Yndigegn (faculty, SAT DD), Marco Carbone (faculty, SAT CS) Baki Cakici (faculty, SAT Buss)

Theodor Christian Kier (student, SAT CS), Thomas Flodgaard Kaufmanas (student, SAT DD),

Pernille Rydén (assigned guest, Dean of Education), Lene Rehder (assigned guest, SAP), Dorthe Stadsgaard (secretary, SAP)

Guests: Lise Lawaetz Winkler (Dean of Education Support)

Absent: Martin Pichlmair (faculty, SAT Games), Daniel Kirsch Kromann (directly elected student), Annamaya Halskov-Jensen (student, SAT Games), Emil Vogt Sørensen (student, SAT DD), Mads Christiansen (student, SAT Business), Alexander Lytton (student, SAT Business), Alex Dalum (student, SAT Business)

Not enough student members were present for BoS to make decisions. The day after the meeting, the draft minutes were distributed, and absent members (particularly students) asked to weigh in.

Minutes

1. **Approval of agenda**
   The agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 6 May 2021**
   The minutes were approved.

3. **Study Environment Assessment – approval of Action Plan**
   BoS discussed the Study Environment Assessment results and draft Action Plan in February, March, and April. People/groups appointed responsible for action points have been consulted and the Action Plan is ready for approval.
   Appendix 1: StuEnviAss Action Plan 2021-2024
   Guest: Lise Lawaetz Winkler, Dean of Education Support

   Lise: Today we are to decide on the Action Plan. Please note the changes and additions since last meeting. Remember this is a dynamic document, where progress and more details are added as the action points are being worked on over the next few years. BoS will be given updates on progress regularly.
   Thomas: On behalf of DDIT SAT I would like to ask where we are on Section 1.2. Availability of information – utilizing student representatives? What has happened to this initiative?
   Lise: The Action Point includes a phrase of involving SAT.
   Thomas: It would be good to clarify. In this case SAT is mentioned for feedback purposes. That is something else.
   Lise: I agree that it is two different things.
   [The point was not pushed further and more on it will not be added to the Action Plan. However, Lise will get in touch with the SATs to discuss further involvement in initiatives and activities related to student well-being]

Theodor: I have a few comments. Concerning Action Point 1.1 (stress, loneliness, pressure, discouragement), It will be interesting to see if the focus during first year will have an effect on students in the long run. The second study year might be worse stress-wise than the first year. Concerning 2.2 on workload: Is this not what teachers always try to do? Will something new happen with this action plan?! Concerning 2.3 on Research base, I have noticed that several students seem to lack an introduction to how to do a big project like the BSc project. How does this match with the focus on being a research-based education? Concerning 3.1 on workspace – Reading Room – is that Læsesalen on top of Analog? [yes] Impressive that they can fit 30 seats more into that room.
Lise: All the things you mention have been discussed. There is a university-wide (all universities in Denmark) focus on first year students – and we have prioritized our efforts here. Efforts during first year are expected to have an impact later.
Pernille: Concerning workload, the ambition is not to even out all bumps, but to identify the peaks and consider how to prepare students and communicate it to them so they can plan for peak periods. Tools like study planning and time management. Concerning research-base; we are all trying to figure how research-base can be expressed and become visible in teaching, supervision etc. We need to develop a common language for what research-based learning is. Students must also be able to deal with being confused – you are in a process of learning. There is no quick fix in this area.
Baki: FM tasks and clarification: there is almost no mention of the fact that we have two buildings. Has this come up (moving between buildings between lectures etc.)? Also, the access issues we had in EHK. Before EHK opened, there was a concern, and I am not sure we ever followed up on tit.
Lene: SAP is aware of it when scheduling and assigning rooms. There do not seem to be issues with access anymore.
Baki: Concerning indoor climate, FM will install CO2 sensors. I am pretty sure we will find a problem, but there is nothing in the Action Plan on a solution.
Lise: FM writes that they want to install sensors and measure CO2 levels to facilitate the best action.
Stine: Can we ask FM to skip measuring and go straight to action?
Pernille: They might need the exact measures to be able to fix the problem.

***Decision: Approved** (absent members approved by email).*

4. **Report on ITU graduates**
   The report includes available statistics on employment and unemployment, results from the ministerial graduate survey (carried out in Autumn 2020) and summaries of focus group interviews with selected graduates (carried out in March 2021).
   BoS is to discuss the contents and decide if they find immediate action should be taken. If so, they must recommend actions to Dean of Education/Heads of Department/Education Group/Executive Management (as relevant).
   Appendix 2: Graduate Dialogue – report 2021
   Guest: Lise Lawaetz Winkler (DoE Support)

   Dorthe: This is the first report following the new system for graduate dialogue. It includes data from Uddannelseszoom – graduates (survey carried out by the Ministry), statistics from the ministry's data warehouse and qualitative interviews with selected graduates from MSc and Master study programmes. The statistics part of the report was sent to management groups in January. With interview-data added it has been resent to all management group as wee they are asked to approve by email).
   is also sent to SAT and BoS for treatment.
   Baki: There is a lot of focus on employment figures. In my view they are only part of a bigger picture; the numbers alone do not give me a full picture of what is going on for graduates. Does the numbers and the report give you what you need, Pernille (as Dean of Education)?

Pernille: I agree, it is important to discuss if the report and its content provide us with something useful. In my view, it gives us a surface-view and help us identify places where we can dig deeper. In general, I am still in the process of figuring out how we (should) use figures such as these at ITU.
Marco: Concerning employability, ITU does have some impact – we can work on increasing our reputation among employers and responding to their needs.
Baki: From BoS' perspective it is hard to act on the report. And besides, I find the interviews sit oddly with the statistics.
Pernille: An issue is how we strike a balance between being reactive versus proactive.
Stine: I thought it was a nice read. The new format worked well for me.
Signe: It seems many students find a job based on their student job. But it is sometimes difficult to balance studies and student jobs. Is ITU too strict in the way we implement the Study Progress Reform?
Pernille: It is a relevant aspect of the discussion of how we understand the mechanisms.
Theodor: I Think it is important to let the students know we are having these discussions.
Thomas: We have discussed this before. It is very difficult to narrow down how many hours the individual student should study (per week/ECTS). People's learning curves etc. are so different. We keep returning to this topic, but we do not really get anywhere.
Pernille: When we discuss workload, it is always tied to the individual point of view. We need different tools than what we have available now.
Stine: We need to include semester structures etc., e.g. not have four courses in one semester. Structures can create or loosen pressure. The issue must be treated from many different angles.

Decision: BoS does not find reason for immediate action *(absent members agreed by email).*

5. **Evaluation of evaluation system**
   Learning Support recommends renaming 'Mutual Alignment of Expectations' to 'Formative Evaluation'. This is a more precise way to describe the activity and its purpose, and it fits the terminology used by LS in activities and communication concerning evaluation.
   BoS is asked to approve using the concept 'Formative Evaluation'. The Vice-Chancellor has also been asked.

   Dorthe: The Vice-Chancellor is in favor of the change.
   Baki: I think it is a bad choice of name. I do not think it will mean anything to the students. And I think it shifts the activity.
   Signe: I agree with Baki.
   Stine: Me too.
   Pernille: In nature a formative evaluation is different from at summative evaluation.
   Thomas: From a student perspective the name is too formal. It comes down to how the teacher presents it, the name is less important.
   Stine: BoS is not ready to approve the change.

   Decision: BoS rejects the proposal to change the title *(absent members agreed by email).*
   After the meeting: *Dorthe informed the Vice-chancellor on BoS' position. The Vice-Chancellor agreed to keep the original name 'Mutual alignment of expectations'.*

6. **FYI: Test of new project exam form on BDDIT and KDDIT**
   At the 6 May meeting, BoS decided to test a new project exam form on DDIT. Due to practicalities, the test period will not be Autumn 2021 + Spring 2022. Instead, it will be Spring 2022 + Autumn 2022.

7. **AOB (Any Other Business)**
    a. ***Institutional Accreditation of ITU, update***
        Dorthe (as Quality Coordinator): The accreditation process is in full swing. 7 May, Executive Management, Dean of Education, Head of SAP, and Quality Coordinator met with the Accreditation Institution. The Accreditation Institution is putting together the Accreditation Panel and ITU is consulted on its composition over the Summer. By 27 September we hand in a description of ITU's Quality Assurance System and a self-evaluation of the system. The first site-visit is in November, most likely 23-24. BoS members might be involved, so please put a note in your schedule.

    b. ***Item for next meeting***
        Theodor: I have an item for next meeting: Me and some other students are trying to revitalize Student Council. I would like to present the revitalized Student Council and talk to BoS about you would like and expect from the organisation in terms of cooperation etc.