

Board of Studies (BoS) – 30 March 2022, 12:45-14:00

- Present: **Stine Gotved** (directly elected faculty), **Martin Pichlmair** (faculty, SAT Games), **Therese Graversen** (faculty, SAT CS), **Baki Cakici** (faculty, SAT Business), **Signe Louise Yndigegn** (faculty, SAT DD)
- Khurram Murtaza Kahn** (student, SAT Business), **Thomas Flodgaard Kaufmanas** (student, SAT DD), **Nynne Grauslund Kristiansen** (student, SAT CS, stand-in for Sofie)
- Ea Feldfos** (assigned guest, SAP), **Pernille Rydén** (assigned guest, Dean of Education), **Dorthe Stadsgaard** (secretary, SAP)
- Lise Lawaetz Winkler** (DoE Support, guest for item 5), **Irina Papazu** (guest, faculty, stand-in for Louise Harder Fischer, BoS member from SAT Business from 1 April 2022)
- Absent: **Sofie K. Nielsen** (student, SAT CS), **Theodor Christian Kier** (directly elected student), **Peter Bech Astrup** (student, SAT Games)

Minutes

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

Following the new procedure, minutes from the meeting 4 March were approved by email within a week after the meeting and published on ITU Student. Thus, approval of minutes is no longer an item on the agenda.

2. Information: Delayed grades Winter exams 2021-2022

Stine: Looking across semesters, the figures are surprisingly similar. And last exam term is no exception.

Ea: The overview always only covers ordinary exams. Re-exams are not included. This exam period we have had more A (written exam on premises) and C (submission exam) exams than usual. Grades were delayed on 14 exams. We see an improvement (fewer exams where grades are delayed) but there are still a significant number of exams where grades are delayed. Winter exams 2021-2022 was another tough exam period because of covid19. The average number of days the grades are delayed has gone up. One exam experienced several weeks delay.

Stine: Can you say anything about the reasons behind delays?

Ea: Both internal and external examiners are busy, and stressed etc. There are different reasons for this. Re-exams seem to have been scheduled later this year, meaning e.g. course managers and students are both grading, planning reexam questions, sitting re-exams and starting spring courses all at the same time.

We also have more exams because of the introduction of a new study programme and changes to some exam forms.

To give an idea about how many students are affected, the overview includes figures on how many course registrations are affected by delayed grades. It is a rather large share of our students.

Stine: Do you have the right tools to investigate reasons and take action to reduce the problem?

Ea: The overview has also been sent to Heads of Department who have the personnel responsibility.

Pernille & Ea: We will bring it up in Education Group including Heads of Department again.

Ea: An element is the lack of a digital support system. We are working on this in SAP. We are considering a system called wise-flow or digital exam.

Pernille: I have practical experiences with wise-flow – positive experiences.

Thomas: Me too. The design is awful, but it seems to work pretty well.

Ea: Supposedly it works well for planning of exams with a written and oral component. Late spring 2022, we will know more about which solution will be chosen by the other Danish universities, so we will know which system to itch our wagon onto.

Signe: Why do we not use digital exam presently?

Ea: The short reason is that it does not work well with LearnIT.

Stine: It is good to know a solution is under its way.

3. Information: CrossDit abolished from Autumn 2022

Pernille: Abolishing CrossDit does not mean interdisciplinarity is no longer considered important or part of the MSc study programmes. It is still very important – we just need to find a different way of providing our students with these competences.

Khurram: Do we know why CrossDit did not work – in order not to repeat the issues in a new concept?

Pernille: Yes. We started out by looking into why this way does not work. Many stakeholders have been involved; Heads of Department, the CrossDit teaching team etc. An external consultant was hired to facilitate the process, we used results from the course evaluations etc. Now we will work on how to do interdisciplinary work on the study programmes in the future.

4. Discussion: Graduate dialogue - report 2022

Dorthe: The report includes available statistics on MSc graduates from the Ministry's data warehouse and Statistics Denmark, results from the ministerial graduate survey (MSc graduates) in Autumn 2021 and statistics on BSc graduates produced by ITU's Analysis Unit. Getting the report distributed asap after receiving data was prioritized. Next time (two years from now), providing the report with a section introducing the key results, trends, outliers etc. will be prioritized. This will result in the report reaching BoS a bit later, but hopefully making it a more accessible read and thereby increasing its usability.

Thomas: How is unemployment defined?

Dorthe: I am often asked to provide a simple definition of employment and unemployment. Unfortunately, that is not possible. The way employment and unemployment figures are defined and calculated is not simple. The definition used in the report is the ministry's definition: An unemployed graduate is without employment, available for the job market and actively looking for at job, including signed up for an unemployment fund and a public job center as well as receiving unemployment benefit, social security, start help or wage subsidy.

Pernille: Graduates working for their own starts-up cannot be identified, which is a big flaw for ITU graduates.

Martin: I very much agree.

Dorthe: Martin has already sent me a message on this. I do not think we will be able to sway the Ministry on this, but I am happy to forward the issue to them.

Baki: It is difficult to use data from graduation years so long ago. The programme may look completely different now.

Martin: I agree, but I still find ways to use data. An example: Data shows that networks are important for Games graduates when finding employment. Data does not tell me why, but we have used this information to improve and expand our efforts concerning staying in contact with graduates, getting them into various networks, forming their own etc.

Conclusion: BoS does not find reason for immediate actions at ITU-level. BoS trusts study programmes to use the report as relevant.

5. Discussion: Adjustment of Study Environment Assessment Action Plan 2021-2024

Lise: In January, I introduced the process. Today we have an open discussion in BoS about data. At the April meeting we will move closer to deciding and formulating adjustments (if any) to the existing action plan.

Thomas: SAT DD's input is on its way to DoE support.

Baki: SAT Business discussed it today. Concerning the physical environment and indoor climate in meeting rooms. Sensors have been installed and this seems to have concluded the action point. But installing a sensor does not solve the issue, it is only a mechanism to measure the extent of the problem.

Martin: One issue is power outlets. I find that the balance between needing more power outlets and this action plan process is off. It is a long and heavy process for such a practical and relatively small issue.

Stine: We need to find a way with FM to get teaching rooms with both a flexible set-up and more power outlets.

Pernille: We have initiated a cooperation between DoE support and FM because we need to understand each other better. We visit rooms together etc. FM needs to understand the issues and we need to communicate better.

Lise: I have invited FM for the next BoS meeting to make dialogue easier.

Thomas: SAT DD is concerned with a solution to group-work facilities. Groups are often bigger than the four people the atrium tables accommodate.

Lise: Do students in general experience a need for more work-space?

Thomas: Yes, absolutely.

Martin: That goes for faulty as well as we sit in open plan offices and have to book a meeting room for supervision of students etc.

Nynne: Analog seems very busy and full of students doing group-work and studying. Students seem to like sitting in that type of environment. Could we have more spaces like this?

Several members: There is free space at ITU, couldn't we use it for students while we wait for someone to rent it?!

Pernille: FM is looking into smarter booking system.

Thomas: Who will work on a booking system for sky boxes?

Lise: That was during corona. Now that we are back on campus, FM finds the current system works better: Some skyboxes can be booked by students at the Information Desk, others are first come first served. FM has no intentions of changing this at present.

Thomas: Could it be pitched to design students as a project?

Nynne: Or to 4 semester BSWU students who do a scrum project.

Lise: Survey results are at an acceptable level, but a lot of scores have decreased since the 2020-survey. Feedback stands out. This is already an action point.

Therese: SAT CS discussed the scores concerning feedback and agree that this is an important area. The score on not feeling you belong at ITU/your study programme baffled us. But we do not know what to do about it. Concerning BDS, it is my intention to cut back on mandatory assignments on the study programme and use more feedback.

Pernille: It should be addressed. It taps into becoming/being an inclusive university. It is a cultural thing.

At the meeting 26 April BoS will move closer to adjusting the existing action plan (if adjustments are needed).

6. Decision: Introducing the academic quarter – making a referendum?

Stine: Sofie and I have investigated if it is possible to do a referendum. It is. We recommend doing a referendum, because while it may be a small problem, it affects everybody every day.

Baki: I recommend adding “as it the current rule at ITU” to the first question.

Stine: We will consider that.

Thomas: The second option should include the term ‘academic quarter’.

Stine: We will consider that as well. BoS should follow the referendum result, but if there is a draw BoS must make the decision. The result is really not that important, as long as we all start following the (same) rule.

Khurram: What if participation in the referendum is low?

Nynne: Should we use a prize? To test if a prize has an impact on participation rates.

Stine: Can we do that and still keep participation anonymous?

Martin: You should not give feedback to win a prize but to participate in an important process. But a collective prize can be an idea.

Stine: We recommend using LearnIT to use a platform that is familiar to all staff and students. We should be careful not to produce more data than we need.

Thomas. We could go for a collective reward if the participation rate is above a certain %.

Pernille: DoE might cover the cost of such a reward.

Decision: *BoS agreed to do a referendum during spring 2022. Stine, Sofie and Thomas will carry it out.*

7. Information: Mandatory Activities

Stine: I am happy to hear it is being worked on.

8. AOB (Any Other Business)

- a. *From April 2022, Baki is replaced by Louise Harder Fischer both as Head of Study Programme for KDIM, member of SAT Business and member of BoS. Baki introduced Irina Papazu, who is the coming co-HoSP for KDIM. BoS thanked Baki for his service in BoS.*