

Meeting SAT Computer Science 5 April 2019

Minutes, approved

Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP SWU)
- Søren Debois (HoP SD and SEN)
- Laura Caroline Cholvat (Student rep., SWU)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., SWU)
- Emma Arfelt Kock (Student rep., CS)
- Anders Stendevad (Student rep., DS)
- Paolo Tell (Faculty rep.)
- Jesper Bengtson (Faculty rep.)
- Mette Holm Smith (Prog Coor DS/SD)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor SWU/CS/SDT)

Absent:

- Marco Carbone (HoP CS and SDT)
- Liselotte Lagerstedt (Prog Coor SEN)
- Natalie Elaine Schluter (HoP DS)
- Sara Gjerløv (Academic supervisor)
- Philippe Bonnet (Faculty rep.)
- Ieva Jasaityte (Guest – SDT DE)

Minutes:

1. Approval of agenda: Agenda approved.

2. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Minutes from meeting 1 March 2019 approved.

3. Information: None.

4. Updates from study programs: /Students.

SWU: Theodor, contacted students about input to bring for SAT. No responses.

Laura, report complains about workload on Second Year project, Software Development in Large Groups. Students are informed to expect to use 13 hours, but some spend more. Paolo informs that the workload on the course is constant over the weeks but it is large for a 7,5 ECTS course, which motivates the proposal in point 8.

DS: Anders met with Natalie. They set up a monthly meeting. Issues from last SAT meeting will be sorted out with Natalie. A new point of discussion is if the amount of math on DS is sufficient and right for the program.

CS: Emma, Students are a bit tired, as they have had weekly assignments over the last two semesters. Experience shows that the workload on 1 semester is (too) large.

It is the impression that the distribution of students on the specializations are not even. ML and Algorithms are top scores.

SDT: Mail from Ieva: The course descriptions for SDT spring '19 courses are OK.

5. Course evaluation autumn 2018 DS: /Natalie. Postponed to next meeting.

6. Hearing of proposal for dispensation or new standard type of group examination on SWU Grundlæggende programmering. Appendix 6a and 6b (6b in Danish).

Dan presented the proposal. For several years, the exam form in Grundlæggende programmering on SWU has been submission of a group project followed by an individual oral exam. When study board decided the new four standard group exam models, all oral exam following a group project must have an oral group element. The traditional exam form in Grundlæggende Programmering works very well, and thus, the course managers apply to get this form approved as a new standard form for group exams. Theodor just took the course and found this a very good exam form. From his point of view, an oral group element will not add any quality to the exam.

Additionally, other courses also want to use this form.

SAT discussed the proposal and recommend approving this as a standard oral group examination. SAT finds that a group project does not necessarily need to have an oral group element.

7. Principles of International Credit Transfer. Appendices 7a and 7b.

SAT discussed the proposal. In general, SAT acknowledge that ITU must make sure that the assessment of credit transfers happens on the right academic and legal basis. On the other hand, the assessment ought to be as free as possible, and the head of program should be able to make exemption in special cases with regard to the level of the course. In some cases, courses on BSc-level are suitable or even better than courses on ITU. SAT therefore cannot support the proposal.

8. Change of Structure on SWU fourth semester. Appendices 8a, 8b, 8c and 8d (8c in Danish)

Dan presented the proposal to change the structure on SWU fourth semester.

SAT approved the new structure and recommend Study Board to approve it.

The discussions inspired comments about the structure on SWU in general. SAT finds it important to consider those comments later:

Second Year Project (4th semester) and Business Processes and Organization (5th semester) both involve collaboration with external partners and both courses have a somewhat software engineering focus. In general, the software engineering area on SWU may be overrepresented on the cost of more technical areas (E.g. courses in Machine Learning and Security are not mandatory in SWU). As part of a future larger revision of the structure of SWU, it might be possible to place Second Year Project on 5 semester, in order for students to be able to continue to work with the companies on the BSc project. Additionally, the relevance and relationship between Second Year Project and Business Processes and Organization should be investigated.

9. Students failing all three courses on SWU third semester – Update on point from last meeting /Dan

About 10% failed all three courses and a little less failed two. Only few passed the re-exam. SAT finds, this a large amount of students failing.

SAT discussed what caused this:

- Did the courses change?
- Did the examination form change e.g. re-examination form?
- Did the students participate in lectures and exercises?

- How was students informed about the exams?

Analysis, Design and Software Architecture: Only few students passed the re-exam in BDSA. It is a mystery, what caused this. SAT discussed how the oral exam took place and the mindset behind the way to conduct the exam.

Mobile and Distributed Systems: The exam is now much more precise than before.

Introduction to Database Design: Dan talked to the course manager. The distribution of grades are quite even. Course manager plan some changes for next time.

10. Quality assurance of course descriptions for spring courses 2019.

SAT need more information about how to conduct the quality assurance. Before, SAT carried out quality assurance only on mandatory activities without considering relations to the other parts of the courses (e.g. intended learning outcomes, examination form or learning activities). This made little sense. Now SAT should look at the course description as a whole. To make the quality assurance cohere, it might be meaningful to focus on certain groups of courses.

SAT decided to focus this quality assurance on a DS first year course: Applied Statistics on 2nd semester: There is not enough time during the exercise sessions for TAs to support students with both exercises, mandatory assignments and mandatory oral presentations of solutions to problems. Students are supposed to prepare at home but finds no support if they experience problems with the homework. The Study Lab available to DS are not meant for this kind of exercises. The Machine Learning course on third semester also has this kind of exercises/mandatory activities. Those kind of activities on a course requires allocation of time and TAs for support. SAT continue the discussion on next meeting.

11. Proposal to reschedule SAT meetings 7 and 21 June 2019. Postponed to next meeting.

12. AOB:

A) Functional programming SWU: Jesper tried to get a server running for the course but did not succeed. He now focuses on getting information out about the project, but due to this advanced stage, students might have been a bit nervous. Nevertheless, things are in control.

B) Dan informs that the weekly resources for Grundlæggende programmering was cut from six to four hours. Students oppose to this, as six weekly hours (total lectures + exercises) was just appropriate to learn the syllabus, four hours will not be enough.