

## Meeting SAT Computer Science 27 March 2020

### Minutes Approved

#### Present:

- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP SWU)
- Marco Carbone (HoP CS and SDT)
- Therese Graversen (HoP DS)
- Søren Debois (HoP SD and SEN)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., SWU)
- Cecilie Bech Rønsholt (Student rep., SD)
- Paolo Tell (Guest from faculty)
- Mette Holm Smith (Prog Coor DS/SD)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor SWU/CS/SDT)
- Marc Kellaway (Guest)

#### Absent:

- Daniele Galati (Student rep., DS)
- Sanne Louise Aaby-Diedrichsen (Academic supervisor)
- Viktor Shamal Andersen (Student rep., DS)
- Jesper Bengtson (Guest from faculty)
- Cecilie Bech Rønsholt (Student rep., SD)

#### Minutes:

1. **Approval of agenda:** Marco chairs the meeting. Agenda approved. Some points may be postponed, if we run out of time.
2. **Approval of minutes:** Minutes from meeting 28 February approved. Ahead the term, Faculty rep. change to Guest from faculty for all non-elected faculty participants.
3. **Information:** Dan asks if the meeting can end by 13.30. SAT tries to do that.
4. **Update from study programs:** / Students.

SWU: Theodor: Asked fellow students for feedback on the current situation with lock down and online teaching. No students replied.

Remark from Søren: Faculty worry if a large group of students are not comfortable with the situation?

Dan informs that, the semester representative teachers are presently carrying out a little survey to see how students on SWU 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semester find the courses and the current situation with lock down and online teaching.

Remark from Marco: One teacher in CS noticed that very few students participated in the online exercise sessions. He wonders, if students just disappeared or maybe struggle alone?

Theodor suggests that Heads of Program each sends a reminder to student on “their” program explaining that the current teaching situation is in no way a holiday. This might get students to realize that participating in the online teaching is important. Heads of Program in Dept. CS draft this together.

Grades on several courses are delayed. SAP investigated in data for delays and Study Board discussed this on the last meeting – see point 8. Theodor asks that this is a point on SAT’s next agenda.

SD: Søren: Students reported challenges on the course, Introduction to AI. Søren talked to the teacher; he is now on top of the situation. Students also reported this.

#### **5. Course evaluation, Presentation of results / Head of Programs. Appendix 5A**

SWU: Dan: In general, the overall rating seems a bit lower than normal. Is this due to the new method of evaluation, other questions etc.?

Business Processes and Organization: Dan will look deeper into this result.

SAT discussed the setup of the survey. Evaluation takes place before the exam and SAT members do not agree, if this is a good solution. Some members find it an advantage, as the exam-results run the risk to disturb the evaluation of the course, lectures and exercises. Furthermore, students can complain about the exam and talk to the head of program, and have their say about the exam. Other members find it very useful that evaluation takes place after the exam, as the exam often provides a perspective on the course for students, no matter the grade.

DS: Therese:

Machine Learning scores low. Students already addressed the teachers. Teachers and Head of Program consider what to change. Issues detected: Too many teachers involved in the course and exams were conducted by teachers that did not teach throughout the course. In general, students seemed underprepared for the course.

Introduction to Data Science and Programming received many oral complaints but the score of the evaluation does not reflect this. However, reflections about this course is in progress.

CS: Marco:

Advanced Machine Learning has a very low score. This course is co-taught with Machine Learning for DS and Therese's remarks for the DS course apply for the CS course as well.

All the specialization course on CS was taught for the first time and teachers use the scores for aligning the courses.

First semester courses score normal. Marco talks to teachers on courses with a score below 4.

SD: Søren:

Software Engineering: Teacher changes next semester.

Applied Information Security: No consistent patterns in the comments from students. The course held for the first time. Søren talks to teachers.

Data Mining: The response rate was low, and the answers fluctuate. The course was held for the first time. Søren talks to teacher and finds no immediate cause for concern.

## **6. Sense of Community on SWU / Discussion.**

Results of the Evaluation of Study Programs show that SWU tend to lie a little low on this parameter. On last meeting SAT decided to look a bit further into this issue (keywords: sense of community, well-being of students, dropout, delay etc. Please, find a bit of introductory data in Appendix 6A.

SAT had a broad discussion:

Sense of Community: The number of students grew quite heavily over the recent years and thus, a fall in the sense of community is not unexpected, as the cohort on each study year (årgang) is bigger than it used to be.

Dropout and delay: This factor may/may not relate to the sense of community. The figures in the appendix show that delay decreased in the recent years. From the current data it is not possible to determine what causes this decrease. It may be due to the implementation of the Progression Reform or a result of the introduction of Study Lab etc.

What would students suggest as means to raise the sense of community:

Theodor: With the large number of students on each study year, a sense of unity does not exist on the entire study years. However, students form sub-groups. This is probably a natural way for students to organize themselves and there may not be anything ITU can do about this.

Marco: Study Lab, BootIT and Live coding are helpful tools to boost the sense of community.

Another option may be to divide the cohort into smaller groups in the beginning. Dan: We tried smaller study groups, but students worked in many groups already, so this was not useful in the end.

7. **Alignment and workload on 3<sup>rd</sup> semester courses on SWU and some courses on DS / Theodor, Victor.**

Students experience that the workload and the exams on SWU 3<sup>rd</sup> semester do not match ECTS for the courses. Victor adds the same apply on several courses on DS. SAT decides to postpone this issue until next meeting when both SWU and DS Students are present. In the meantime, SAT asks Theodor to specify for which courses this apply. Victor and Daniele do the same for DS.

Postponed until next meeting.

8. **AOB:**

A) Theodor: One third of the students failed System Development and Project Organization. Course manager is aware of this and knows what should be done for next time the course is running.

B) Theodor: Functional Programming : Students experienced problems in the beginning of the course. However, things seem to be changing after the early evaluation.

C) Information from meeting in Study Board: Many grades from courses in Department of Computer Science are delayed. This is very unfortunate, as it leaves students not knowing until very close to the re-exam, if they need to take the re-exam.

Therese, reports that faculty discussed this on the last faculty meeting. The problems are worse in the CS Department as quite a few courses have very many participants and use written exam.

Faculty are aware it is important to lower the delay of grades.

D) Planning of re-exams: When scheduling the re-exams, each exam is scheduled at fixed date(s). However, closer to the re-exam period it is possible to shuffle dates around. Thus, it seems a bit misleading for both students and faculty to set a certain date in the first place.

E) Theodor: Stress among students. Students in general seem to have the opinion that ITU is not doing enough to help stressed students. SATs discussed this issue at the meeting in January and decided to await the Study Environment Survey that comes up this year.

In the meantime SAT asks the student members to discuss with fellow students, what they have done when experiencing stress among themselves or others.