

Meeting SAT Computer Science 24 April 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)
- Viktor Shamal Andersen (Student rep., DS)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., SWU)
- Cecilie Bech Rønsholt (Student rep., SD)
- Daniele Galati (Student rep., DS)
- Paolo Tell (Guest from faculty)
- Mette Holm Smith (Prog Coor DS)
- Marc Kellaway (Prog Coor SD)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor SWU/CS/SDT)
- Thore Husfeldt (Guest)

Absent:

- Jesper Bengtson (Guest from faculty)
- Sanne Louise Aaby-Diedrichsen (Academic supervisor)

Minutes:

1. **Approval of agenda:** Søren leads the meeting. Point 5, 6 and 7 moved up on the agenda, just after point 2. Agenda approved.
2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 27 March 2020:** Minutes approved.
3. **Information:**
4. **Update from study programs:** / Students.
DS: Nothing to report.

SD: Cecilie: 50 SD students signed a petition that they do not feel they meet the ILOs for the spring semester due to the COVID situation, online teaching etc. They find the present student environment causes the problems. Students suggest that different exam forms, extra exam attempts, assessment by fail/pass exam instead of 7-scale can relieve the problems. SAT decides that Cecilie forwards the statement to Søren, who will react on it. SAT emphasizes that students should remember to use the teachers as a resource and ask for help. It is a difficult teaching situation for both teacher and students. However, it is a challenge that changes must not compromise the level of the teaching. SAT discuss that an extra exam attempt might be a solution.

SWU: Theodor:

Second Year Project: Functional Programming: The learning curve for the course is very steep.

Assignments are difficult to understand and takes very long to complete. The structural problems from last year still subsists. Problems with instruction to the project work.

Dan: will discuss this with the course manager.

Bachelor Project: Due to the COVID19 situation this spring, MSc students can postpone their thesis submission deadline from 2 June till 1 September. BSc students do not have this possibility.

SAP: Allette: Postponing the deadline for Bachelor projects till 1 September will postpone the assessment of the bachelor projects. Thus, students would not be able to start their MSc studies by 1 September.

SAP: A small extension would be useful and should be possible for both BSc and MSc.

CS: Theodor:

How to Make (Almost) Anything: There is no access to the ITU labs, machines, and materiel.

Allette: The ILOs of the course have been changed to reflect this challenge.

Workload on CS courses: Theodor got a report from students about this. However, he received no additional information.

No discussion is possible without input.

General issues:

Mandatory assignments: Only very few mandatory assignments have been switched to optional assignments. Students think, this would have been an easy way to ease the pressure on students in the present situation.

Changing formats of exam: See point 5-7.

Removal of re-exams: This happened due to the COVID19 situation. This has been difficult for the affected students.

SAT: Acknowledge that this has proved difficult for students, unfortunately, lock down of the ITU building made this necessary.

Well-being of students: Theodor received reports from students about how ITU handles the COVID19 situation and the effects on students:

There is a sense among students, that only minor changes has been introduced on courses in order to ease the situation for students. Students miss (empathic) information from teachers and administration. The student body do not feel that ITU look after student's well-being neither during the COVID situation nor in general.

SAT: It is important to take those reports seriously. Thus, a separate point will be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Alignments of ECTS and workload: see point 9.

5. Algorithms and Data Structures exam in spring 2020 / Søren and Thore

Søren introduces: ITU management decided that due to COVID19, all exams at ITU should go online in the present spring semester. As with all exam, it is important to avoid cheating.

Algorithms and Data Structures and several other courses in the CS department use written exams, where students should be present at ITU. This form is not possible without access to the ITU building.

What makes those written exams special are that the answers are often short - e.g. a number. Thus, answers will be similar among all students in the course. If somebody wants to cheat it is relatively easy to calculate/find/copy the answer.

Thus, it is important to make sure, that students can have no access to each other and non-permitted aids during the exam.

The key reason to move the present written exam online, is that a shorter written exam is the best way to test that students have learned what they should.

The new form is first implemented on Algorithms and Data Structures, as the course was designed for a short, written exam. Additionally, the course is so big (around 350 participants), that it would be difficult to use an oral form.

However, the challenge is to simultaneously secure that:

- students reply by themselves
- consider issues about privacy for students.

Solution:

Proctor works by a plugin in Chrome that uses the camera, microphone, and screen capture of the students' computer throughout the exam. The data is transferred to a server in Frankfurt and stay there until deleted after 21 days. The data are only monitored by ITU staff and only in case of suspected cheating.

Before the exam starts, students will be required to fill in a form confirming they are aware that the exam is recorded. Students, who will not fill in this form, cannot sit the exam and use an exam attempt.

Headphones are not permitted.

The solution is not using multiple cameras for the monitoring.

The reasons to go for the Proctor solution are:

- Data is stored in a European company operating on European ground.
- Proctor works through Chrome.
- The risk of hacking of Proctor is minimal.
- Proctor is approved with regards to GDPR-issues.

The exam is constructed as a 3 hours exam, as 4 hours is not an option on Proctor. Students should note that the mock-up exam they got on the course earlier is an old 4 hours exam, this must not be taken as an example of a 3 hours exam.

As an alternative, students suggest a 24 hours take-home exam:

Søren and Thore explain: A 24 hours exam would be constructed in a more complicated and complex way so students would not make similar answers. This would end up in 350 different written reports, that would take an immense amount of time and resources to assess.

Comments from students:

The presented version is ok and make sense. It is important to communicate all this information to students. Especially, it will be good for students to know beforehand:

- Who at ITU will watch the recordings.
- For how long data are stored.
- What company stores data.

Question from students: Is use of multiple screens allowed? Søren finds out.

Students can ask question to Søren.

6. Oral examinations in spring 2020. /Head of Programs

Postponed to next meeting.

7. Written examinations in spring 2020 /Head of Programs

Students, on all courses where the exam form have changed, have been informed about the change in LearnIT (in the News-box) and the course descriptions are revised.

Some students have not seen the message on LearnIT. Allette, Mette and Marc figure out a second way to contact the students.

8. Rename Security II to "Cryptography". Course manager propose to change the title of the 7,5 ECTS specialisation course in the Security specialization. / Marco.

Postponed – no supplementary information from Course manager.

9. Alignment and workload on 3rd semester courses on SWU and some courses on DS. / Theodor, Victor.

Students experience that the workload and the exams on SWU 3rd 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.

10. AOB: Extra meeting Friday 1 May 12.30 – 14.00.