Meeting SAT Computer Science 7 November 2019

Minutes Approved

Present:

- Marco Carbone (HoP CS and SDT)
- Søren Debois (HoP SD and SEN)
- Emma Arfelt Kock (Student rep., CS)
- Anders Stendevad (Student rep., DS)
- Paolo Tell (Faculty rep.)
- Mette Holm Smith (Prog Coor DS/SD)
- Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (Prog Coor SWU/CS/SDT)
- Guest: Stefan Hrouda-Rasmussen (Student DS)

Absent:

- Natalie Elaine Schluter (HoP DS)
- Theodor Christian Kier (Student rep., SWU)
- Philippe Bonnet (Faculty rep.)
- Dan Witzner Hansen (HoP SWU)
- Laura Caroline Cholvat (Student rep., SWU)
- Jesper Bengtson (Faculty rep.)
- Liselotte Lagerstedt (Prog Coor SEN)
- Sara Gjerløv (Academic supervisor)

Minutes:

1. **Approval of agenda:** New point 7 added. Agenda approved.

2. **Approval of minutes from meeting 8 October 2019:** Minutes approved.

3. **Information:**

   Mette: DS: ITU removes the Danish A language requirement from DS (apply for admission 2020). The permitted number of international students set by The Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education allow for **both** international students on DS **and** increasing the capacity of CS.
   Marco: Update from Study Board meeting:
   - ITU splits the joint position as Head of Study (HoS) and Head of Study Board (HoSB): Study Board elected Stine Gotved as HoSB.
   - Study Board approved the X- examination form for the First Year Project in DS.
   - Study Board approved a revised set of rules for having mandatory activities on courses. SAT decided to distribute the document with the minutes for this SAT meeting.
   - It is not yet clear, if ITU offers a new master program in Data Science. If not, DS bachelors can go to DIM or CS, and CS will then develop a new specialization on in Natural Language Processing (NLP) specially designed for DS (though, accessible for all CS students).

Comments from SAT: Students on the Bachelor in Data Science spend quite a lot of time on NLP related issues on the bachelor. Thus, a specialization in NLP might not be what DS-students want.

4. **Update from study programs:** / Students.

CS: Some students, going abroad on second semester of CS, experience troubles, when coming home and starting on the advanced specialization courses (15 ECTS).
Additionally, having electives on second semester requires students to know very early, what courses they want to take if they go abroad in second semester.
Marco: It is important to consider which exchange partners CS should have, in order for students to be able to find courses. Changing the deadlines for applying for a study place abroad are very difficult/impossible to move.

Message from CS students. Cross Disciplinary Team Work (CrossDit) is not popular among CS students.
SAT´s comment: Students should address those opinions in the course evaluation. There is a free text box for comments.
SAT decided that Emma writes a document about the challenges on CrossDit for the next SAT meeting and SAT discuss this on a separate point on the agenda. Allette sends the CS-mapping to Emma.

DS: See separate point below.

5. **Approval of Curriculum for SWU – revision regarding change of module titles**: /Allette.
Appendices 5A + 5B + 5C.
SAT approved the curriculum.

6. **Planning and coordinating courses on DS:** / Anders. Appendix 6A.
Anders and Stefan presented the challenges presented in the appendix.
1) Time reveals a pattern on DS: Changes on courses and other activities happen with a short notice and only when challenges are obvious and causes frustration and uncertainty among students. An example: Short noticed and unplanned changes happen to courses in progress.
2) Whom should DS students go to if teachers and Head of program do no not react on reported problems?
3) Present DS students are now in the habit of expecting chaos. Should it be like this? Is this the way ITU want DS to be?
4) Students on DS find more mathematics is necessary on the program.

SAT´s discussion:
Ad 1 – 3: The dialogue between students, course managers and Head of program is not possible on DS as it is on the other programs. DS students reported similar issues to SAT before and SAT looks on this with great concern. Every new study program experience a period of adjustment, where

things have not yet found their way. However, the first DS bachelors graduate in the upcoming semester and the problem seems to continue for the new first year students.

SAT finds it problematic that ITU has no clear line of command to report those kind of problems. SAT decided that SAT CS student members should contact Head of study board, explain the problem and together with her settle on a point for the study board meeting.

Ad 4: The content and amount of mathematics requires a discussion between students, Head of program and teachers. It seems that the Linear Algebra and Optimization course does not provide the right mathematic requirements.

Students report that even students doing well in Linear Algebra and Optimization struggle in the Machine Learning course.

7. **Replacement of mandatory modules for SD in SAT CS. / Søren**
   We have a handful of students who already in their first semester applies for replacement of courses based on courses from their bachelor. When granted a replacement the students have to take other courses on their first semester. The problem is that the students do not have the prerequisites to follow approved electives for SD, as they are mainly 3rd semester courses and 1st semester's CS courses and some Games courses. Which courses could be relevant to take for these students?
   Postponed to next meeting.

8. **AOB:** Nothing to report.