



## MINUTES

20 DECEMBER 2022

**Forum** Board of Studies at Social Data Science

**Meeting held** 16 December 2022, 13:30-15:00.

**Place** SODAS 1.2.26.

**Minute taker** Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm

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### Present

Søren Kyllingsbæk (*Chair*), David Charles Anthony Broomham, Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Tereza Blazkova, Christian Thomas Nielsen García (*Vice-Chair*), Maya Ellen Hertz, Friedolin Merhout (*Head of Studies and interim member of Study Board*)

### Attendees

Philipa Oliva Dige (*Student Guidance*), Rikke Truelsen (*Educational Services, item 7*), Signe Staun Kelly (*Exam and Educational Coordinator*), Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm (*Programme Coordinator*).

### Absent

Dóra Nanai-Szucs and Gregory Eady.

### Agenda

#### 1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

#### 2. Approval of A-B-C rating for course evaluations block 1 2022

The item was changed into an orientation on the course evaluations. The rating and the approval of the course evaluation was postponed until the next Study Board meeting.

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Overall, the evaluations were well responded (with an answer percentage of 81%) and most teachers and classes were rated well. HoS pointed out that ESDS showed a lack of structure and organisation in the lessons and on Absalon. HoS is aware of what did not go as planned. Philipa noted that Absalon used to have a good structure, but this time around, it could have been of better use. HoS will work on this for the next Study Board meeting.

### **3. Orientation from the HoS / Friedolin Merhout**

**New Study Administrator:** Chila Firouzi will start as Study Administrator at SDS from the beginning of January.

**Spring semester teaching plans / teacher teams:** There will be new teachers at ASDSI DG block three, ASDsII and DM. Same courses will be taught but with a slightly different teachers' team.

**SDS Research Studentships:** The Research Studentships was first introduced in September 2022. There are 7 projects in total and the start-up has been postponed until the beginning of 2023. It was remarked that the SDS Student Funds has also been postponed till the beginning of the new year.

**External Advisory Panel:** The panel approved the new BSc in Data and Cognitive Science with the first admission in September 2023. Philipa added that the Student Guidance host a virtual Open House from 16-17, Thursday 23 February 2023 but the application date for non-EU applicants is 15 February 2023. It was stressed that it would make sense to offer an extra virtual Open House in December to meet the needs of the non-EU applicants. Philipa will try to meet this wish.

The panel furthermore approved that the new BSc qualifies for SDS but there is no legal claim.

The panel were curious on, what topics our students write their thesis on. This can be hard to tell, but Nikolaj remarks that an answer can be provided, by looking at the Keyword Lists.

**Data Sprint week (week five):** HoS informed the board that David will set up a Data Sprint Week in week five, but the registration has not yet been set up.

**Discrepancies between curriculum and Course Catalogue:** Unfortunately, there has been some discrepancies between the CUR and the Course Catalogue

regarding the Academic Internship and the Co-Curricular Written Assignment. Philipa and Signe has corrected the mistake in the Academic Internship. Regarding the Co-curricular written exam, Signe made a list of all students affected by this mistake and HoS has informed the students. The disconnectedness between CUR and the Course Catalogue will be corrected by Signe and Sidse and you are encouraged to contact Sidse if you see other discrepancies.

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#### **4. Approval: Budget for the Thesis Event / Søren Kyllingsbæk:**

**The concept of the Thesis Event, as presented by Chris:** The idea is to offer a hybrid conference where graduates can share their work on the Master Thesis. The students should start-out by receiving and giving peer-feedback in groups of two. Hereafter, the students present their thesis to their fellow students.

**Who?:** All SDS graduates from E22 and F23 are invited. Nikolaj pointed out that it might be an idea to invite other graduates from similar MSc programmes and Chris acknowledge this point. Chris has examined the interest in the event and nine future graduates are interested in participating in the event. It was brought up how many students are registered for the Master Thesis Exam. Signe has examined and the data is as follows: 14 were registered for the winter 2022 Master Thesis exam. 27 has registered for the summer 2023 Master Thesis exam. Five of the 17 registered for the summer 2022 exam postponed their submission to the second attempt. One of those five who had registered for the summer 2022 exam postponed their submission to the third attempt.

**When?:** There was a common agreement to hold the conference in connection with the Graduation Party (-/+ 2 days apart) in October 2023.

**How?:** The board agreed to officially invite graduates through KUnet but to supplementary invite all SDS-students through the introduction module on Absalon. Nikolaj noted that maybe the module should be renamed to cover this invitation and other more general information as well.

The initiative is being supported by the board.

Approval of the budget was postponed until next SB-meeting and Chris noted that the budget very much depends on the number of participants.

#### **5. Discussion: Group sizes / Søren Kyllingsbæk**

The board discussed the pros and cons of letting the student do group work in groups of only two.

**Pros:** less pressure and a shorter assignment in a situation, where students are already stressed. Group work between two individuals can seem easier than that of groups of three to four.

**Cons:** Part of the DNA at SDS to work in groups - and not pairs. If groups of two are to write less pages than the groups of three-fours students, then it will be more difficult to fulfil the academic assessments.

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**Decision:** This time around the groups was arranged by HoS and the Programme Administrator, but maybe it would be better to involve the teachers and have them set up the groups. The board agreed to keep the group work as it is, but maybe the group work could be better facilitated.  
The board will revisit this discussion in a future SB-meeting.

## **6. News from Student Guidance / Philipa Olivia Dige**

**Increase in student approach:** The students now seem to know who, where and how to get in contact with the Student Counsellors.

### **Tendencies in the Student Guidance:**

**Well-being:** Some students seem to be affected on their well-being. Several factors affect them, and one issue seems to lead to another. They come in too late, generally around the last exam attempt.

**Different levels of English:** The differing levels of English cause frustration in the group work of some students. Philipa suggested possible mentorships as practised on Econ. Students noted that this might work for the social well-being of the students, but is that the right solution for improving the academic English?

**Possible solutions:** If the issue in the group work comes down to cultural diversity and different scholastic background then maybe TA's in the long run could help out in this regard. HoS noted that encountering and learning to work within groups with diverse backgrounds is the core of the programme and diversity in the group work is therefore of great importance. If the issue, on the other hand, comes down to working in groups, then the Educational Advisors could be of help.

For now, teachers should be made aware of what is happening.

## **7. Exemptions / Rikke Truelsen**

The SB made decisions in one case of exemption.

## **8. Any other Business / Søren Kyllingsbæk**

- Tereza did not get the agenda prior to the SB meeting. This was a mistake.
- Former student representatives are welcome to join the constituent meeting in February 2023.

- Four new student representatives have been elected. The board is missing one to be complete. David will try to recruit one last representative and if he succeeds, he should contact Sidse to start the formal procedure.
- Nikolaj asked for the board to re-establish the good/bad feedback on the meeting. What worked out well? What could be improved? This was being met by the majority of the board.