

To the members of the Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science and attendees at the meeting. The minutes are published on the [homepage](#).



MINUTES

25 MAY 2022

Forum Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science

Meeting held 25 May 2022, 13:30-15:00

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5 OPG. B
KØBENHAVN K

Place 1.2.26

Minute taker Jagger Andersen Kirkby

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Present

Members: Søren Kyllingsbæk (*Chair*), Hjalmar Alexander Bang Carlsen, Gregory Eady, Marilena Hohmann, Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Felipe Arturo Perilla Reyes, and Christian Thomas Nielsen Garcia (*Vice-Chair*).

Attendees: Friedolin Merhout (*Head of Studies*), Mads Øbro (*student advisor*), Dario Landwehr (*SDS student, only for item 2*) and Jagger Andersen Kirkby (*Study Board secretary*).

Absent

Samantha Dawn Breslin, Maya Ellen Hertz, Alysha K. Chamadia, Ditte Marie Arbjerg (*student advisor*), Rikke Truelsen (*study administration*), Sofie Trappaud Scholl (*student advisor*), and Hanne Kraak (*study administration*).

1) Approval of the agenda for the current meeting

The Study Board approved the agenda for the current meeting with the caveat that the item concerning the establishment of an SDS student organisation was moved up as item 2 instead of item 6.

2) SDS study organisation

Dario introduced the Study Board to his ongoing project of setting up an SDS study organisation and explained that its primary purpose is to institutionalise parts of the SDS student body at large and serve as a forum where student issues can be addressed. Dario explained that 6 students are currently working on starting up the organisation and that they had held an informal meeting. Funding is needed in order for the organisation to work towards carrying out events, building a website, etc. It was discussed how to obtain this. Jagger, Søren and Friedolin promised to look into how student organisations affiliated with other programmes ensure funding.

It was asked why the organisation would require that students formalise their membership instead of merely taking part on a come-and-go basis. Dario explained that this was thought of as creating a sense of inclusivity for those students who might not occupy formal roles, such as treasurer or chairperson, although he acknowledged that formal membership of a future organisation might not be necessary.

Finally, it was asked whether alumnis would be able to join the organisation to which Dario replied that this might become an option, although alumnis would in that case should probably have no formal influence. Søren remarked that the idea of a potential alumni organisation is currently being floated in other fora.

3) Proposed changes to the SDS curriculum

Friedolin explained why the changes had been proposed and the apparent incompatibility between the group and portfolio approaches when it comes to re-examinations. The changes proposed for the ESDS, SDA and ASDS1 re-examination formats would entail that students write essays (rather than resubmit portfolios), either individually or in groups, on a subject pertaining to the content and literature covered in the respective course, with a theme and problem statement that must be approved by a member of the teaching team before submission. Making these revisions will ensure that re-examinations in the curriculum are legally sound, as the re-examination format is supposed to be based on a “new” work effort, rather than an extra attempt at the ordinary exam, and would also lighten both the administrative burden and burden on teachers who would otherwise have to pose new exam questions. Other changes to

the curriculum included: the enforcement of consistent language in the curriculum, and allowing for a group to consist of fewer than three members if exceptional circumstances permit it, as discussed at the previous Study Board meeting.

It was discussed whether students might take advantage of the fact that individual submissions, rather than group submissions, would be permitted for the re-examination format. Jagger commented that this had been discussed at the administrative level, and that from a workload perspective, students could, but would presumably not, take advantage of the fact, as courses with group exams are already tailored along the lines of working in groups. Teaching staff must also have faith in their students to do what the programme encourages them to do. The Study Board agreed on keeping an eye on potential pitfalls after the changes have been enforced on 1 September 2022.

It was asked whether the Study Board could include an uneven work effort between group members as an exceptional circumstance that permitted submitting exam projects in a group with fewer members than the initial number. The consensus appeared to be that this would not count as an exceptional circumstance. However, there was sympathy for the idea, and it was acknowledged that many issues can arise as a result of having to work in groups, which was consequently discussed in great detail. Friedolin summarised the discussion as follows: Communication is of the utmost importance. Members of the teaching staff should make clear that assessment is individual for group exams and they should be highly aware of individual work effort when marking exams. Education Consultants are available to help with issues relating to group work. Everyone in the group is required to contribute to the group's efforts and anyone is welcome to reach out to the Head of Studies or course coordinator if problems arise. If a group member does not contribute to a written project, they simply should not be acknowledged as a contributor when submitting the assignment. At the very least, each part of the assignment should be annotated with the name of the student responsible for that particular section.

The Study Board furthermore agreed to look into the possibility of establishing a type of evaluation on group work.

4) Check-in: Status of SDS Student Lounge

Friedolin confirmed that the Student Lounge is of now inaccessible and requested that the fridge be emptied of contents before Monday.

As of now, there are no alternative locations for a new place for SDS students to enjoy their lunch together. Friedolin remarked that funds set aside for student events allow for the events to be held elsewhere than in the now defunct student lounge. It was commented that HippoCampus appears to have become popular both for informal and formal student and study activities.

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5) Point of Information: Second round SDS Student Fund

Friedolin thanked Greg and Felipe for their work on processing the nine applications that were received for funding from the SDS Student Fund and remarked that the majority of applications were supported. In the future, the Study Board and those responsible for processing applications would like more detailed motivational statements for funding. This led into a discussion of the terms of calls for and allocation of the fund's resources covered in item 6.

6) Discussion of terms of calls for and allocations of the Student Fund

The Study Board agreed that a prioritisation in allocating the funds available is both necessary and needed for future application rounds and that the process should be made more transparent along the lines of who receives funding, how much they receive, and for what purpose. In general, future guidelines should be established in order to encourage more competition, well-researched and motivated applications, and perhaps take into account individual financial situations among students.

It was asked whether the Student Fund could be used to attract admissions to the SDS programme. The consensus on this appeared to be that the fund should not be used for that.

Søren and Friedolin promised to assess whether applications should be processed on a rolling basis rather than at fixed dates. Felipe and Hjalmar promised to draft some principles and guidelines for calls and allocations to be discussed at the next Study Board meeting.

7) AOB

Hanne and Rikke had belatedly informed the Study Board that they would be absent at this meeting, why item 8 was referred to the next Study Board meeting.

Felipe informed the Study Board that he, like Alysha and Marilena, will be leaving the Study Board. The Study Board thanked him for his time and work.

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8) Exemptions (CLOSED ITEM)

Referred to next meeting.