



## MINUTES

16 SEPTEMBER 2022

**Forum** Board of Studies

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

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5 OPG. B  
KØBENHAVN K

**Place** SODAS, 1.2.26.

**Minute taker** Jagger Andersen Kirkby (*Study Board secretary*)

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### Present

Søren Kyllingsbæk (*Chair*), Gregory Eady, David Anthony Charles Broomham, Maya Ellen Hertz, Tereza Blazkova, Dora Nanai-Szucs, Nikolaj Arpe Harmon

jagger@samf.ku.dk

### Attendees

Friedolin Merhout (*Head of Studies*), Mads Øbro (*Student advisor*), Louise-Marie Lyngbo Lausten (*Study Administrator*)

### Absent

Christian Thomas Nielsen Garcia (*Vice-Chair*), Samantha Dawn Breslin (*sabbatical*)

### Agenda

#### Ad 1) Approval of agenda for the present meeting

The agenda for the present meeting was approved.

#### Ad 2) Status on faculty SB members and welcome to the new student representatives

Søren advised that Samantha is on sabbatical for the rest of the semester. Hjalmar has been employed in a new position at Lund University, why he will no longer be present at SB meetings.

Friedolin was elected as a substitute for Hjalmar until a replacement has been found. Søren bid the new student representatives welcome to the SB on behalf of its members.

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### **Ad 3) Orientation from HoS**

Friedolin explained that the new cohort of SDS students consists of approximately 40% DK-students, 30% EU students and 30% non-EU students.

The Introduction Week went well with the caveat that classes are a lot larger in size than usual.

There has been a lot of turnovers within the teaching team. Two student assistants have been hired to help with a variety of tasks, e.g., setting up an alumni network and the upcoming Graduation Day. A new student lounge has finally been found and Louise-Marie asked the students to let her know how the implementation process progresses.

The larger non-EU proportion of students has meant that some issues have arisen regarding visa status, residence permits, etc. SDS is considering how to help with funding, as many of these students are not eligible for certain benefits.

The student representatives asked that such students be directed to other opportunities for funding and suggested that guidelines must be able to be located at other programmes at the faculty and at KU at large considering SDS is not the only programme with many non-EU students. Mads assured the SB that he and Student Guidance help the best they can

Friedolin explained that there is currently no international student union at SAMF and suggested that money at the faculty level allocated to support student groups might exist to help with establishing such a union if needed.

### **Ad 4) Course categorisations and the Summary Course Evaluation Report for the study year 2021/22.**

Friedolin explained the practicalities of course categorisations and informed about the faculty's ongoing efforts to harmonise the administrative process governing these. The Study Board was

informed of the categorisations that had been given and explained that some courses obviously have bigger issues than others. The floor was opened for discussion.

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The student representatives asked what the point is of the categorisations and the report with Friedolin explaining that it is a question of programmes being held accountable with the SB acting to provide checks and balances.

The teaching staff asked about the procedures governing midterm evaluations. These are up to teachers themselves to conduct in the way they see fit.

Jagger had mistakenly sent out the Danish-language version of the results and will make sure to send out the results in English as soon as possible and will do so going forward.

It was remarked that the response rate is exceptionally high, and the SB would like to keep it that way. It was suggested that students should be notified that the course evaluation period closes before exams are undertaken.

#### **Ad 5) Integrated exam in ASDSII/Digital Methods**

Friedolin initiated the discussion by pointing out that both course evaluations and conversations with the teaching staff highlight ongoing problems with the integrated exam format. The course coordinators for both courses are open to separating the exams. Friedolin advised that this might mean that student workload could increase and that students should be aware of this.

The student representatives' experience has been that the Digital Methods part takes up appr. 70% of their time and ASDSII 30%. It was remarked that students have received conflicting information from TA's and lecturers and that written information conflicted with advice given verbally by teaching staff.

The faculty members of the SB pointed out that the integration of the exams is also difficult from a teaching and grading perspective. Generally, it was felt that separating the exams would not necessarily undermine existing learning objectives.

Benefits and potential pitfalls of separating the exams were hereafter discussed by the SB.

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It was emphasised that the learning objectives should be at the centre of any decision made.

Pitfalls mentioned were whether data collection would be compromised and whether the ECTS amount which indicates workload could theoretically expand.

It was the consensus among SB members that separating the exams is a good idea and that any issues that arise with teaching, teaching format, etc., must be dealt with after a decision has been made.

The SB would like to see a concrete proposal for a separation for the exams at the next SB meeting and make a final decision then.

#### **Ad 6) News from Student Guidance**

The item was struck from the agenda as Mads substituted for Ditte.

#### **Ad 7) AOB**

Søren was happy to report that SDS has recently been visited by the Toyota Development Group.

As Hjalmar will no longer be a member of the SB, it was decided that Friedolin will take Hjalmar's place as faculty member of the Exemption and Credit Transfer Sub-Committee along with Maya.

The date of the next SB meeting was moved forward to 5 October from 11:30-13:00. Jagger will update the meeting invitation.