UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Board of Studies for MSc in Social Data Science

MINUTES OF MEETING

Forum   Board of Studies at Social Data Science

Meeting date   4 May 2023, 14.00-15.45

Place   1.1.12

Attendees

Kaylie Clark (Vice chair, online), Csilla Duray, David Anthony Charles Broomham, Camilla Veronica Branas, Tereza Blazkova, Friedolin Merhout, Søren Kyllingsbæk (Chair), Samantha Dawn Breslin , Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Andreas Bjerre Nielsen, Rosa Ellen Lavelle-Hill, Nina Stenvang Holmsgaard (Student Counsellor), Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm (Programme Coordinator).

Guest

Thomas Eatmon (Research Data Management Advisor at Social Sciences Datalab).

Agenda

1. **Approval of Agenda / Søren (5 minutes, 14.00-14.05)**

   Decision: The board must decide whether to approve the meeting agenda.

   Decision: Item 6 will be postponed until the next Study Board meeting. Item 3 was added with an introduction of Thomas Eatmon. Other than this the agenda was approved.

2. *Constitution of the board / Søren (10 minutes 14.05-14.15)*

   a. *Orientation on the situation: The equal representation in the board has been suspended by the Rector. Søren Kyllingsbæk*

and Friedolin Merhout are stepping down as members of the board, and two new members have been appointed: Rosa Ellen Lavelle-Hill and Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen. We'll start out with a round of introduction.

b. *Decision: The SB must elect a new chairperson from among the staff representatives. Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen has offered himself for election and the board must decide whether to approve of Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen as new chairperson of the board.*

Decision: The board approved to elect Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen as new chairperson of the board.

c. *Decision: The Study Board must select a new faculty member for the sub-committee for credit transfer and exemptions.*

Decision: Friedolin explained the role and the amount of work that comes with it. Nikolaj offered to enter the sub-committee and the board approved this.

3. **Introduction of Thomas Eatmon.**

Orientation: Friedolin bid Thomas welcome as new Research Data Management Advisor at the [Social Sciences Datalab](#), and Thomas introduced himself to the members and attendees of the board meeting.
Thomas is leading a pilot project to develop guidance and support for SAMF master's thesis students to ensure that ethical considerations, confidentiality, privacy, and data protection standards are upheld for empirical research involving human participants and personal data.
Friedolin encouraged both staff and students to welcome Thomas, and to reach out to him when relevant. Furthermore, he encouraged students to inform their fellow students to do the same.

4. **ChatGPT and similar generative AI and the summer exam 2023 (10 minutes, 14.15-14.25).**

Discussion and decision: The board needs to discuss and decide whether to maintain the prohibition of ChatGPT and similar generative AI for exams during the summer exam 2023 (Appendix 3.1).

Briefing and discussion: Friedolin briefed the board on the situation, and he asked the board to discuss and decide whether to permit ChatGPT and other generative AI, conditional on course responsible agreement, or to continue the ban.

The board agreed that this is a topic that is here to stay and in the long run the board will have to look at both teaching and exam forms of courses of the study programme in order to include the generative AI.

Decision: the board decided to permit ChatGPT and generative AI alike, with course responsible agreement, for the summer exam of the following exams:

- Digital Methods 7.5 ECTS
- Academic Internship 15 ECTS
- Co-curricular written assignment, 2.5 ECTS, 5 ECTS and 7.5 ECTS
- Academic Internship 30 ECTS
- Advanced Social Data Science II, 7.5 ECTS

Friedolin proposed that the following text was added to the course description of the affected courses:

"ChatGPT and other large language model tools are permitted as a dedicated source, meaning text copied verbatim needs to be quoted, the tool cited, and generally the specific use made of them needs to be described in the submitted exam."

ChatGPT and other large language models can only be used as a dedicated source, if the course description states this. The decision applies to all three attempts of the affected exams.

5. **News from the students / Kaylie (20 minutes, 14.25-14.45)**
    a. **Orientation:** *Intro week 2023 plans. The Subject Council would like to be kept up to date with intro week plans, as they have some contributions they would like to make (Csilla)*
    This item was postponed.
    b. **Discussion:** *Opportunity for the 2022 cohort to review the first year as a whole (Csilla)*
    Decision: the board discussed the different ways of reviewing the first-year experience of the 2022 cohort. Friedolin informed the board about the different survey platforms such as Survey Exact, Absalon and Padlet. He also proposed that the review could be executed in form of a group discussion in a social event, and he offered his assistance/participation if needed.
    c. **Orientation:** *Mentorship program (Tereza)*
    This item was postponed.
    d. **Discussion:** *Adding a calendar of academic dates to the SDS website.*

Decision: the board discussed the needs and demands for a possible, future SODAS/SDS calendar. Student Guidance will look at, what they can offer in this regard, and Friedolin will look at, what other departments offer.

e. **Orientation:** *Exam grade and appeal decision deadlines: delays are concerning students.*
Decision: Friedolin asked the students to send him info on the exams concerned. He will then investigate the issue.

f. **Discussion:** *Group work issue resolution process*
   i. *What examples have you found from other departments that we could consider adopting?*
   ii. *Further details on the more severe problems that occurred in blocks 1-3.*
   Decision: Kaylie will send a list of ideas for group work issue resolution to Friedolin. Friedolin will discuss the topic with other Head of Studies and examine what can be done. This will be an item at the next SB meeting.

g. **Discussion:** Feedback for exams. What are the possibilities?
Discussion: Students wish for more feedback after the exams but prior to the complaint deadline, and they wanted to know if it's possible to provide more feedback to the students.
Teachers pointed out that there are norms for the amount of feedback that teachers provide, and they asked if was possible to examine if the norms are being used.
Decision: Friedolin will investigate what can be done and this will be an item of the next Study Board meeting.

6. **Presentation of the Programme Report / Friedolin (10 minutes, 14.45-14.55)**

   Briefing and discussion: Friedolin will present a draft of the Programme Report (Appendix 5.1) and the board is welcome to comment on it.

   Overall, the programme is doing well, and most Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are being met. The study progression of the students at the programme is slower than last time around, and study leadership will look into this if the trend continues. There are no mayor challenges, but study leadership and the board of studies will continue to work on the internationalisation and group work at the programme.

7. **Discussion of the course evaluation of block 3, Friedolin (10 minutes, 14.55-15.05)**

   a. ***Orientation:** The board must review the results and implement action plans to correct any unsatisfactory conditions.*

b. ***Discussion and decision:*** *The Study Board must discuss and decide on the HoS suggestion for course categorisations as presented in the appendix 6.1, Suggested ratings, ASDSI and Data Governance: Law, Ethics and Politics*

This item was postponed.

8. Curriculum / Friedolin (5 minutes., 15.05-15.10)

a. Approval of minor changes, including course descriptions

- **Change of the exam registration requirements for ASDSII:**

   Orientation and decision*: The HoS will brief the board on the possible change of exam registration requirements for Advanced Social Data Science II (Appendix 7.1). The board should discuss whether to approve the change of exam registration requirements according to the draft revision.*

   Decision: Course responsible proposes to cancel the exam registration prerequisites entirely. The board approved the change.

9. News from Head of Studies / Friedolin (15 minutes, 15.10-15.25)

a. Employer Panel meeting

Orientation: *The Employer Panel will meet after the Study Board. Head of Studies will brief the board on the agenda for that meeting and ask for any points to be carried over to the panel meeting.*
Orientation: Friedolin will discuss ChatGPT with the employer panel, and he asked if the board had any other input. David emphasized that the students are very interested in receiving an update from the employer panel.

b. EU/DK Admissions

Orientation: *The SDS teaching and administrative team has just completed the EU/DK admissions round. Head of Studies will brief the board on the outcomes of the process.*

Orientation: the EU/DK admissions round has just finished and the team has made sure to have a broad perspective on

both gender and academic background. The board will receive more info at the next Study Board meeting.

c. **Annual report by the chairmanship of the external examiners / Friedolin.**

Orientation and Discussion: *Head of Studies will brief the board on the annual report by the chairmanship of the external examiners. Does the report give rise to any changes to the programme?*

Orientation: The chairmanship of the external examiners has proposed a specification of the academic requirements of the master thesis. This could even be added to each of the four thesis formats.

10. News from the Student Guidance (10 minutes, 15.25-15.35)

Orientation:

- The Student Guidance have begun the planning the Study Start and Nina will reach out to Friedolin.
- There has been a change regarding visa legislation. If you want any further information on the changes, talk to your union.

11. AOB / Søren (10 minutes, 15.35-15.45)

NA.

Yours sincerely,

Sidse Gutfeld Overbeck Ærstrøm
Programme Coordinator