

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

16 JUNE 2022

Forum Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science

Meeting held 16 June 2022, 13:30-15:00

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5 OPG. B
KØBENHAVN K

Place SODAS, 1.2.26

Minute taker Jagger Andersen Kirkby

DIR 45 35 33 22 02

jagger@samf.ku.dk

Present

Members: Søren Kyllingsbæk (*Chair*), Hjalmar Alexander Bang Carlsen, Gregory Eady, Marilena Hohmann, Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Alysha K. Chamadia, Samantha Dawn Breslin, and Maya Ellen Hertz.

Attendees: Friedolin Merhout (*Head of Studies*), Ditte Marie Arbjerg (*student advisor*), Rikke Truelsen (*study administration*), and Jagger Andersen Kirkby (*Study Board secretary*).

Absent: Felipe Arturo Perilla Reyes, Christian Thomas Nielsen Garcia (*Vice-Chair*), Hjalmar Alexander Bang Carlsen.

1) Approval of the agenda for the current meeting

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The agenda was approved with the caveat that the introduction of Rikke Truelsen, who is now responsible for exemptions cases at SDS, took place as part of item 1. Item 6 was thus omitted from the agenda.

Rikke introduced herself and her work with exemptions.

2) General orientation from HoS

Friedolin explained that there is still no news on an SDS student lounge and that he was currently planning the introduction week for the new cohort along with 2 PhD students and 4 other volunteers. One present challenge is that up to 99 students will be participating but that there is only room for 72 persons in the rooms that have been allocated.

It was suggested that the increase in the number of SDS students might be used as an argument for establishing a student café.

The student representatives asked about admitting students from the new cohort to their unofficial Facebook group. Ditte reminded the students that no official KU information should be shared on Facebook. Søren promised to talk to the Vice-Dean about rules and regulations regarding student and study information on social media.

Friedolin explained that the SDS student organisation is still in its initial setup stage and that funding for it seems to have been secured. The student representatives thanked Friedolin for his support for the organisation.

3) Student Representative roundtable: Opinions on the integrated exam in ASDSII/Digital Methods

Friedolin remarked that he might have liked to postpone the item until the next SB meeting where there were more student representatives present, but he nevertheless requested some initial thoughts at the current meeting on the integrated exam in ASDS2/DM.

He explained that the integrated exam did not yet seem fully successful as many students were confused about it, and that he was currently in the process of talking to the course coordinators on how to proceed.

The student representatives commented that the exam might not be the problem but rather the communication surrounding it. It was further remarked that the integrated exam appears to be more like two distinct exams and that DM might have been prioritised over ASDS2. Friedolin assured the student representatives that it was also clear to the course coordinators that more focus should be put on the DM part of the exam. The student representatives noted that there might be other, more constructive ways of setting up the exam. Finally, the student representatives explained that in some groups for the exam, the workload became such that one person became responsible for the “other” part of the exam.

4) Discussion: Orientation for new and potential students before embarking on the SDS programme

It was explained that some students from the new intake have expressed that they might like to come and visit SDS and KU before embarking on their studies. Friedolin asserted that such a visit should not be in any official capacity and that it might be necessary to communicate to interested students that there will be no formal orientation before the introduction week.

Student Guidance explained that they do “Student for a Day” where potential students are invited to visit campus and explained that it might be possible to join the event as an already enrolled student.

The student representatives asked whether welcoming students to campus before introduction week should not be a formalised event if many students are interested. It was commented that an event might reduce the number of students reaching out to KU for information and that it might be a good idea to include both new and potential students to attract the latter to the SDS programme. Friedolin promised to take this into consideration.

It was suggested that it might be enough with the introduction week but that SDS could potentially send out information after students are enrolled in the programme. Lastly, the Study Board was reminded of the fact that the Open House day also exists for persons interested in enrolling in the programme.

5) Discussion: Composition of the Study Board, member turnover and member recruitment

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Jagger elaborated the current issues with finding members for the Study Board, especially among the students. Because the Study Board only serves MA students, turnover is naturally higher than on other study boards. Also, SDS has 10 study board members, currently the highest amount of members of all programmes at the Faculty. It was discussed whether it is feasible to ensure that the SDS Study Board has 10 members at all times and also ensure that they are committed to their responsibilities. It was suggested that it might be easier to maintain a stable amount of student representatives on the board once the amount of students enrolled in the SDS programme increases.

Jagger promised to find out whether it is possible to arrange a seminar for study board members across the faculty in which time expectations, responsibilities, etc., are outlined. Such a seminar has previously been held. Jagger also promised to ensure that a potential seminar would be held in English.

6) Discussion: MA theses defence dates

The student representatives explained that final year SDS students had handed in their MA theses on 31 May and that only four students currently knew their defence dates. Friedolin acknowledged that communication about the process should be clearer, but that there is no official timeline. Finding competent external examiners has also been a problem.

Legally, the defence has to take place six weeks after submission of the thesis at the very latest. KU strives to set the defence date four weeks after submission at the latest.

Study Board members who also act as supervisors/internal examiners expressed that for them personally, the turnaround had been short, but that they were handling it to the best of their abilities.

The process of allocating external examiners was discussed. Friedolin will work with whomever becomes responsible for MA theses at SDS to ensure a smoother process.

7) News from Student Guidance

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Ditte reported that some students from specific countries seem to have missed crucial guidelines about registration dates, reexaminations, mandatory attendance etc., especially with regard to the Basecamp course.

The student representatives commented that understanding these things can indeed be difficult for students arriving from abroad, and that they had learnt a lot from older students, i.e. those who did their Bachelor's degrees in Denmark.

The student representatives requested that the planned Student Guidance session during introduction week on all these things, KUnet, etc., should be mandatory for SDS students, e.g. that new SDS students should go that session, perhaps in lieu of the session on group work. Friedolin promised to reach out to the relevant persons to make changes to the introduction week.

Ditte requested that the student representatives spread the word that SDS students are welcome to reach out to Student Guidance and informed the board that in July they will open 2 days a week and that the opening hours are available through KUnet.

8) AOB

None.