

To the members of the Board of Studies for Social Data Science and
attendees at the meeting



MINUTES

MARCH 2021

Forum SDS Board of Studies

Meeting held 10 March, 16:00-17:30, 2021

Place Online Zoom

Minute-taker Tea Malthesen

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

STRATEGY, ANALYSIS & PROJECTS

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5, BUILDING
12, 1ST FLOOR
1353 COPENHAGEN K

Present

Members: Søren Kyllingsbæk, Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Anders Blok,
Samantha Dawn Breslin, Jeppe Hostrup Foldberg Hansen, Marilena
Hohmann, Alysha K. Chamadia, and Alfredo D. Rodriguez III.

Attendees: Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen (Head of Studies), Louis-Marie Lyngbo
Lausten (Study Administrator), Steffen (Students Advisor), Hanne Kraak
(exemptions), and Sophie Jagd Rosendal (credit transfer).

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Apologies for absence: Rebecca Adler-Nissen and Alex Snorre Moltzau

Agenda

1) Approval of agenda and minutes from the last meeting

The Board approved the agenda and the minutes from the last meeting.

2) Follow-up on the revision of the curriculum

2a) For information the requirement for Master's thesis /Andreas

The Board is in favor of the following prerequisites: *Students must complete a minimum of 60 ECTS before registering for the master's thesis and have passed/be registered for all first year's courses.*

But there are only two options for prerequisites for the Master's thesis at our faculty:

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- 1) "It is a requirement that 60 ECTS credits have been passed before the thesis writing period begins." Or
- 2) "It is a requirement that 90 ECTS credits have been passed before the thesis writing period begins."

With no more specific requirements.

Option 1 is the one closest to what the Study Board wants, therefore, this is chosen. It will take effect from September 2021 for all students at SDS.

2b) For information: Option for individual examinations

We are not allowed to make the course coordinators responsibly for exemptions from group examinations. The Study Board can have an accommodative practice when the Board makes decisions about exemptions for group examinations.

2c) Brief discussion of the work in the board with revision of the curriculum

Søren said that in future, we would strive to send out proposals for revisions before the meeting and facilitate that the Board more time for these revisions.

The Students Advisor said that it is important that the existing students receive information about changes to their curriculum as soon as possible. The administration is responsible for this and will see to this.

2d) For information the annual cycle for changes to curricula is attached

We will in the future strive to follow this annual cycle. It was said that what in the annual cycle is defined as a minor change, may be a major change for the programme, so that we may sometimes need to start the discussions earlier, than written in the annual cycle. Head of Studies, Study Board Chair and administration will keep this in mind.

3) Discussion about the workload and student well-being

3a) The students perspective on the workload

The students presented their perspectives on workload and well-being. Before the meeting, the student representatives held a meeting where all students were invited. The students conclude that most students feel that they can not keep up even though they work hard many hours. Block 1 and 2 worked very well. The challenges

are related to block 3 and 4. There is a lot of teaching and exercise classes, a lot of readings, many assignments, a lot of group work and exams. The sum of all these makes, it hard for the students to keep up.

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The following was suggested:

- start teaching at 8:00.
- the teachers and the students discuss the workload in the beginning of every course.
- less group work, more individual work
- don't make the level less challenging
- a small pause between block 3 and 4
- predefined datasets and topics could be used more
- shorter class exercises
- Recorded lectures

At the next meeting, we will discuss solutions.

3b) Discussion of student well-being in general

The Student Advisor presented the initiatives initiated the last five months by the Faculty to support the students' wellbeing under COVID 19. Ideas for initiatives can be sent to the Student Advisor.

4) AOB (5 min.)

SDA

It was suggested that SDA is held online even if Campus opens. So that the 4-5 students whom postponed SDA can follow SDS in combination with internship.

Meeting Tuesday with students

Head of Studies will meet with the students Tuesday to talk about the current challenges and see if anything can be done now.

Exam in Digital Methods this semester

This exam will be online unless the Board decides it should be held on campus. The decision must be made no later than 23 May.

Should we open the SDS courses for students from other programmes?

Do we want to open up mandatory courses at the programme for students outside the programme? The Head of Studies would like the Board to discuss this soon.

5) Evaluation of the meeting (10 min.)

The meeting was evaluated. It worked very well with the students

presenting their perspective on the workload. The online format does not work so well for debate.