

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



MINUTES

APRIL 2021

Forum SDS Board of Studies

Meeting held 24 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, Alex Snorre Moltzau, and Alfredo D. Rodriguez III.

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Attendees: Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen (Head of Studies), Louise-Marie Lyngbo Lausten (Study Administrator), and Steffen Bargum Jürgensen Petersen (Students Advisor).

REF: TM

Apologies for absence: Rebecca Adler-Nissen.

1) Approval of agenda and minutes from the last meeting

The Board approved the agenda. There was a correction to the minutes to the item AOB: It was suggested that SDA not SDS is held online even if Campus opens.

2) Discussion on process for solutions regarding workload and well-being

Andreas informed that he will discuss solutions with the teacher group at the next teacher meeting 26 March.

Søren suggests that the board arrange a seminar about the programme for the board for half a day every semester.

2a) Information on immediate actions

Andreas informed that:

- Block 4 is postponed by one week. This means that the teaching will run from week 16 to week 22 included.
- The exam assignment in ASDS2 and Digital Methods has been postponed and the new submission deadline is 17 June. The oral exam in Digital Methods remains on the 23 and 24 June.
- The Head of Studies is looking at shortening some of the exercise classes not this academic year, but maybe next academic year.

2b) Discussion about the process for making changes to a course (for example SDA)

Søren said that changes often would start by the students giving feedback to the teacher. The teacher will then adjust his/her course as he/she sees fit. The Board of Studies will handle feedback related to the overall programme or the connection between two or more courses. In cooperation with the Head of Departments and the Board of Studies, the Head of Studies is responsible for ensuring that steps are taken to follow up on course evaluations. At the next meeting, the Board will receive the compiled course evaluations.

2c) Talk about changing the teaching schedule

Head of Studies has made three suggestions. He would like to hear the Boards' opinion about these suggestions:

- 1) 10-12 lecture; 12-15 exercise classes
- 2) 10-13 exercise classes; 13-15 lecture
- 3) 08-10 lecture; 10-13 exercise classes

The student representatives has arranged a vote among the students. The vast majority preferred suggestion 3.

There was a discussion about if it should be from block 4 or from next academic year. Louise-Marie will look into if it could be possibly for block 4.

There was a discussion on shortening the exercises classes from 3 to 2 hours. Andreas said that the feedback varies between the different courses, so that it might not be a good idea for all courses.

There was a discussion on switching the order of lectures and exercise classes.

2d) Other solutions or initiatives?

Course descriptions

Samantha said that the course descriptions has a central role at the Danish University, which may be different from other universities. This could be pointed out to the teachers and students in the beginning. The course descriptions should describe the content of the courses and the exam. It was suggested that the course descriptions were made more precis.

Information about exams

The student representatives would like that the information about the exams are given earlier. The descriptions of the exams are not so precis in the course descriptions. Søren wants to talk to the teachers about this. (The course descriptions cannot be changed when the course has started).

Information about the syllabus

The Board of Studies does not have to approve the syllabus (list of literature). The Head of Studies receives the syllabus before the courses start.

The students would like to receive the syllabus before the courses start. They did not receive it before block 3 course started. Head of studies will talk with the teachers about this at the next teacher meeting.

The number and scope of assignments in a course

The teacher decides the number and the scoop of the assignments. It must be aligned with the description of the workload in the course description. Nikolaj said it would be a good idea that the number and the scope of assignments are described in the course description.

SODAS Academic Mentorship Programme

Alex showed a suggestion for a SODAS Academic Mentorship Programme, which might strengthen the connection between teachers and students.

2e) Would it be helpful with a week plan?

It would not be helpful for the students with a week plan.

3) Decision about a working group on learning progression of the study board /Andreas (10 min.)

The board supports establishing a progression working group under the study board. There was no comments to the draft for agreement on terms of references for the working group.

4) **Approval of a new elective course: Datadrevet organisationsanalyse**

The description of the new elective course was not attached, so the head of studies presented the suggestion for the new elective. The course is in Danish.

There was a discussion of the course. It was said that:

- The course seems very interesting.
- This course seems very important for international students, so it seems unfair to have it only in Danish.
- There seems to be an overlap with the existing compulsory courses.
- The academic level must be raised in the course.
- Anders would like that it is defined what is central in SDS (the core subject), when we make decisions about SDS electives.
- It was suggested that the course was offered once and then evaluated.
- the content of this course could move us in the direction of more cooperation with the other disciplines.

It was decided that the course could be approved if it is in Danish and the content is adjusted.

5) **Discussion about interdisciplinarity**

The Board has to identify two to four areas where we wish to create more interdisciplinary collaboration or involve other areas of expertise to supplement the SDS programme.

Andreas suggests that SDS opens ASDS2, so that other students than only SDS students can follow it.

Please send ideas or suggestions to Andreas, if you have any.

6) **AOB**

There was no time for this.

7) **Evaluation of the meeting**

Louise-Marie will keep track of time at the next meetings. There was no time for evaluation.