



## MINUTES

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

**Forum** Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science

**Meeting held** 17 September 2024, 11:00AM - 01.00PM

**Place** 1.1.12 - Sodas Large Conference Room

**Minute taker** Andreas Stokke

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5  
POSTBOKS 2099

DIR 45 35 32 51 93

ans@samf.ku.dk

### Members:

Nikolaj Arpe Harmon, Samantha Dawn Breslin, Rosa Ellen Lavelle-Hill, Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen, Gregory Eady, Csilla Duray, Sofia Noor Steensma, Janis Beginen.

### Attendees:

Kristoffer Langkjær Albris (Head of Studies), Friedolin Merhout, Kristine Hemme (Academic Officer and Student Counsellor), Signe Staun Kelly (teaching and Exam Coordinator)

### Agenda

#### 1. Approval of Agenda / Andreas (2 minutes)

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

Agenda points approved.

#### 2. Decision regarding minor changes to course descriptions / Kristoffer (10 minutes)

- a. *Decision:* Change to course description regarding Master Thesis oral defense. Student presentation time is reduced

*from approx. 1/3 of the total duration, to approx. 1/6 of the total duration. (Appendix 2.1)*

Approved.

Additionally, students have requested that it be made clear how students are expected to spend the 10 minutes for their own presentation, so they don't risk wasting time needlessly. The information should be made accessible to students through e.g. KUnet.

- b. **Decision:** Revision of the learning outcomes and minor changes to course description for ASDK20006U Advanced Social Data Science II. (Appendix 2.2)*

Approved, with the addition that the re-examination be renamed. Signe will follow up.

The course responsible wished to address two points with the revision – 1) there was a need for a little tidying up with regards to the course content and learning outcomes, and 2) there was a need to specify the expectations for the re-examination, because there seemed to be a mismatch between the content of what was handed in, and what was actually expected of the students.

### **3. Discussion of the course evaluation of block 3, block 4 and summer 2024, Kristoffer (30 minutes)**

- a. **Orientation:** The board will get an orientation about the course evaluation results for the Spring 2024. (See Appendix 3.1 and 3.2)*

The subcommittee (consisting of Kristoffer and Janis) met a few days ago, and have discussed any identifiable issues, and what kind of grade should be adopted for the courses. The subcommittee recommended that all spring course are given a 'B', which is the same categorization that the system has given the courses already.

Kristoffer mentioned that the subcommittee exists so that all other members of the Study Board can save time, and not have to read through all the data. However, if there are any issues that any member has identified, they are always welcome to interject.

It's pointed out that the thesis response rate seems low – moving forward it would be a good idea to have an extra focus here.

Kristoffer mentions that with regards to the answer percentages, SDS generally does quite well. However, they are quite low for the spring semester. There will be made an effort to improve those numbers.

If students have any other remarks concerning the evaluation results, they are welcome to write to Kristoffer, but keep in mind that it is appreciated if students remember to answer the evaluation questions when they are received, so that feedback is registered in the system and not just in emails.

A point is made about anonymity in the evaluations. Andreas will make a note about sending aggregated data in the future, to avoid any anonymity issues.

- b. **Discussion and decision:** The Study Board must discuss and decide on the HoS suggestion for course categorisations.*

The Study Board agrees with HoS' suggestions for categorisations.

- c. **Decision:** The Study Board must decide whether to make changes to the supplementary questions for the evaluation for the coming academic semester (see last year's additional questions in appendix 3.3. See also the common faculty questions in appendix 3.4).*

The Study Board agrees to continue using the current supplementary questions in the evaluations.

- d. **Orientation and discussion:** Kristoffer will present a draft of the SUE (Annual summary course evaluation report) (Appendix 3.5), and the board is welcome to comment on it.*

Kristoffer presents a draft of the SUE, and emphasizes that board members are welcome to send an email with any comments or suggestions to the draft. The deadline for handing in the draft to the Vice-Dean is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **4. Consultation response concerning the Study Survey 2023 (SMU23), Kristine (20 minutes)**

- a. An action plan has been drafted based on the results of the SMU23. The Study Board is asked to review and comment on the action plan. (Appendix 4.1)*

There are 4 focus areas of the action plan: Feedback, well-being, strong student communities, and students with special needs. Proposed initiatives are presented in Kristines powerpoint. Below are listed additional initiatives proposed by the Study Board:

#### Feedback

- i. Specific feedback on exams – Feedback from the graders.
- ii. Group feedback interviews with students
- iii. Can grader's exam annotations be made public?

#### Well-being

- iv. "ABC for mental health" is only in Danish. It needs to be translated.
- v. There needs to be a streamlined way to work with group issues.

#### Strong student communities

- vi. Focus on promoting how to start organisations, and a focus on promoting already existing organisations.
- vii. Manage expectations of people who are not accustomed to how danish academia/universities works.

#### Students with special needs

- viii. Its necessary to strengthen the infrastructure for students with special needs.
- ix. Be better to inform TAs on how to work and support students with special needs.

### 5. Evaluation of SDS Study Start 2024 / Kristoffer & Kristine (10 minutes)

- a. **Orientation:** HoS and Student Counsellors will give a status on the SDS Study Start 2024

Kristoffer mentions that they have not conducted a survey yet on the study start. However, current feedback indicates that it has been a success. There has been a good turnout, and the new cohort seems very active.

Kristoffer points out that compared to other MA programmes, SDS seems to do quite a lot with regards to the introduction week and students.

The students pointed out that the social activities worked well, and so did the academic presentations.

**6. News from the Student Guidance / Kristine (5 minutes)**

No news apart from mentioning that the study start went well.

**7. News from the students / Csilla (5 minutes)**

The students have held a presentation about the Study Board for the new students, and it seems that there are several who are interested in becoming members.

It's pointed out that there is no formal procedure with regards to finding new students who are interested in becoming members of the study board, outside of the formal election process. It is up to the student representatives to find new members.

**8. News from Head of Studies / Kristoffer (10 minutes)**

- a. *Orientation: Head of Studies will brief the board on the reform of the Master's programmes.*

The deadline for handing in the first onepager with a description of the preliminary structure of the new Masters programme, is November 15<sup>th</sup>. At the next Study Board meeting, the Study Board will be presented with the proposed structure of the new programme.

**9. AOB / Kristoffer (5 mins)**

Students have noted that winter exams from last semester were placed too close together. Its suggested to switch the dates of the exams for the two courses – Social Data Analysis and Social Data Science Base Camp. This change would make it less stressful with regards to e.g. group work.

The suggestion is approved for the coming winter exams.