



MINUTES

24 MAY 2024

Forum Board of Studies for the MSc in Social Data Science

Meeting held 24 May 2024, 11:00AM - 01.00PM

ØSTER FARIMAGSGADE 5
POSTBOKS 2099

Place 1.1.12 - Sodas Large Conference Room

Minute taker Andreas Stokke

DIR 45 35 32 51 93

Members:

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

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Attendees:

Kristoffer Langkjær Albris (Head of Studies), Friedolin Merhout, Kristine Hemme (Academic Officer and Student Counsellor), Signe Staun Kelly (teaching and Exam Coordinator), Rikke Bechmann Truelsen (Administrative Staff), Marie-Louise Weibell Diamant (Administrative Staff)

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda / Andreas (5 mins., 11.00-11.05)

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

Agenda points approved.

2. Orientation on decisions regarding credit transfer / Louise Diamant (10 mins., 11.05-11.15)

Orientation: Louise will brief the board on decisions made in the previous semester (See Appendix 2.1)

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Orientation: Louise states that the administration aims to present an overview of credit transfer applications to the study board twice a year. There are rarely any issues with SDS students, and the process is generally very smooth. Board members Nikolaj and Semra review credit transfer applications for SDS students, and Nikolaj agrees that the entire process functions smoothly.

3. Recommendations regarding the use of AI in examinations at SAMF / Kristoffer (10 mins., 11.15-11.25)

Orientation: Head of Studies will brief the board on new recommendations concerning the use of AI and their use in examinations. The new recommendations will take effect from the Fall semester 2025. (see Appendix 3.1)

Kristoffer goes through the the colour-coded approach concerning the use of AI. The new recommendations acknowledge that that there are courses/examinations where it makes sense to use AI uninhibited, and others where it makes sense to prohibit the use.

The recommendations will take effect from the Fall semester 2025.

Csilla and Sofia pointed out that it is necessary to make sure that students are instructed on how to properly refer to AI sources, and that it should also be made clear to students *why* it makes academic sense to include or exclude the use of AI in their exams.

Nikolaj mentioned that the “green” recommendation could be included in some form of introductory course.

It is noted that the recommendations only concern the application of AI tools during examinations. The use of AI during classes or in teaching situations is still permitted.

4. News from the Student Guidance / Kristine (5 minutes, 11.25-11.30)

Kristine reminds the board that the Student Counseling and Career Guidance Services are currently busy dealing with inquiries with regards to course registrations. If board members would like to get a hold of Student Services at the moment, please drop by in person or call directly. Emails will likely be drowned out by the amount of unread emails in the inbox.

5. News from the students / Csilla (5 minutes, 11.30-11.35)

Csilla mentions that they have been discussing how to get more students interested in joining the study board.

Observations are made about how, amongst other things, being a member of the study board would look good on students' resumé.

It is suggested that students could be more thoroughly introduced to the study board early on in their studies, for example during the introduction week.

Andreas S. explains how students can join the study board outside of the regular election process.

6. News from Head of Studies / Kristoffer (10 minutes, 11.35-11.45)

- a. ***Orientation and discussion:*** *The HoS will brief the board on the exam complaints statistics. The board should discuss whether there are any unsatisfactory conditions to rectify. (See Appendix 6.1)*

Kristoffer: We would prefer if it is possible to get a breakdown of what the individual complaints specifically concern. Moreover, it is important that the administration can deliver material in English, and not in Danish.

With regards to the complaint statistics - compared to the other "short" programmes, SDS has a few more complaints, but nothing serious.

Signe mentions that there is an indication that it is the Social Data Analysis course that gives the most complaints.

Kristoffer acknowledges that it will be necessary to keep an eye out for the specific reasons for the complaints.

Janis mentions that students may choose to appeal their grades because they lack feedback. Csilla agrees.

Csilla mentions that students on their first semester may have issues with cooperating in groups, and are therefore more prone to complain with regards to their own grade.

Kristoffer acknowledges that there may be issues concerning the perceived lack of feedback. If students feel that they only get proper feedback if they send an official complaint, then that would be an inappropriate way of going about the matter.

- b. **Orientation:** *Head of Studies will brief the board on the latest Employer Panel meeting.*

Kristoffer: We have a relatively new Employer Panel. They were very excited to hear about the programme and agree that it seems to be an excellent one as well.

- c. **Annual report by the chairmanship of the external examiners**

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? (See Appendix 6.2)*

Referred to a later date – report was not ready in time.

Instead Kristoffer gave a short orientation about the Programme Review (*Uddannelsesredørelse*), and his discussion with Vice-Dean for Education, Sara Hagemann. Apart from a few comments regarding the use of digital tools in class, Sara had nothing further.

7. Processing of application for exemptions / Rikke (15 minutes, 11.45-12.00) CLOSED DOOR ITEM

Decision: *The board will process an application for exemption.*

Decision: The board made a decision on both cases.

8. Orientation regarding common rules / Rikke Truelsen (10 mins., 12.00-12.10)

Orientation: *Rikke briefs the board regarding common rules regarding exemptions and dispensations relating to the loss of closest relatives. (See Appendix 8.1)*

Rikke explained the background for the final text on common dispensation practices at SAMF in relation to death in the immediate family. SDS's wish for a one-year exemption period is in the text under section 5 formulated as an option for programmes with progression requirements. For the common practice to be applicable, SDS has to include progression requirements in its curriculum, which they do not currently have.

SDS will proceed with the issue, and asked Rikke to note SDS's position in the submitted common dispensation practice.

9. AOB / Kristoffer (5 mins., 12.10-12.15)

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Kristoffer mentions that the semester has progressed very well. Signe is doing a great job preparing the master thesis counselors.

David and Kristoffer have invited students for an end of semester function.

Concerning the timeline for the MA-reform, Kristoffer mentions that the programmes with Bachelor's degrees are the most pressed for time, whereas SDS has more time. All Study Boards, however, have a deadline of November 1st to hand in an overview of their programmes. An Academic retreat has been planned for January. A finalized programme structure has to be handed in by the Fall semester 2026.

There are twice as many theses being planned now, compared to before, which is making it a bit more challenging with regards to assigning external examiners.

There has been an uptake in the number examination complaints. Sofia contemplated that maybe if there were open office hours that the number of complaints would drop.