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| Aftagerpanelet (Employer panel), Social Data Science |  |
| MINUTES | 29. november 2021 |
| Forum | Employer panel |  |
| Meeting | 16 November 2021 |  |
| Place | 5.1.16 |  |
| Minutes-taker | Dorte Fredskilde Braad |  |

Present

**Members:** Mikkel Holm Sørensen, Implement (chairperson). Anne Ipsen, Boston Consulting Group. Anne Marie Kindberg, Microsoft Danmark. Jan Voetmann, Ørsted. Kaare Brandt Petersen, Laerdal Health.

**From SODAS and the Faculty:** Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen, SODAS. Friedolin Merhout, SODAS. Søren Kyllingsbæk, Dept. of Psychology. Sandra Schöne Leth Hansen, Study Administration Services.

Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without comment.

1. Approval of the minutes from the last meeting 25 May 2021

The minutes were approved without comment.

1. Announcement by head of studies Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen

Friedolin will take over as head of studies by December 1, 2021.

Sandra is new study coordinator for SDS.

In the current academic year, 2021/22, we have accepted 57 new students. This will be scaled up to an intake of 75 within the next year.

SDS will open the course on data governance to students from other disciplines at The Faculty of Social Sciences in Spring 22 as a test.

There is an upcoming Tech Policy course offered as Continuing and Professional Education. Perhaps also more data-focused courses in the future.

Andreas advertised for the possibility to use the students as interns.

Matchmaking event with companies to be held in March 22, 2022.

SDS is still too new to make a solid evaluation. Friedolin presented some evaluation data (generated as part of teacher training program for assistant professors) for the first year. The evaluation included topics like gender, belonging and interdisciplinary background. No concluding remarks due to the short period covered, but perhaps it could be repeated later.

Some courses have already been adjusted, but the overall curriculum will be up for revision based on broader agendas like an overall budget cut at the faculty (Budget in balance), dimensioning the extent of international students from EU-countries as well as student feedback.

1. The process for the upcoming revision of the SDS curriculum by Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen

Curriculum changes are to be discussed at the end of this academic year (summer 2022) and implemented by November 2022.

Issues like double supervision by supervisors from different disciplines is a good idea – but is it the best? Currently students can only use a small number of supervisors, to ensure the supervisors know the curriculum of SDS. But it makes it harder for the students to find supervisors in their old field.

The initial basecamp for all students has been used to get everybody at the same level, but for some it was repetition and a bit boring. Discussions on the possibility to split the course, use student instructors or make the level mandatory but allowing different electives if you already received the desired level. This would however impact the cohesiveness.

The panel had different perspectives on whether this was a good idea. It was pointed out that post-poning the split would probably be good to facilitate building cohesiveness.

The panel would very much like to be involved in the revision of curriculum. It was decided to set the next meeting in this panel based on a draft a proposal including reasons and data for the changes. Timing should be before the ‘teachers retreat’ early June.

1. Establishing the SDS identity by Andreas Bjerre-Nielsen and Friedolin Merhout

Currently new students are introduced to SDS as interdisciplinary – not taking away from where their base disciplines, but topping up to make them even better economists, psychologists, etc. Focus is to install a new mindset, without diminishing what the students come from.

There are fruitful examples of students achieving high academic level in new fields, but when given the opportunity to form interdisciplinary groups, the students tend to group up with those from a similar background.

The panel found having a common goal in problem-solving and generating new knowledge in mixed groups is a very good narrative to use. SDS is very much method, and the ability to choose the best methods for the problem at hand, and work across disciplines is what makes the students so employable. The strongest plus is if they are coming out equipped to collaborate with different disciplines.

The scientific staff of SDS have had a quant/qual discussion also concerning prestigiousness in publishing for different disciplines. Good discussion on how to engage with these implicit hierarchies.

The panel was clear in the wish to put more prestige and emphasize the value of the qualitative sides e.g to collect data and understand the target audience in beginning as well as closing of a project. Perhaps explain to the students why the soft-skills are so important and show good examples to conquer the prejudices. Design that moment, when students realize what value it gives. Could be a case in the intro-week where students guess what method was used – and then shown a surprising twist. Could be using high level qualitative speakers early in the study. And if cases like the supermarket-example didn’t work – redesign it, so that the students get a good qualitative experience.

1. Other business

Andreas thanked the panel for the input.