Employer Panel, Social Data Science

MINUTES

Forum	Employer Panel
Meeting held:	9 May 2022
Place:	5.1.16
Minutes-taker:	Amalie Hyllested

Present
Anne Ipsen, Line Groes, Mikkel Holm Sørensen, Friedolin Merhout, Søren Kyllingsbæk.

Agenda:

Ad 1)   Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without comment.

Ad 2)   Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes were approved without comment.

Ad 3)   Announcements by head of studies Friedolin Merhout

Friedolin Merhout (FM) introduced himself as the new head of studies. He continued by saying that SDS currently is in the second cohort of students. It's been a hectic couple of years because of covid. Right now, the focus is on helping the student get internships.

In March we had the first in person match day where we wanted to highlight what SDS-graduates bring to the job market. We had two groups of students

present what they do (consulting, law, research etc.). FALCK, Podimo, Økonomistyrelsen and VIVE attended. The day was a big success, and we will repeat it at least once a year.

FM continued by saying that SDS just finished the first round of applications. 90 non-EU students applied and 215 EU-, Nordic- and Danish students applied. SDS is accepting 75 students in total (the long-term goal is 90). That is a little more than 4 applicants pr spot. 2/3 of the applicants are qualified. Up to 1/3 of the new students will come from outside EU and make SDS even more international.

The pandemic made fewer students apply to SDS and more students are applying now. SDS has done some SoMe advertising and is hoping to get many more applicants in the future.

Input from the employer panel:

- Do you know how potential students find SDS? Answer: No, not yet but maybe it would be a good idea to investigate that further.

FM said that students, researchers, and administrators soon will be going on a retreat where they will evaluate SDS. They will also talk about how SDS can reach more potential students.

SDS is considering making thesis clusters of 3-4 students. FM asked for the employer panel's input – is that something we should do? And how should the supervision of the thesis students be?

Input from the employer panel:

- Yes, group work works well in the thesis proces when you can get input from the other students.
- You should consider if you have the resources to do it. Answer: Yes, we're discussing that, but the main issue is that our teachers come from different departments and therefore different thesis traditions.

FM continued by talking about a potential new SDS alumni network. The network could give SDS feedback etc. However, the big question is how to set it up. SDS is considering making a LinkedIn page where graduates and current students can connect.

Another thing SDS is working on is the question of external examinators. SDS is currently using the board of examinators from sociology but hopes to identify how to set up its own board of examinators. It's a long process but we would like your input when we get to it.

Input from the employer panel:

- Could another solution be to make the board in sociology bigger instead? Answer: Yes, that would be much easier.
- Can you also have international examinators? You could include examinators from similar educations.

FM concluded with some brief announcements:
- The SDS-students have a common room on campus, but they must move. It's important for the students to have a space since many of them are international and they need it – especially after covid.
- SDS doesn't have an administrator on the program right now and that's a challenge. Also, there's a bit of fluctuation in the teaching staff. That's a challenge long term – it's important to have stability in the core courses especially.
- The SDS student fund was recently able to give grants to 9 projects (field work, data collection, data processing, summer schools, startups etc.) for the first time. It will open for a new round of applications soon.
- SDS is hiring two student helpers to help with some of this.

Ad 4)   Status of the new BSc in Cognition and Computer Science v/Søren Kyllingsbæk

Søren Kyllingsbæk talked about the new education in Cognition and Computer Science. It's the first education across several faculties. It's a BA-program, not a MA-program.

Ad 5)   SDS graduates entering the job market - where do SDS graduates get a job and how can we make the transition even better?

20 students are in the process of writing their thesis and will be graduating soon. What can we do to support them in landing solidly in the job market?

Input from the employer panel:

- Match day and the LinkedIn alumni network is a great idea. Teachers could also bring in people from the outside to talk about how they apply methods in their job etc. You could get SDS graduates to come back and talk to the students.
- The problem right now isn't to find a job but to find the right job. The students should meet different possibilities and narratives so they can see themselves in different jobs. The students should know how many different options they have. Your job is to help translate their knowledge into different worlds and to tell the right narratives about SDS.
- You could work with different cases from companies.
- You can collect data yourself – why do students study at SDS? What do they want to work with after?

- Be clear about the success criterion. Is it getting a job or what job they get? You must be strategic about where the SDS candidates end up – they should also get jobs in the public sector, so their skills are used there.
- Do you know which sector has the biggest need for SDS graduates? That's important to know.
- It's important that SDS graduates can go in many different directions. Remember to include many different speakers (private, public, startups, entrepreneurs) in the introduction program.
- Keep the alumni close. Could you make an alumni party?

Ad 6)   <u>Revisions to the SDS curriculum</u>

SDS is working on making two changes:
1) Thesis clusters (already discussed)
2) Reassessing the group work. We want to give them the experience with working with people from different backgrounds. We can discuss this further next time.

Ad 7)   <u>Other business</u>

FM asked the employer panel for some feedback on the format of the meetings.

Input from the employer panel:
- It would be good if you could let us know in advance what you want our input on. And remember – we are not experts on education.
- Think about what you want to use us for and how.