

## Minutes meeting in Employers' Panel for Computer Science

Monday 5 February 2024 at. 16.00, room 3A20, IT University of Copenhagen, Rued Langgaards Vej 7, 2300 København S.

Comments to those minutes may be given within 20 working days after receiving the minutes. If no comments, minutes will be considered approved without further notice.

One point added in Any other Business.

Minutes approved.

### Participants:

Members of panel: Christian Bjerre Nielsen (chair), Bodil Biering, Kaare Brandt Petersen, Søren Ilsøe, Mille Østerlund, Galina Ianchina, Maiken Lykke, Anne Hauberg Aakjer, Daniel Schiermer, Jacob Benjamin Cholewa, Torben Wind Meyhoff

From ITU: Per Bruun Brockhoff, Pernille Rydén, Dan Witzner Hansen, Louise Meier Carlsen, Therese Graversen, Marco Carbone, Alessandro Bruni, Patrick Bahr, Luca Aiello, Peter Sestoft, Thore Husfeldt, Mette Holm Smith, Marc Kellaway, Christian Balslev van Randwijk, Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (minutes).

### Minutes:

#### 1. Follow-up on previous recommendations

Nothing pending.

#### 2. Report on the status of the panel's study programs (applications, admissions, employment, etc.)

/Peter and Head of Programs

Peter:

- The drop-out-rate among women at BSWU is bigger than usual for the 2022 cohort. So far, the reason is unknown. Peter plans to investigate this.

Luca, KDS:

- The employment rate of the first graduates is still good.
- Luca plan to examine, if reshaping the structure or courses will benefit the program, as it has been running for a couple of years now.

Therese, BDS:

Therese gave an update on the revision of the curriculum that started this autumn,

- The 1 semester course. Foundation of Probability worked well, and the passing rate of the course was normal.
- The course, Applied Statistics on 2 semester is well on the way this spring.
- On 5<sup>th</sup> semester, the course Software Development and Software Engineering is now mandatory for all, as the former two tracks of the program were discontinued. Therese

considers incorporating some form of project in the course to be able to cover the whole pipeline for data, and thus, boost relevance for the students.

Luca remarks that it is important to consider the content of BDS and KDS together and discuss what should be taught where.

Dan and Lousie, BSWU:

- Admission, BSWU has many first-priority applicants, and they also have high GPAs. Mostly, students have a background in STX and HTX.
- Course evaluations show overall satisfaction with the courses.
- Last spring, Dan and Louise started initiating semester meetings with students, to align expectations and get first-hand information.
- This year, Louise conducted a survey among the new students, looking into factors that influence the drop-out rate. E.g. students' self-efficacy, sense of belonging, social interaction on the programme and previous programming skills.
- Presently, a project, "the 2024 Gardening" progresses. Focus is the programming courses' scaffolding of students; what is being taught, dependencies and progression between the programming courses.

Marco, KCS:

- Alessandro Bruni replaces Marco as Head of Program this spring.
- The specialisation structure of KCS has changed. The 7 specific specialisations are replaced with a pool of specialisation courses. Students can opt for a recommended specialisation, or they can design their own specialisation by mixing courses -from the pool.
- New admission requirements apply for applicants from autumn 2024. They are more specific than before.

Patrick, KSD:

- Nothing to report.

Question from panel:

- Why is BSWU still in Danish:

Reply from ITU: Some companies use English as working Language while others collaborate with smaller Danish companies and need their employees to be fluent in Danish.

There might be pedagogical reasons to keep Danish as working language on bachelor programs, as students studying in another language than their mother tongue tend to get lower grades.

Thus, it is a complicated issue to determine if the language of BSWU should change.

### 3. **Updates on "Kandidatreformen"** / Per Bruun Brockhoff

Presently, plans and discussions are confidential so not much to reveal.

However, it is possible to share few points:

- "Kandidatudvalget" has had 4 meetings out of 10. Despite the confidentiality, different models of structure for the new master structures were leaked.

- As ITU's programs belong to the natural science programs, the expected target for ITU is that 30% of our masters will be of a different structure than now.
- The Ministry has granted the universities around 1100 new study places in total for international students. ITU have been given 82 places, which is above what our size percentage would predict. The reason behind is that ITU's rate of employability among our international graduates is good. They get a job after graduation and continue to work in Denmark.
- The general demographic decline in the coming years will reduce the number of young people and a general "dimensioning" of Danish universities is part of the reform as is a formal coupling of the future intake to the demographics. In combination, DK is facing a 10% decrease of academic bachelor intake in 2025 compared to the average 2018-2022 intake. We do not know yet what that will mean for ITU – unemployment and demand is an important part of the criteria described for this exercise, so all other equal ITU should be in a better position than the average here.

Comments from panel:

- Is there a fall back solution for students on erhvervs kandidat programs, if their agreement with the company terminate – what will happen to their enrolment at the university?
- Educational programs where the companies are responsible for part of the financing will be the first for the companies to cut, when less good times arrive.
- The new structure with several master programs adds a lot of complexity to the graduate market.
- Probably, education departments in the companies will need to tutor the students on erhvervs kandidat-programs topics that they used to learn at university. Is this something that ITU will be able to participate in?
- It is hard for the companies to assess the consequences of the new master structures.

#### 4. Commendations and recommendations

Nothing to report.

#### 5. Annual Report from Panel / Christian Bjerre Nielsen

The panel discussed the report draft made by Christian and suggested a couple of clarifications. Christian will finish the report and send it to Allette before the deadline.

Regarding the Global Competence Profiles, the panel find it difficult to see the difference between BDS/KDS and BSWU/KCS, respectively.

The panel suggest that ITU gives this focus for next year's report.

Marco, Dan, and Louise offer to prepare a presentation which outlines the differences between BSWU and KCS.

#### 6. Any other business

Christian mentioned an article, "Downward pressure on code, documents from research on GitHub due to AI." Please find link here: [New GitHub Copilot Research Finds 'Downward Pressure on Code Quality' -- Visual Studio Magazine](#)

It would be very nice to have the next meeting outside ITU as we have done before.  
If a member of the panel wants to host the meeting in his/her organisation please, let Allette know.  
The meeting will be in September 2024.