

Employers Panel Meeting for Global Business Informatics (GBI) and Digital Innovation & Management (DIM) February 2, 2022 at the IT University of Copenhagen (ITU)

Agenda

1. Welcome/ Kirsten Nielsen
2. Follow-up on previous recommendations and workshop with the panel in September/ Oliver Krancher
3. Report on the current status of the panel's study programmes / Oliver Krancher and Baki Cakici
4. Commendations and recommendations from the panel/ The panel
5. The panel works on its annual report incl. approval of the employability profiles

Participants:

Panel: Kirsten Nielsen, Nicolai Melbye, Jan Struwe Poulsen, Tanja Danner, Simon

ITU: Anne Jensen, Oliver Krancher, Baki Cakici, Lene Pries-Heje, Pernille Ryden, Anna Elizabeth Thomsen

1. Welcome by Chair of the panel, Kirsten Nielsen.

2. Follow-up on previous recommendations and workshop September 2021

Head of GBI, Associate Professor Oliver Krancher, followed up on the September workshop with the panel and students on strengthening GBI in terms of relevance and student interest. The overall take-away from the workshop was that students and the panel alike see the importance of GBI as a sociotechnical programme and that only small revisions would be necessary.

The feedback in the workshop suggested that GBI should work towards:

- A stronger focus on **technical areas**
- A more balanced focus which includes **qualitative and quantitative data**
- A stronger focus on **digital technologies**

To address the suggestions, GBI is revising some of the existing technical courses to include among other things business app development, cyber security issues and automation. These changes means that the programme has a technical track throughout the semesters while the programme maintains its sociotechnical focus.

Oliver explained that the upcoming revision in fall 2022 will discuss how to balance qualitative and quantitative methods and that the panel input from the workshop will be included in the revision process. Digital technologies and their relevance are implemented through cases in courses where students have previously struggled to see the relevance of the course at first hand.

The panel commented that Oliver had captured the main points discussed at the September workshop, that they experienced the participating students as very engaged, and that all enjoyed the workshop.

3. Status on GBI and DIM

Status from GBI

Oliver Krancher informed the panel that as of the admission for fall 2022, GBI will return to an intake of 60 students upon two years of an increased intake.

He further informed the panel that ITU will not expand to Vejle which ends the project of establishing a version of GBI there.

Overall, there is no room to admit more students to GBI, as ITU was asked by the Ministry to reduce study places by 2030.

Negotiations to maintain or even increase seats at ITU are ongoing and supported by industry.

Oliver also presented an initiative to help students see how the individual courses contribute to the overall programme during their course of study. The initiative involves 'big picture' videos launched at semester start for each cohort where the semester's courses are contextualized.

To support globalisation in the programme exchange agreement are negotiated with new partner universities in Paris, Venice, and London.

Oliver presented GBI's new employability profile to the panel, commenting that the key-takeaway from comparing GBI to other bachelor's degrees across the Danish universities was that GBI is truly unique in its focus on daily work practice and processes, and in its look at this from both a technical and sociological perspective.

The panel approved GBI's employability profile

Status from DIM

Head of DIM, Associate Professor Baki Cakici, clarified to the panel that evaluation results in the material for the panel's report were incorrect because of a technical mistake.

He updated the panel on the revision of one of DIM's mandatory courses, Computational Literacies, to include focus on refactoring, legacy programming etc. – A process which started in the panel in 2019 and concluded in the winter 2021 with the course running for the first time. Students were happy with the content but unhappy with the exam, which will be revised.

During 2021, DIM also introduced a programming course, and a support initiative to help students who wish to specialize in Big Data while also following the programming course.

Baki told the panel that the DIM programme would be directly involved in the institutional accreditation of ITU in the areas of ITU's processes of handling student feedback and research covering of courses. The outcome of the accreditation process should be known towards summer 2022.

Commenting on the announced reductions in study places, Baki reminded the panel that the lack of international students in DIM due to the language requirement remains an obstacle.

The panel commented that this issue should be mentioned in the annual report and discussed existing as well as potential initiatives to alter this on industry as well as political level

Very specifically, the lack of international students in DIM and GBI means that students have less opportunity to widen their network beyond Denmark which bears on their employment opportunities.

Tanja Danner suggested to address this specific concern through for example offering a mentor network with larger international companies. The panel also discussed the possibility of virtual collaboration which does not quite seem to work to establish network relations.

The panel approved the employment profile for DIM.

4. Commendations/recommendations from the panel

The panel reminded itself not to lose sight of the content in the programmes despite the internationalisations issues in both GBI and DIM.

The panel discussed how GBI, and DIM could make more use of them, and the members reiterated their readiness to contribute to courses in whichever way that ITU would like.

Jan Struwe Poulsen offered to draw upon perspectives from the municipalities in relation to his participation in the panel and asked to receive more specific questions ahead meetings to discuss in the municipalities.

The panel would appreciate being invited for student/course /programme exhibitions and all discussed an idea to map panel members to courses to see where they could be of use.

5. The Panel wrote its annual report.