

Minutes Employers Panel Meeting for Global Business Informatics (GBI) and Digital Innovation & Management (DIM) February 7, 2023

Participants: Kirsten Nielsen, Mette Steffensen, Franci Johannesen, Martin Lennards, Anne Vadgaard, Pernille Rydén, Camilla Rosengaard, Lene Pries-Heje, Oliver Krancher, Louise Harder Fischer, Anna Elizabeth Thomsen.

Agenda

1. Follow-up on previous recommendations/*Louise Harder Fischer and Oliver Krancher*
2. Report on the current status of the panel's study programmes/*Louise Harder Fischer and Oliver Krancher*
3. Commendations and recommendations/*The Panel*
4. The panel writes its annual report
Item: Template for the Panel's report

Kirsten Nielsen, Chair of the panel, opened the meeting welcoming everyone.

Follow-up on previous recommendations

Since the employers panel meeting in October, Head of GBI, Oliver Krancher, told the panel of the continued process of implementing green competencies at programme level. Key points from the panel (data challenges, holistic approaches, stakeholder interests) were included in discussions at faculty and department level.

Oliver demonstrated what a holistic approach to implementing green competences in learning outcomes across GBI might look like, exemplifying how green transitions themes could be integrated and shaped by the different courses. The next step will involve forming a committee in charge of the implementation.

The panel liked the holistic approach and further commented that it will be important to maintain courses where students can reflect upon green transitions (eg. Tensions, dilemmas, differences in measuring methods) so that not all approaches are 'hands-on'.

Oliver informed the panel of the ongoing revision of GBI.

Head of DIM, Louise Harder Fischer, explained how efforts to increase students' methods-awareness in an interdisciplinary programme continues through workshops with faculty. Together with faculty, DIM has mapped up the different methods taught in the various courses.

This work will feed into the thesis preparation activities on the third semester. From September 2023, the activities will engage students in summarizing what methods they have met to prepare them for writing their thesis.

The Business IT department is planning a workshop to address the issue of how Digital methods/Data can enable green transition.

Report on the current status of GBI and DIM

GBI achieved very good evaluation results in 2022.

The panel was impressed to see that both a new elective, IT and Green Transitions, and old courses did well/much better in the course evaluation.

Oliver explained that GBI had returned to a lower intake upon two years of an increased intake. The 2021 intake sees an increase in drop-out, which Oliver will explore further.

Head of Department, Lene Pries-Heje, reminded everyone to keep in mind that it is normal that 20% of students admitted in the first year end up not graduating. In this light GBI is doing ok and well.

Other than that, GBI saw an increase in applications (contrary to overall trends in Danish bachelor programmes) and admitted slightly more women students.

Finally, students are so far very enthusiastic about the revised course 'Business Process Modelling and Automation' (previously discussed with the panel and running its first course in spring 2023).

DIM also did well in evaluations. The programme is on target with admissions and has a low drop-out rate. Further, DIM performs well in terms of completion rates and graduates' employment. The programme has an equal distribution of male and female students.

DIM will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary in fall 2023 and is planning a celebration, where the panel will be invited to participate.

Finally, Louise informed the panel of the revision of the third semester mandatory course 'Organisational Change', which will become 'Digital Organizing and Transformation' and increase its focus on the role the digital and data when organizing and transforming.

Commendations and recommendations from the panel

The panel commented that the many ongoing initiatives in both programmes were relevant and timely, should not be disturbed in their implementation, and decided not to recommend further changes.

The panel noted that they would like to see an increased intake for both programmes. They based their position on the impressive employment rates for DIM graduates and society's need for more graduates that combine the social with the technical.

In future meetings, the panel would like to discuss external collaborations and touch points. They suggested dedicating part of a meeting to look into the integration between companies/future employers and the programmes.

Returning to the employment rate for DIM graduates, the panel encouraged DIM to help students become aware that their strong understanding of global issues and complexity is a strength in a highly global labour market. One panel member pointed out that DIM graduates' high employment rate is impressive as they

compete globally, but DIM graduates appear unaware of their global skill set when applying. Louise replied that DIM would look into bringing it more to the fore.

Any Other Business

Kirsten invited the panel to discuss a draft discussion paper sent to the panel. The draft addresses a government proposal to shorten (some) master's degrees.

The panel concluded that it would like to see a detailed proposal from the government before deciding on a position.

Lene elaborated on the kind of challenges shortened master degrees will present to ITU, which is very much a graduate university that recruits the majority of its students from other universities and thereby integrates multiple bachelor backgrounds.

Pernille highlighted that it is unclear which problem the proposal to shorten master degrees aims to solve.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion of themes for its annual report.