Minutes Meeting in Employers´ Panel for Computer Science

When: Tuesday 28 January 2025, 16.00 – 19.30, at Simcorp.

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

Participants:
Members of the panel: Anne Hauberg Aakjer (chair), Galina Ianchina, Daniel Schiermer, Torben Wind Meyhoff, Ender Yüksel, Lasse Lund Sten Jensen, Pernille Hertel

From ITU: Peter Sestoft, Louise Meier Carlsen, Michele Coscia, Marco Carbone, Luca Aiello, Thore Husfeldt, Mette Holm Smith, Marc Kellaway, Allette Bjørn Bundgaard (minutes).

Minutes:

Point 1a and 2a added to the agenda during the meeting.

1a. Presentation round and introduction to SimCorp:
Ender gave an introduction to SimCorp.

1. Follow up on previous recommendations:
Nothing pending.

2. Status on study programs (applications, admissions, employment, etc.).
Suggestions and recommendations:
BSWU (Louise):
- Surprisingly, many first priority applicants to BSWU did not meet the GPA requirement of 6 in mathematics. However, the decision is to keep the requirement unchanged as is helps to ensure students´ skills in mathematics are adequate when they enter the programme.
- A new topic in green transition will replace the present topic in the 1st Year Project.
- The work of scaffolding students during their studies continues continue. E.g. topics on GIT was divided and now starts with a small introductory part already on first semester. Courses on the next semesters feature succeeding introduction and use of GIT.

BDS (Michele):
- Regarding admission, the past round was good with a high number of first priority applications and a rising admission number. BDS seems to be attractive for foreigners and the gender balance is good.

- A survey took place among all teachers about green competence in the courses - E.g. algorithmic efficiencies. Michele will follow up with teachers to formalize.

KDS (Luca):
- Regarding admission, the applicants were strong.
- The gender balance on the program is good.
- KDS has had its´ first external program review and the feedback from the review panel was positive.
- Creation of an elective in DevOps and MLOps in progress.

KSD (Marc):
- The number of admitted raised from last year.
- The gender balance on the programme is 50/50.
- Work on new specialisation structure in progress.

KCS (Marco):
- Last admission round saw a raise in number of applicants.
- Students admitted in autumn 2024 are the first to follow the new specialisation structure with recommended specialisations and more freedom for students to design their own specialisation. No specific data yet, but a guess is that 95% of students follow the recommended specialisations.

Comments from panel:
The panel ask for a collective spreadsheet with admission numbers, gender etc.
ITU: This will be distributed together with the minutes from the meeting.

General news from ITU (Peter):
- By 1 January 2025, a new organisational structure applies to ITU.
9 research sections replace the former three departments, each headed by a Head of section.
Faculty from the former CS Department divided mainly between four sections.
The Executive management group is unaltered with Rector, Prorector and University Director.
The University management group was extended and now comprises Executive management, Head of Research, Head of Education and Head of SAP.

2a. Kandidatreformen:
Government approved the third and final edition of the report from Kandidatudvalget.
News:

- Possibility of a (120 ECTS) 1+2-year part time industrial MSc for engineering and STEM educations. Students receive SU during the first year – yet unknown if ITU can use this version.
- The short (75 ECTS) master is no longer constrained to 12 months duration.

ITU still plans to offer two part time industrial MSc. However, work pause until more details of the framework is known. ITU´s plan was to launch both programs in 2026. Due to the uncertainty of the framework, it now seems more likely that launch will be 2027.

ITU will need to reduce admission to the full time MSc study programmes, as a demand is to push applicants towards the part time industrial MScs.

Comments from Panel:

- The 1+2 part time industrial MSc seems to be a good compromise.
- The part time industrial MSc is not the right starting point for bachelors entering their first job. Thus, it is unfortunate if they will be on expense of the full time MSc programmes.

3. Possible KCS track with focus on cybersecurity /Marco

Marco presents a draft of the programme and the ideas behind:
The demand for cybersecurity professionals in Denmark increases. Currently only one full MSC programme on cybersecurity exists in Denmark.
This is an opportunity for ITU to upgrade within the cybersecurity area.
Thus, Center for Information Security and Trust made the proposal of a specialised track in Cybersecurity within the KCS program.

The existing full MSC programme in cybersecurity focus on the softer aspects of cybersecurity. Several Danish universities presently offer specialisations in cybersecurity and some of them are quite technical.
ITUs holistic approach to IT is unique to develop a track in-between with both a soft, technical, and sociotechnical approach to cybersecurity.

Content:
Softer and more technical security courses replace some of the courses on KCS, and focus will be on cybersecurity though the entire programme.

Marco invites the panel members to comment on the plan.
Comments from panel:

- Will it be possible to make certification a part of the degree as this might be what employees in the companies will ask for?
- Brilliant idea. Companies already need such graduates.
- Theoretical courses are a “hard sell,” companies ask for hands on courses.
- Yes, applicants lack those qualification.

- The need for certification is not so important for large companies – but it is important for consultancies that develop software.
- Management of security in an organisation would be a recommended topic together with project management within security.
- More mandatory courses on the track, if ITU want to go with certification.
- Placed within the 1+2 part time MSc frame, it would be a good opportunity to corporate with a company.
- The need for cybersecurity graduates will increase in coming years, as connections between companies and data flows increases.
- Chain management and facilitation is important – not only for cybersecurity but across all study programmes.

4. Annual Report from panel.
The panel discussed the draft, and agreed on some adjustments before the report were approved.

5. How GenAI is being utilized in the companies
Pernille (Salesforce), Ender (SimCorp) and Anne (Immeo) each gave a presentation of the way GenAI is used in their company, respectively.

7. Any other business
Panel: The area of quantum computing expands. However, this seems not to be in focus at ITU. Possible collaboration partners already exist in other universities in Denmark and abroad.
Answer from ITU: We need a signal from industry that this is in demand for our graduates as it requires a lot of resource to set up and develop.

Panel: Many courses at ITU are relevant for employees
Answer from ITU: Many of them already available via the Open Education scheme (Åben Uddannelse).

Panel: How do you work with data management in the study programmes?
Answer from ITU: a lot of research is going on and some courses incorporate the topic. E.g. Large-Scale Data Analysis and Big Data Management.

The panel thanks Thore and Peter for taking so much effort in the panel for many years.