

Student Affairs and Programmes
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Minutes approved 03 June 2019

For the Members of the Employers' Panel Games, IT University of Copenhagen

The minutes are formally approved in an email hearing.

Subsequently, the document will be made Public Available Information.

MINUTES

Employers' Panel Meeting Games

8 May 2019, at 16:00 – 19:00

Room 3A20, IT University of Copenhagen, Rued Langgaards Vej 7, 2300 Kbh S.

Participants

Employers' Panel: Karsten Lund, LEGO; Thomas Howalt, DADIU; Sandra Mondahl, Massive Entertainment.

IT University of Copenhagen: Stine Gotved, Head of Studies; Lone Malmborg, Head of Department; Camilla Rosengaard, Head of Communications; Martin Pichlmair, Head of Programme; Eva Hauerslev, Programme Coordinator (minutes taker).

Absent: Gry Bauer (chair), Danish Tax Authority (UFST); Dajana Dimovska, NapNok; Na'Tosha Bard, Unity; Marina Surdu, IO Interactive; Aksel Køie, Step in Books; Martin Zachariasen, Vice-chancellor;

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda

Karsten Lund informed the participants that he would run the meeting instead of Gry Bauer, who was absent.

The agenda was approved.

2. Updates on the Programme

Head of Programme, Martin Pichlmair, updated the participants on the status of the programme:

The admission process was changed last year to include a portfolio, among other things. This has led to fewer but generally higher quality applications. This year, the programme is very popular among our own bachelor students, of which many have direct access to the programme. A participant pointed out that it is important to track the quality of the admitted students. Next a panel member asked about the gender balance in the new cohort. Martin Pichlmair responded that it is still quite imbalanced with app. 2/3 male in the design track and even less female applicants in the tech track.

The spring course evaluation was overall good for the programme. Two courses did very well and were among the highest scoring courses in ITU. Two courses did not do so well, e.g. the course called Data-Driven Design and Development; a difficult but valuable course to push students to new areas. Next time it runs, it will have more design perspectives.

Finally, Martin Pichlmair informed the panel that two new faculty members have been employed: Hanna Wirman and Henrique Debarba.

3. Revitalising the Employers' Panel concept

Head of Studies, Stine Gotved, presented the item. Stine Gotved is new Head of Studies at ITU and would like to make a service check of all the Employers' Panels.

Stine presented the current structure with meetings, reports etc. Then she presented four topics for the participants to discuss:

- Recruitment & invitation
- Meetings and report
- Practical issues
- Incentives and good karma

The panel commented on the topics:

- The report template could be better. The good discussions and constructive discussions we have cannot be included in the report. Some parts of the template need better wording and some feel unnecessary or are hard to answer for a panel. The SWAT analysis was mentioned as a good part of the report.
- We need to focus on issues that really matter and drive people. In addition, it is important to choose topics where the panel members have something to say.
- It has been very interesting to be in the panel the past couple of years as it feels like we have contributed a great deal to the development of the programme. What could be missing now are more initiatives in-between meetings.
- Student presentations were a good input to the meetings. The panel agreed that more student involvement and contact would be appreciated. Students could also be participating in the meetings.
- The panel members could be involved more in e.g. recruitment fairs such as IT Match Making, as guest lecturers, in projects, or as juries for events such as Summer Games.
- For some panel members with a long commute, the meetings start early. A suggestion could also be to have the meetings earlier and skip the dinner, thus freeing the evening. The dinner could be included in an event such as Summer Games.
- Maybe the different employers' panels could meet each other. I have tried this before and it was an interesting event.

Finally, ITU suggested to have a more formal meeting in the spring and a workshop-like meeting in the fall. The panel liked the idea.

Stine Gotved thanked the panel for the input.

4. Reforming the Design Track Specialisation

Martin Pichlmair presented the item. We have spent a lot of energy on the mandatory backbone and now we want to focus on the design track specialisation. Martin presented the preliminary ideas of introducing some elements of e.g. psychology in game design.

The panel generally liked the idea and believed a course of this kind could be interesting with the right focus.

Furthermore, the panel stressed that in general it is important that students learn to fail in a productive manner.

5. Current Challenges in Education in Denmark

The item was postponed due to lack of time at the meeting.

6. Employers' Panel Report 2019 follow-up

Martin Pichlmair thanked the panel for the report. He found the report relevant and agreed with the content of the report.

7. Employment Possibilities and Emerging Trends in the Games Industry

Sandra Mondahl had made a suggestion for presenting career opportunities on the website different to the one presented now. Firstly, Sandra made a suggestion for the Design Track. Sandra Mondahl suggested to present job disciplines instead of specific roles.

The panel and ITU representatives discussed the proposal and all agreed that it was a good suggestion to focus on categories instead of job titles.

The participants agreed that Sandra Mondahl would make a proposal for the Technology Track and pass it around.

8. Collaboration with Master's Theses

Martin Pichlmair presented the item.

The programme would like to include the panel members in the upcoming thesis match making process. Students will write their thesis next spring and the match making process will take place in September. Panel members are welcome to join the event.

Furthermore, Martin Pichlmair presented the event called Summer Games that has run the past two years in June. In the event, students would present projects to each other and guests.

The participants discussed the idea of inviting the panel members for the next event. The event could be made so that students shortly presents projects and then have booths, where the companies roam around. Martin Pichlmair would look into whether this event can take place this summer or at a later stage.

9. Any Other Business

Nothing for the item.