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Minutes of the meeting in the Employer Panel for Sound and Music Computing on December 5, 2022

Participants: Stefania Serafin, Daniel Overholt, Nis Ovesen, Claus B. Madsen, Neo Kaplains, Jesper Udesen

Unable to attend Anne Christoffersen

Other participants: Signe Sølgaard Garp (minute taker)

Item 1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

Nis welcomes.

The agenda is approved.

Item 2. Status of SMC in the AAU education portfolio and presentation of selected KPIs for the education

Nis Ovesen (NOVE) informs that SMC is one of the 18 educations at AAU that is going to close due to a political agreement. SMC's last intake is in September 2024, and we are expecting that the last students will graduate in the summer 2026.

The reasons that SMC is chosen to close is, that it is a small education. However, if we look at the employability numbers, there were no reasons to close this education.

NOVE orientated the panel that the SMC-team just agreed on that the future for SMC could be as a specialization in M.Sc. in Medialogy.

NOVE shows the key figures for the SMC education. The intake is not high, maybe due to corona, as many of our students comes from out of Denmark. The unemployment numbers are exceptional; 0 (zero) for the newest cohort.

Internship in external organization (POSEO) are 50 pct. for 2022, which is good, but it could be higher if we want to.

Thesis in collaboration with external organizations are 57 pct. for the last cohort, which is okay. Many students are working alone in the thesis. The reason may be that students often stay in the organizations where they have been in internship, and then they also make their thesis in cooperation with the organization. Other times the students choose to research more specific in an area that they have already worked with before, e.g., in the lab.

No further comments to the key figures.



Item 3. Discussion 1: What does the industry need? Future possibilities for SMC – Full-time education / EVU / etc.

NOVE introduces the discussion. We need to know what the industry need, so we can figure out what to offer, and new ways to go.

Jesper Udesen (JU) says that the students he and GN-Audio gets from SMC is super good, and they are very happy for having them. The internship format is good. Of course, there is the academics part, but they (GN-Audio) can shape the project. The internship projects are valuable for the organizations, and in his opinion the internship (POSEO) has to stay in the education.

NOVE asked if it would make sense to switch around the 9th and the 10th semester, so students make their thesis before they go into internships.

Stefania Serafin (STS) said that she prefers the way it is. In that way the students can stay in the external organization and do their thesis there also.

STS asked the panel how important it is that the students understand signal processing, due to the suggestion on including the SMC in the Medialogy programme.

Neo Kaplains (NK) said that the power of SMC is the brought education. He and Bang & Olufsen have had students from SMC helping with very different things, which is a strength of the education.

Claus B. Madsen (CBM) asked if there is a different on SMC students from a medialogy background and students with another background. NK have not had any students with a medialogy background, so it hard to say. STS added that the students learn about unity through the semester projects.

NK finds that a combination of machine learning and audio processing is good. Daniel Overholt (DANO) and STS answered that they already have that in the programme, and that Cumhuriyet Erkut is very into the machine learning, and are pushing it to the students.

Conclusion: There are no reasons to make changes in the SMC programme.

Item 4. Discussion 2: Improving industry collaboration on student and research projects

NK and STS agreed on, that it works better, if the students have their internship before the thesis (as it is now), as the students use some competences that they have learning in the internship, in their thesis.

CBM asked if the students and the organizations find it hard to find out, who are responsible of what, and how to setup collaborations with students in internships, and so.

All agreed that the setup works fine, and that there are no problems.

Conclusion: No need for changes.

Item 5. Completion and evaluation

NOVE suggested that the employer panel meeting for SMC in the future is combined with the Medialogy panel meeting, to slowly see how we can include SMC in Medialogy. All agreed on that.

CBM asked if it makes a difference that the SMC candidates in the future (if they are included in the Medialogy programme) will get another title. Now the SMC candidates are engineers, and medialogists are cand.scient.

NK and JU answered that it would not be a problem for them, as they do not hire based on the engineer title.



STS pointed out that it is important to have the SMC as a specialization, as students do not know that they can do sound in Medialogy, if it is not specified that you can do so.

NOVE ended the meeting and thanked for the participation today.