**Minutes virtual Network Meeting Electrical Engineering & IT on 06.11.2020**

List of participants

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, GJU * Prof. Dr. Dhiah Abou Tair, GJU * Dr. Abdullah Al Farrarjeh, GJU * Dr. Mustafa Shawaqfeh, GJU * Dr. Omar Hiari, GJU * Stefanie Kirsch, GJU * Dr. Monica Heitz, HS Magdeburg-Stendal * Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers, HS Bonn RheinSieg * Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, TH Brandenburg * Prof. Dr. Martin Schafföner, TH Brandenburg * Prof. Dipl. Des. Julia Schnitzer, TH Brandenburg | * Prof. Dr. Vera G. Meister, TH Brandenburg * Prof. Dr. Rolf Socher, TH Brandenburg * Heike Wolff, IO TH Brandenburg * Prof. Dr. Paul Grimm, HS Fulda * Prof. Dr. Georg Schneider, FH Trier * Prof. Dr. Christina Class, EAH Jena * Prof. Dr. Bettina Harriehausen, HS Darmstadt * Birgit Averbeck, HS Bremen * Prof. Dr. Torsten Sander, HS Ostfalia * Musa Omari, GJU Alumnus |

**Introduction and presentation of TH Brandenburg**

Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, host of TH Brandenburg welcomed the participants of the GJU SEEIT Network meeting 2020. Prof. Rolf Socher, Vice-president for Teaching und International Affairs at TH Brandenburg gave an introduction about his university, which was called Fachhochschule Brandenburg from 1992 – 2016 and renamed as Technische Hochschule in 2016. It has 2700 students, 60 technical staff and 250 overall staff members. The faculty has three departments with Computer Science and Media, Engineering and Business & Management. It has 23 study programs, 13 Bachelor and 10 Master programs. As Prof. Harald Loose is retiring in 2020 his successor in the GJU Network Prof. Julia Schnitzer was introduced.

Heike Wolff, Head of the International Office at TH Brandenburg talks about the 56 university cooperation of TH Brandenburg worldwide. With 60 – 70 Outgoing students per year, 15 lecturers (via Erasmus) and 12-15 staff members in mobility the university is very active in international exchange. TH Brandenburg accepts 570 international students from 77 countries and therefore has percentage of 21% international students. Per semester 20-30 exchange students are enrolled. German language courses are offered to all Incoming students and a room at the dormitory is guaranteed. The partnership with GJU started in 2008 with SEEIT, SATS and SNREM. Each semester 4-6 GJU students go to TH Brandenburg.

Prof. Dr. Martin Schaffoener (TH Brandenburg), Dean of the Faculty Computer Science and Media, gives a presentation about his faculty with 8 study programs, 18 special labs, interdisciplinary research and international students from 30 countries. The study programs included blended learning program which are all accredited by ASIIN and Euro InfSEal: BA Computer Science, Applied Computer Science, IT Security (online), Media Informatics (online), Medical Informatics. MA Computer Science, Digital Media, Media Informatics (online). With GJU he would like to do cloud and mobile computing, intelligent systems and IoT as an integrated semester abroad and preparation modules in English as part of the BA Applied Computer Science.

Prof. Dipl. Des. Julia Schnitzer (TH Brandenburg) gives insights in her experience in the MENA region and her motivation working as new international coordinator with GJU. She travelled the Middle East with a student group in March 2020 right before the Covid-19 lockdown. At TH Brandenburg she teaches BA Applied Computer Science, MA Informatics and MA Digital Media, which has an overlap with the GJU School of Architecture and Built Environment and its Design Department in fields like Digital products, usability, critical reflection.

Prof. Vera Meister (TH Brandenburg), Program Dean at the Department of Business and Management plans a new MA program (PPT!!). She teaches BA Information Systems and BA Business Administration and has very interesting third party funded research projects. CHE Ranking.

**Online Teaching and further steps towards digitalization**

Network Head Prof. Rainer Herpers joins the meeting and welcomes all participants.

Vice-president Prof. Ralf Rosskopf (GJU) talks about online teaching at GJU that started almost from scratch. Now GJU sees huge potential in including online teaching into the new curriculum. 50% physical programs plus separately 100% pure online programs. GJU staff needs to be trained, digital classrooms need to be established with DAAD funding in order to offer further blended and online programs. Unfortunately it takes time and the prices for installment has increased recently.

Offer from GJU to the Network partners to open lectures for Co-teaching, digital asynchron courses as part of the new GJU digital strategy. Prof. Christina Claass (EAH Jena) asks about the contact hours? Prof. Rosskopf suggests German partners to open courses for GJU students to participate but per regulation students cannot be enrolled at two universities at the same time. Therefore courses should be offered at GJU through the German partners, equivalent to GJU courses. GJU is now working on the German Accreditation and also has to apply for the Jordanian Accreditation to have courses under one umbrella.

Prof. Rainer Herpers (HS Bonn RheinSieg) says his university allows virtual mobile students to join the classes and stay in Jordan while being registered at HSBRS because all courses are taught online. But Prof. Rosskopf stresses that GJU students must be enrolled at their host universities and course need to be approved by the Exchange Coordinator. It could be a benefit to offer the courses at GJU but regulations must be checked first to find solutions. In cooperation with the German partner universities it needs to be checked if courses are taught synchronous, which could be beneficial for GJU having the same lecture held via MS Teams or asynchronos, which gives flexibility to the student how often to work on the course. An idea would be to have max. asynchronos lectures with parts of synchronous lectures.

Prof. Loose (TH Brandenurg) reflects that some universities still have exams in presence. At GJU mid-term will be online and final exams physical but it can also change back to fully online. Official announcements by the government and the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education are awaited.

**Joint, Double or Dual Degree**

Degree topics have been discussed with German partners several times. Double Degree is not possible because GJU needs to meet the C1 language requirement at the German university. That’s not an option and not regulated due to the Jordanian law. A German university can give a degree on individual basis.

The only option would be a Joint Degree, which is one certificate (JOR + GER) but both country standards need to be met and both accreditations, which includes a lot of work and effort. It was tried with HS Magdeburg-Stendal, and language is another issue because all programs need to be in English.

Prof. Herpers (HSBRS) suggests a Dual Degree option, which is unregulated but till now no student has tried it.

**Alumni experience**

The GJU Alumnus Mr. Musa Omari, who studied Communication Engineering at SEEIT talks about his experience during the German Year, his studies and internship with Deutsche Telekom before he got a job offer at Amazon Robotics Berlin. The language level of B1 is not enough to follow a lecture at a German university. It needs more exposure to German language while studying at GJU, such as Software courses in German, labs with German professors, the technical language in the German course needs to be improved because he only knows the vocabulary but not how to use it. In addition attending Summer Schools in Germany or the host university’s Orientation Week is a good way of acculturation and getting familiar with the German language and culture before the study semester starts. Very useful for the internship and essential for the job at Amazon were the Academic certificates he took in Jordan with Cisco, AWS, Itel, CCMA.

Prof. Herpers suggested to have a full day with Alumni during the next IT Week to get further feedback.

**Expanding the Network for Electrical Engineering**

The network discusses to extend the SEEIT Network for Electrical Engineering and all members are encouraged to look for partners and interested professors from EE faculties at their universities. The only problem at the moment is that SEEIT has not many students in Electrical Engineering, thinking about a merger with Computer Science. FH Würzburg-Schweinfurt, FH Trier and HS Darmstadt are eager to ask for support at their Electrical Engineering faculties.

**Accreditation**

GJU aims to have both German and Jordanian accreditation. The accreditation process of SEEIT is done together with HS Magdeburg-Stendal and DAAD to get the Accreditation Council seal instead of an individual seal giving the equivalency of applying with German standards. The problem is that DAAD TNE budget is declining (2019 - 2024) and therefore GJU needs to cover the costs for the schools that have not been accredited yet. The SEEIT Head of Department must include costs of 30.000,- Euro in the budget. Keeping in mind that another re-accreditation in seven years implies further costs.

Prof. Bettina Harriehausen is an expert in accreditation and part of ASIIN accreditation committee. She shares her experience and advises SEEIT to work on their module handbook which is most of the time the biggest weakness. Reviewed by the committee in particular will be the quality of teaching staff (MA programs) and their academic activity in terms of international research and publications. Also the academic quality classes as preparation on scientific writing, crediting for final thesis, academic quality of the thesis (EQF level) and the involvement of the supervisor in the thesis. Language level will be reviewed and current students as well as alumni will be interviewed. ASIIN gives requirements and recommendations to fulfil the conditions. Prof. Harriehausen stresses that it needs a full-time person for one semester to write the handbook and Prof. Rosskopf asked HS Magdeburg-Stendal to train the SEEIT staff in writing the handbook via online workshops.

**Mobility programs and joint third-party funded project proposals**

Dr. Dhiah Abou Tair (GJU) gives a presentation about recent developments at the school and informs the network members of ways to teach as online Flying Faculty or part-timer in lectures at SEEIT.

Prof. Herpers (HSBRS) discusses the re-application of the German Week and the new DAAD call German-Arab Transformation partnership (line 2 and 4). He highlights the call for short- and long-term measures and institutional cooperation partnerships with several German partners involved.

Dr. Abdullah wants to apply with Erasmus Plus Capacity Building for a SEEIT research center in order to have researchers for one year at GJU but SEEIT also needs European partners to participate in that call.

Prof. Herpers focuses on DAAD German-Arab Transformation wants to apply in the next call together with Prof. Paul Grimm (HS Fulda, soon HS Darmstadt), Prof. Christina Claass (EAH Jena) and Dr. Dhiah Abou Tair (GJU) for Summer Schools and Staff Mobility, 200.000 Euro for two years. Brainstorming about topics: Computer Literacy, Data Science/Machine Learning & AI plus ethical issues. A further meeting was set up for November 13th to conclude on the joint application. Please find the links below:

[https://www2.daad.de/hochschulen/ausschreibungen/projekte/de/11342-foerderprogramme-finden/?s=1&projektid=57572789](https://smex12-5-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww2.daad.de%2fhochschulen%2fausschreibungen%2fprojekte%2fde%2f11342%2dfoerderprogramme%2dfinden%2f%3fs%3d1%26projektid%3d57572789&umid=144056d0-072e-4742-b8c5-347a5d773a6f&auth=de849e396aaffd5732d1114815f4d0c20b7dd6ba-0f75d42517267f2a0264d0dd3e1efc4b0b1670b5)

Project Description form in English <https://www2.daad.de/downloads/foerderprogramm/file.php?id=6326>

Additional links: [Annex 1: Grant expenditure eligible and funding rates](https://smex12-5-en-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww2.daad.de%2fdownloads%2ffoerderprogramm%2ffile.php%3fid%3d6325&umid=144056d0-072e-4742-b8c5-347a5d773a6f&auth=de849e396aaffd5732d1114815f4d0c20b7dd6ba-e2edcdc4b028e0a8f114254c7c10e6e2ed2dbf95)

All participants thank Prof. Harald Loose for his contribution to the Network and long-lasting cooperation with GJU, wishing him all the best for his retirement.

The next Network meeting in 2021 will be held at TH Brandenburg on November 4-5th 2021. If the GJU 15th anniversary will take place in 2021 it was suggested to have the Network Meeting in Amman.

Prof. Paul Grimm (HS Fulda) share the links to the IT-Forschungskolloquium on November 5th, 2020

Link to the online document of yesterday including the link to the online poster session: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18LC4T_7TM057uuHl1fgo4KY1pITHVYa9dGHWX-uOkDs/edit?usp=sharing>

Link to the presentation: <https://informatikhsfuldade-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/paul_grimm_informatik_hs-fulda_de1/EQqZHcyz121Pp0vrtiZH8IwBy2lugnN5H3rwj8RzClcs_A?e=uHubsQ>

Link to the online poster session <https://hubs.mozilla.com/ME3WKZc/daad-room>