**GJU-Network Meeting “Electrical Engineering and IT“ 10.- 11. October 2019 at Hochschule Bremen**

**MINUTES**

**Participants:**

Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers, Prof. Dr. Helmut Eirund, Birgit Averbeck, Prof. Dr. Georg Schneider, Prof. Dr. Sahel Alawneh, Dr. Dhiah Abou-Tair, Prof. Dr. Christina Claß, Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, Prof. Dr. Lutz Köhler, Prof. Dr. Paul Grimm, Prof. Dr. Frank Klingert, Prof. Bettina Harriehausen-Mühlbauer, Prof. Dr. Torsten Sander, Tanja Le Dutke, Stefanie Kirsch.

The meeting was held at Zentrum für Informatik und Medientechnonolie (ZIMT) at Hochschule Bremen.

**Thursday 10th of October 2019**

Prof. Dr. Helmut Eirund, Dean of the faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Hochschule Bremen (HSB) opened the meeting welcoming the participants from Jordan and Germany. After an introduction round of each network member, Prof. Eirund presented HSB which was founded in 1799 Nautic and Navigation school. Almost 10.000 students study at five faculties, in 43 undergraduate and 22 graduate programs. Two third of the bachelor programs are international and students must spend one semester at a partner university abroad. Almost all 1300 students in Computer Science go abroad. Hochschule Bremen also offers a Women program for Computer Science and a Master program Electronics Engineering taught in English. Dr. Dhiah wants to participate in joint Master with Hochschule Bremen at Electronics Engineering. SEEIT plans to send students.

Prof. Eirund invites professors from partner universities to the annual international week in May as compensation for student exchange esp. with America. HSB is active in Erasmus network and organizes an international week where students present the partner universities they visited to younger students and write a portfolio that is presented in a book. HSB also offers a host-family program “adopt a student” with housing and cultural support. At BSc. Media Computer Science Prof. Eirund offers student project work with excellent experience, 18 students per group with specific topic. For HSB it is easier to accept students in winter term but in summer more courses are offered in German.

Birgit Averbeck (PPP) incorporated industrial partners at HSB and established a structured mobility window. Companies can recruit qualified students with international experience directly from HSB. She also included the partner university and ideally the company has a branch in the country of the partner university => GJU should seek for companies with branch offices in Jordan and Germany and offer internship positions, later graduate could be permanently employed at that company.

Prof. Martin Hering-Bertram (PPP) presented the study program Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. Classes are taught in German, selected courses are taught in English. Suggestion for SEEIT: All German Year students should present their own German Year experience to the next batch who is going next to Germany.

Hochschule Bremen was the first university to offer women IT studies in the 1980ies with positive results. The only problem is the high dropout rate (50%) on Master level because students earn more in the first job.

Network head Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers shared good news with the network as his University of Applied Sciences Bonn-Rhein-Sieg in Nordrhein Westfalen is waiting for the approval to conduct PhD studies in the framework of the Graduate Institute of NRW by the advisory council on scientific matters (Wissenschaftsrat). The benefit of the network meeting is that members also learn a lot about developments at other German Applied Universities.

HS Darmstadt would like to have more GJU students. HS Trier had a successful stay of GJU Ismail Habibi funded through Erasmus plus grant for staff and Student mobility. TH Köln has still a low number of Outgoing students to GJU and plans to encourage them more. HS Fulda had a successful joint gaming workshop and is going to Jordan in a few days with Erasmus funding. HS Bremen just came back from GJU and gave positive feedback from the study group mobility program. One student said: I learnt more German in this one week than in my German lectures at GJU. The Output was promising, three student groups work together and created new ideas and even a new IT product. Bremen students learnt a lot from GJU students as well.

Dr. Dhiah Abou Tair (PPP) discussed a problem with the German network members because many of the partner universities only accept SEEIT students with a GPA of 70 and higher. 70% of the GJU mark is on a written basis (mid-term exams and final exams) and only 30% are lab reports or project based marks. Suggestion from Prof. Hering-Bertram to only ask for 18 CH in the German Year and allow to take language courses. SEEIT wants students to take advanced and more practical courses during their German Year.

Flying Faculty: The aim is that more Flying Faculty professors teach in German language at GJU, even two Flying Faculty professors can come at the same time and teach consecutive with additional funding i.e. Erasmus Plus. Prof. Harald Loose and Prof. Georg Schneider plan to offer a 48h course “Computing of Mobile Apps” in September 2020 for three weeks, while the first week is full class lecture and the remaining two weeks student groups present their project work at a final defense. Another option are pilot online courses & e-learning courses jointly offered by Prof. Torsten Sander and Prof. Mohammad Daoud with mixed grading-groups where each professor grade his own students. GJU students who participate in German taught Flying Faculty courses can get a certificate as add-on qualification for their German Year.

Erasmus Plus projects: Prof. Schneider came with Erasmus funding and took over a class of JAVA computing of a GJU colleague. Hochschule Trier and Hochschule Fulda were successful in their Erasmus proposals. Hochschule Bremen and Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg not but they will try again. Dr. Dhiah encourages the network members to participate in Erasmus calls, especially in International Credit Mobility (ICM) and Capacity Building calls. He shared the good experience with the successful Erasmus+ CBHE BITTCOIN\_JR project.

Prof. Torsten Sander from Hochschule Ostfalia wants to sign an MoU and agreement with SEEIT, SMLS und SBSH from summer semester 2020. He also offered cooperation within an E-Learning committee.

**German Week Brainstorming**

International/German Week at GJU:

* Invite only Germans?
* International partners with special German track?

Computer Science Symposium (SEPT)

* Intensive week in Jordan
* Bring Jordanians and Germans together with their Research topics
* 3 days intensive teaching for German professors
* Discussion seminars/ prep seminars
* Plus small scientific workshop

Research/Expert Talk

* Matching partners
* Joint publications
* Participate in calls (EU, DAAD)

Mobility funds application

* DAAD German-Arab Transformation partnership
* NRW fund for Jordan, Palestine, Israel
* Erasmus

See final agenda of German Week (30.08.- 03.09.2020) here <https://tinyurl.com/y4k6ltky> .

A proposal has been sent to DAAD in order to apply for funding within German-Arab Transformation Partnership.

**Friday 11th of October 2019**

Flying Faculty professor in 2020: Harald Loose (TH Brandenburg), Martin Hering-Bertram (HS Bremen). Lutz Köhler wants to extend cooperation of TH Köln and work with School of Natural Resources and Engineering and Management (SNREM). Prof. Christina Class is still working with SNREM in joint projects and elaborated the idea of sharing data for common projects on data analysis, imaging, artificial intelligence with IT support tool. Prof. Harald Loose wants to collaborate with School of Applied Medical Sciences (SAMS). Other GJU schools like SNREM and SAMS will be invited to the symposium and advanced GJU students (3rd year) will be the target group to show them how to work in Germany.

**Topics for next year**

The Department of Electrical Engineering needs more seats as the number of students at SEEIT are rising. Hochschule Bochum, Darmstadt, Magdeburg and Trier are asked, maybe Hochschule Jena also accepts SEEIT students. Prof. Rolf Biesenbach from HS Bochum will be invited to the next SEEIT Network meeting in 2020.

Dr. Dhiah asked the network members to send scientific articles to include them in the Fachsprache courses as the courses offered at German Language Centre (GLC) at GJU are outdated. Also Flying Faculty professors can give input and encourage GLC teachers to train students in writing German exams like in lectures. German professors share a mini exam of Computer Sciences to GLC and Exchange Coordinators. In two Years SEEIT will start the German accreditation so now is the time to update the curriculum. Updates on new curriculum can be discussed during the next network meeting also including Electrical Engineering. Prof. Bettina Harriehausen and Prof. emrt. Ulrich Witt can offer support because both are very experienced. The target of the Bologna system are learning outcomes.

Prof. Herpers talked about his BITTCOIN-JR project and stimulates more links to industrial partners like Orange (mobile provider) Jordan. There is an office for Technology Transfer in Amman that can be contacted. Regarding funding he suggested to participate in the DAAD German-Arab Transformation partnership call and the DAAD Freemover program where German students can come to Jordan for 3 month or a thesis stay.

Prof. Teufel (HS Bremen) reported from his experience that GJU students are eager to learn the German perspective when working on joint projects with German students.

GJU students joined the Network meeting.

**Exchange of Experiences**

Check-up process of Learning Agreements by Exchange Coordinators must be improved. Before the EC signs he should double-check with the German partner in order to avoid misunderstandings in offered courses per semester.

German professors/supervisors want to see the internship reports or at least be informed about the report at the end of the semester. Prof. Herpers is suggesting to show and discuss success stories during the next Network meeting.

GJU students understand German well but they have problems with speaking. Network advices GLC to offer more practical language training (Sprachpraxis).

Facilitate exchange: Prof. Herpers mentioned that a Hackathon student is world champion at Hochschule Bonn Rhein-Sieg. Maybe he can come to participate in the German Week. Cyber Security Challenge as student project.

**Wrap up**

The next event will be the German Week from 30.08.- 03.09.2020 held at GJU.

The next SEEIT Network meeting will be on 05. and 06.11.2020 at TH Brandenburg.