

SATS Network meeting 24.06.2021 (Online)

1st part, welcome section

Participants

Ralf Roszkopf	GJU, Vice President	Monica Heitz	PO Magdeburg Stendal
Safwan Alterazi	GJU, Dean of SATS	Nawar Farah	HS Heilbronn
Dr. Sahar Qadan	GJU, Exchange Coordinator	Mine Altunkas	HS Heilbronn
Sameer Al-Dahidi	GJU, Exchange Coordinator	Stefanie Petrick	HS Heilbronn
Mohammad Abu-Shams	GJU, Exchange Coordinator	Manfred Lohofener	HS Merseburg
Iris Wildfeuer	GJU, IO Network Coordinator	Ralph Lindken	HS Bochum
		Rolf Biesenbach	HS Bochum
		Ansgar Eckert	FH Würzburg-Schweinfurt
		Christian Klöffler	HS Offenburg
		Martin Löffler-Mang	HTW Saarland
		Ansgar Meroth	HS Heilbronn
		Martin Gartzke	HS Jena
		Peter König	HS Trier
		Rainer Eber	HS Aalen

Introduction of vice dean Prof. Dr. Roszkopf, Dr. Safwan Alterazi, dean of school of SATS, exchange coordinators (Sahar Qadan, Sameer Al-Dahidi, Mohammad Abu-Shams) and German network heads (Rolf Biesenbach, Ralph Lindken). New members to the network were asked to introduce themselves. No general introduction round was held due to the restricted time of the welcome section.

The new participants Mr. Martin Gartzke (HS Jena) and Mr Peter König (HS Trier) introduced themselves, as well as Mr Rainer Eber (HS Aalen) and Mr. Nawar Farah, a team member of Ansgar Meroth's (HS Heilbronn), DAAD coordinator in Cairo, in charge of international student recruitment.

The first point of the agenda for the joint session were general updates from GJU. Prof. Dr. Roszkopf thanked for the attendance even in difficult times and continued with the updates regarding covid-

19. Jordan is no longer a risk country and travel is possible again. For flying faculty travel should be possible for the new semester. The summer semester will still be online but for the September semester the hope is that students will be back on campus.

Second agenda point was digitalization. Out of crisis mode with covid a push was given for technological advancements at GJU. Virtual teaching strategies were developed. All programs were digitalized. The ministry of higher education took over with an action plan for digitalization which GJU is bound to. The task for the schools is now to decide which courses will be online, blended or in person. The aim of the ministry is that blended learning will be the standard even once the pandemic ends.

20% of GJU staff underwent some training by the advisor for e-learning. GJU is establishing a Centre for e-learning as well.

With the help of DAAD and Magdeburg GJU was able to invest in smart classrooms so by the end of July there will be 15 smart classrooms from where interactive classes with students outside the classroom and even in Germany will be possible. This also opens up new options for flying faculty and an option to integrate the German dimension in general.

A new German language concept was established. It includes a fast track for B2 level and a third of students joined this track already. Regular courses achieve B1 level still, however the external path toward the exam was eliminated. From the next semester on all students need to go through the German course offered by the university since the external path often led to problems. German six was restructured, all language exams are now concluded in German 5. German 6 is solely for intercultural training and application training. All students need to reach two parts of B1 in German 5 (the Goethe exam is now the curricular final exam) in order to go on their German year. If they cannot reach this in G5 they need to take an intense course or take compulsory German classes during their GY. If they do not pass this they need to repeat the course in German 6. The B1 is now a graduation requirement which will help with motivation of students.

Mr. Roskopf added that there were four more important points that the network should be informed of. GJU is looking ahead at PHD program and cooperation on PHD level is a possible topic for this and future network meetings. The second topic is Dual Studies which SATS is pioneering with two programs that have a Dual studies tracks. It is hoped that this will also fulfil requirements for the accreditation- which leads to the next point. GJU is proud to announce that SATS was the pioneer with the first experience in the German accreditation, so far the feedback had been positive, although results were still pending.

Dr. Safwan (Dean of SATS) continued on this topic in more detail. In the last network meeting this was in process. The general idea at GJU is that all schools will go through this, with SATS being the first and starting the process about 2 years ago. The accreditation is important in way of being a quality managing system. The international recognition will give GJU graduates better chances on the job market. It is also a marketing tool for GJU.

One of the key challenges in the accreditation was shifting from a "credit hours" system to the ECTS system. The agency Assin was selected to assist in the process and various teams on both department in management level were formed to prepare for the accreditation. Some delays happened at the start of 2020 but the week before the network meeting the ASIIN visit took place. During this virtual three day visit they met with most stakeholders, admin, teaching staff and

students and received a report about facilities. A decision will be reached in September, after which the application for accreditation can move ahead.

This is the first German accreditation at GJU, which had faced a lot of problems, such as resistance to change, unclarity on strategy and process- luckily they all could be solved.

Mr. Rosskopf mentioned that SATS is the first school globally that underwent the German accreditation outside of Germany.

Mr. Biesenbach asked Dean Altarazi about the current exchange for students in the Bachelor Program. He inquired if the accreditation is for the BA only, as he is interested in extending a joint MA degree the HS Bochum has with Philadelphia to a collaboration with GJU. The dean replied that yes this would be an interesting topic to discuss.

Mr. Meroth (HS Heilbronn) first congratulated GJU on the accreditation, he is aware of the effort this took. He sees potential for a smother recognition of the credit points for GY students, as there is trouble sometimes with the courses of 2 or 3 credits. Students complain these courses cannot be acknowledged. Hopefully the accreditation can help with this? Dean Altarazi hopes this, GJU will now have better equivalent modules and the equivalency between GJU and the partner unis should be easier. It will hopefully also encourage German students to join GJU more.

The final decision should be ready for the first semester next year and the ASSIN seal hopefully achieved in fall 2021. Then after the certificate of equivalency has been achieved the accreditation council will take place around February 2022.

End of welcome section and moving into the separate sections of the three departments.