

Minutes Network Meeting Electrical Engineering & IT on 11th and 12th of November.2021 at Brandenburg

List of participants

- Prof. Dr. Ralf Roßkopf, GJU (online)
- Prof. Dr. Rolf Scholer, Vice-president for Teaching und International Affairs at TH Brandenburg.
- Dr. Dhiah Abou-Tair, Exchange Coordinator, GJU
- Dr. Mustafa Shawaqfeh, ECE department head GJU
- Dr. Osama Badarneh, Vice dean, GJU
- Eng. Samira Khraiwesh, Exchange Officer, GJU
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers, HS Bonn RheinSieg
- Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, TH Brandenburg
- Prof. Dipl. Des. Julia Schnitzer, TH Brandenburg
- Prof. Dr. Paul Grimm, HS Fulda (online)
- Prof. Dr. Georg Schneider, FH Trier
- Prof. Dr. Christina Class, EAH Jena (online)
- Yana Yerofeyeva, HS Bremen (online)
- Raad Haddad, GJU Alumnus
- Prof. Dr. Frank Klingert (online)
- Prof. Bettina Harriehausen (online)
- Micha Kodalle
- Lieselotte Weber

Introduction and presentation of TH Brandenburg

Prof. Dipl. Des. Julia Schnitzer, host of TH Brandenburg welcomed the participants of the GJU SEEIT Network meeting 2021 and inform them about the Covid-19 regulations. SEEIT team welcomed the participants, Dr. Osama Badarneh, Vice dean for SEEIT school, celebrating the retirement of Prof. Dr. Harald Loose, Dr. Osama delivered a gift on behalf of GJU.

Welcome note by Rainer who welcome the participants and thank Brandenburg for hosting the meeting again physical at Brandenburg after the Corona pandemic and he is wishing to have a successful workshop.

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.

Joined online session with members of the SABE (School of Architecture and Built Environment) network meeting at HS Koblenz

Updates GJU by Prof. Dr. Ralf Roszkopf, Vice President for International affairs at GJU

He has been the vice president since 2019, and since time is of the essence he decided not to speak much about GJU itself since the network members know the university since many years. He briefly mentioned German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to Jordan and her comment about GJU. Then he moved on to the biggest changes at GJU which firstly is the new presidency, Prof. Dr. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli took over the post of GJU president summer 2021. The new president supports the German dimension strongly.

Dr. Roszkopf then presented some GJU figures, currently 4700 students are enrolled at the university. Every student still spends at least one year in Germany so the number of outgoing students per year high, which continued even throughout the pandemic. This was possible only due to the help of the German partners. 2021/22 he expects 840 students going to Germany, since some postponed their GY last year. Currently there are 54 incoming students in this semester but achieving higher numbers still is the goal. Things are recovering slowly after the pandemic, teaching takes place on campus again and there was a return to the mobility programs between Jordan and Germany, Study Groups and Flying Faculty. Erasmus funding is increasing for both student and staff mobility. Train the trainer will start again in 2022. The mobilities create visibility of the German dimension on campus and allows for students to connect to Germany. Part of this was also the Arabic language and culture summer course organized by the IO.

The vice president then encouraged the networks to meet in smaller meetings throughout the year, not just once a year to keep vivid exchange. The idea is that at the end of meetings specific agendas for the rest of the year should be developed.

He moved on to some information about the German language Center at GJU, which is one of the biggest centers in the world, with around 2000 students in language courses daily. There were some changes at the GLC in response to the prevailing issue of language level. AB2 track was established and should become the standard level goal in the future. For now B1 is the criteria for students to leave on their German year. German 1 to 6 courses were restructured, the official B1 exam is taken in German 5, and German six is now application and cultural training. Furthermore the possibility to take German language course outside of GJU was eliminated and a successful B1 certificate became a requirement for graduation from the university.

A new deanship, the deanship of Innovation and Technology Transfer was established. It is a first of its kind in Jordan. The OIL (Office for industrial links) will be moved to operate under this new deanship, which allows an academic approach to the OIL and will help to increase industry contacts and achieve the long term goal of establishing Dual Study tracks for all programs at GJU. The concept of Dual studies is new in Jordan and GJU pioneered it with currently 4 tracks running. For the German accreditation that the faculties at GJU are undergoing the Dual Study program will be a challenge, as the concept is undergoing changes in Germany. The German accreditation is progressing, it was a challenge since GJU is the first university to undergo the process outside of Germany. The same criteria is applied and after

all faculties have been assessed GJU will receive a “certificate of equivalency” which will state equal level with the German universities. This will make exchange between the countries much easier. 4 schools are involved already, SATS (school of applied technical science) and SAMS (school of applied medical science) received reports from the agency, the others had their visit. The remaining 4 schools will start accreditation at the end of this year.

There is a new innovation space established at GJU for innovation, workshops and conferences. Online teaching improved though covid and moved from initial emergency response to qualitative teaching. 15 smart classrooms were secured which will be inaugurated the week after the SABE network meeting, during the German week at GJU. The smart classrooms open more opportunities in joint teaching as well.

Along with the classrooms, the research clusters will also be announced during the German week. These clusters will receive funds from the deanship of scientific research. The requirements for forming a cluster are participants from at least 3 faculties from a German university to make it international. The clusters should also be interdisciplinary as well- Students and PHD candidates should be included. In general GJU is starting a PHD cycle, piloting this in collaboration with the Pedagogische University of Freiburg, due to the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Educations requirement of PHD programs being joint international programs in order to guarantee employability of the PHD candidates later.

Prof. Julia Scnitzer, host at TH Brandenburg for the SEEIT network, thanked the VP for his time and presentation. He stated in his closing words that he would have loved to join the networks in person and hopes to do so again for the next network meetings.

Dr. Dhiah Abou-Tair gave an introduction about the new management team at SEEIT, then he provided a statistic about the number of students who are currently enrolled at GJU, Graduated from GJU, currently in Germany and number of students who will go to Germany next semester.

Dr. Abou-Tair also present the new flying faculty concepts that allows the professor to join the program physical, online or hybrid, he also discussed the opportunity for German professor to teach at SEEIT as a part-timer and he gave an example from last semester where Dr. Julia Schnitzer and Dr. Bettina taught a full online course as a part timers at GJU.

Dr. Abou-Tair gave an example about the challenges faced with the students during Covid-19, an example given, the students who spent the study semester at Trier, due to online experience, an miscommunication between the students and instructors was accrued, they miss the assignment deadlines and they were prevented to do the final exam, this problem is solved by IO,PO, SEEIT and Tier by contacting the instructors directly.

Eng. Samira Khraiwesh presented the GLC new concept and new German year prerequisites, the challenges for the old GY prerequires such as late cancellations, were presented. To solve and improve the situation, a new German language concept was established, more information about the new concept was given, It includes a fast track for B2 level, regular courses achieve B1 level still, the external path toward the exam is eliminated. The new concept is applied on the students who registered German 5 in second semester 2021. German six is restructured, all language exams are now concluded in German 5 where the final exam of German 5 is B1 exam, German 6 is only 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 German 5, then they need to take an incentive 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.

Prof. Dr. Rainer Herpers commented on the new German concept, it is a very good approach, but we hope that the students get B2 level since B1 level is not sufficient to pass all the courses especially that the students should register for courses that are taught in German language, Dr. Abou- Tair mentioned that according to GJU regulations, the students can take at most only 2 courses in English language while all other courses should be taught in German language knowing that some partner universities offer only courses that are taught in German language.

Dr. Class commented on the new German concept that it is a unique step forward and it is a big improvement since all students needs to pass at least 2 parts of B1 before starting the German year and the students cannot play around since the exams are conducted in German 5, Dr. Class mentioned that we should wait to see the impact of this approach on the students.

Dr. Abou- Tair suggest to have new approach for the German year where the students can spend more than one study semester in Germany in order to improve the German language such as the dual degree.

Dr. Rainer proposed adding a compulsory German course in the study plans that are mapped to German language courses at host university in order to force the students to register for German language course in Germany, in other hand, Dr. Class mentioned that not all partner universities provides German courses in B1 or B2 levels they normally provide only A1 or A2, Dr. Mustafa mentioned adding a course in the study plan need to restructure the plan which is not easy.

Dr. Mustafa Shawaqfeh mentioned that the German language courses should be adapted to let the students be prepared for the German year since they normally take 6 courses at GJU and their German language should be very good. Further discussion can be done with Jacqueline Rogler, the head of GLC at GJU. In order to find out the best solution to improve the German language level of the students.

Dr. Abou-Tair believes that the German year experience is not only to pass the courses during the study semester, but also to explore the German life and enrich the student life experience by being responsible and build a strong characters.

The group discussed the idea of restructure the German year by starting by internship semester then study semester so the student can be familiar with German culture and language before study semester, Dr. Schneider mentioned that most of international companies use English language for communications and the students' needs time to apply and find an internship. In addition, that searching for an internship takes time and the companies might ask to do physical interviews.

Dr. Dhiah About- Tair suggested to have a virtual meeting that includes the department representatives from all partner university and the students who will study at partner university in order welcome the students, inform them about the rules and discuss the LA which has the list of courses will be taken in Germany, check the courses listed in the LA if they will be available and provide the students with the list of offered courses at partner universities, dr. Rainer mentioned that such meetings are preferred to be one month before the beginning of semester while Dr. Schneider welcomes the idea of having such a

meeting 2-3 months before the beginning of semester, they agreed that an email will be sent to the department advisors at partner universities and ask them about their preferred time for such meetings.

Dr. Mustafa and Dr. Osama raised the idea of having a study tracks for the students where they can take specific courses related to each track, in order to proceed with this approach, a clear study plan with the courses offered each semester in each specific track should be provided. Dr. Rainer provides an example from Bonn-Rhein Sieg where the courses are categories based on the field. SEEIT will work on the idea and specify the partners with the offered courses.

Prof. Julia Schnitzer present “Augmented Reality Framework für eine multidirektionale Erinnerung“ project which aims to create a digital memory platform for a multidirectional collective reminder, for example, where people can upload historic material, share memories or find information about victims which is good for neutral and safe space for information and comfort for bereaved.

Dr. Klaus Hildebrandt present GEO information association Berlin/Brandenburg that aims to bring private companies and research institutions across all sectors together, to detect potential for innovation cooperation, and to initiate networks to formulate and implement joint R&D projects, GEOkomm is member of numerous networks that support our goals and values as strategic partners. Klaus Hildebrandt also provides information about cluster management and innovation consulting

12.11. 2021 Media Informatics Bachelor of science – SABE Design Department and SEEIT network

(Participants from both network meetings see start of report of SABE and SEEIT network meetings)

Dr. Dhiah Abu Thair from SEEIT took the word .He explained that he witnessed that programs in Media Informatics appeared in Germany during his study time there in the two thousands. Benefiting from the experience of the German partners, especially the ones with experience in media informatic and design such as Dr. Julia Schnitzer and Dr. Paul Grimm, they now want to create such a program also at GJU.

Maram Tawil, the dean of Sabe introduced the people from SABE present in the meeting. Dr. Maram thanked everyone for being there, both networks for contributing in this interdisciplinary new program.

She introduced Christine Bernhard, who has a long history with GJU as the head of design. Dr. Bernhard had asked also Sebastian Petersen (HSRM) to join the session, since they at Rhein-Main have a study program called “Media Informatics” for which he is a professor. Dr. Ahmet Golbol is a professor for film, former professor at GJU. They also have media informatics program there at Biel university where he teaches now.

Rainer Herpers, network head for SEEIT, introduced himself also(HS Bonn-Reihn-Sieg) as well as Paul Grimm, a computer scientists from Darmstadt HS. Both have similar programs at their universities and hope to lend their expertise to the creation of the new program at GJU.

Lutz Köhler from Cologne took the word, yes they also have media informatics. Julia Schnitzer introduced what programs they have at TH Brandenburg. She is the coordinator of the master “digital media” and they do a lot of intersection with the informatics master.

Dr. Dhiah took the word and introduced vice dean of SEEIT, Osamah Badarneh, who thanked both the partners and colleagues at GJU praised the collaboration on this program since it is unique in Jordan.

Since the program is new as a first step the two schools decided to create a survey to assess market needs. They targeted companies to find out from the industry side if there was a gap that showed clearly that such a program would be useful in Jordan. They assessed employability and yes it seemed the companies are interested. Companies highlighted that they need people who are creative but have technological analytical skills. The new program at GJU can offer them graduates with both sets of skills. Dr. Christina Class asked if they also did a survey into student interest of the program – Hazar affirmed they are planning on that, one for students and one for instructors. But they already know from past graduation projects that a skillset from both disciplines would be an advantage to the students.

Dhiah thanked Hazar. He then moved the network on to the curricula of the program. The first question was should it be a 4 or a 5 year program – in his opinion 5 years is too long. Dr. Rawan Mazjoub, exchange coordinator at GJU for the design department, mentioned however that with the German maybe they do need more time. Dr. Class added that maybe it could be considered that students should spend 1,5 years in Germany, maybe visit two partners one for media one for design. Dr. Dhiah added that maybe it could be financed through scholarships so 3 semesters in Germany would be an option. He asked about the question of the duration for the time being and think first about the content. The program would have 155 credit hours between 250 and 300 ECTS total, there are school and university requirements (for example English, Arabic classes) to consider. But the program requirements should maybe be the ones to focus on in this context. First and foremost the program should be from the start compatible with the German system since they later want to receive the German accreditation. Also both schools have different requirements, something that needs to be carefully discussed internally. The question is who will be the hosting entity, or would it be a new school with new requirements.

Hazar shared the course list of the design department and their use for the program was discussed. Dr. Julia Schnitzer warned to not create students who fall between the cracks by not knowing either field sufficiently. She thinks subjects like topography should be specialized and not too widely taught.

Dr. Paul Grimm asked in the chat if the idea was that the students would learn how to program. Julia Schnitzer says she still has a lot of questions and details still need to be decided.

Dr. Pedersen took the word, he works in media computer science and teaches design classes. The question is for him what is the expected outcome? Is it more design or more programming? In Wiesbaden they have different courses, for example in his course the design classes are not meant to create fully formed designers but they get an insight so that their future collaboration with designers will be easier. In turn no one would expect a design student who has taken some computer science classes to know how to program, but he would have built a certain sensitivity towards the work of a programmer.

Dr. Rawan Majzoub added another possible approach- what if they established two specialization tracks, one for programming and one for design. They could structure the first two years as general, then the students specialize into the two possible tracks.

Dr. Christina Class, thinks the idea is great but a lot of discussion is needed. She thinks the aim should be discussed now and a sub-group should be formed later to continue the discussion. Decisions can then be passed to the larger group. Dr. Dhiah explained that they mean to start the program in the fall next year so the structure needs to be finished by February. Dr. Class asked if maybe the program could start a year later. Dhiah thinks this is a good idea and he will take this to the management at GJU. Having sub-groups working on the curricula will be effective.

Rawan asked if it would be possible to receive the study plans from the German colleagues who offer similar programs. Rainer Herpers stated that the main question seems to be what kind of program it will be, with focus on computer science or design? Dr. Sebastian Pedersen explained that there is also a difference in the type of Bachelor that needs to be considered. One is a BA of arts and one is of science. He then spoke about the types of studies and the field involved usually in a media project- design, computer science, media economy/ law. Students in his program can decide how far they want to move into the intersection into design, only take the mandatory classes or add more. But all students need to learn to code and that is the main part of the studies. Julia Schnitzer finds it very interesting how the course is laid out. This needs to be handled with care in her opinion to not create generalists who know a only bit about everything but expert professionals who know specifics.

Christine Bernhard stated that as far as she understood from Mr. Pedersen- you cannot just take CS students and put them into the existing design classes since they would be lost, so they would need special classes. Peterson affirmed this, he himself being in charge of the design classes for CS students but having his own background in design. Yes it is a very tight program that shows students how to be sensitive towards what is needed to be a designer without expecting them to become one.

Dr. Class pointed out that its important to create courses that teach both, joint classes for both, integrated modules so that students do not put the knowledge into a box. Dr. Peterson added maybe working together in teams as in real life could be an option, classes taught by two professors one from each discipline. Its challenging for mandatory courses, but maybe electives could be combined in such a way.

Hazar asked him which kind of companies hire the graduated from his program. He answered that most companies are coding companies, development of software. Everyone is hired- which is a success, the employers appreciate the fact that the coders also have a design background because they can judge a progress better in an interdisciplinary team.

Dr. Dhiah summarized the session and laid out the following action plan

- 1.) Set up working groups, first interested members are: Julia Schnitzer, Sebastian Petersen, Ahmet Golbol, Rawan Majzoub, Paul Grimm. This group will discuss further on the structure and content of the program
- 2.) The whole output of the group will be shared with the whole network and shared in two months (beginning 2022)

He thanked all participants and ended the joint session.

Student Alumni

Raad Haddad talked about his experience in Germany starting from the study semester where he took practical courses at Osnabrück, he enjoyed exploring the German teaching system which enrich his experience, finding an internship was not an easy task for him, he spent a lot of time trying to find an internship, he could manage to develop his German language during the German year, he could also manage to find a full time position after the German year at the same company where he did the international internship.

Next IT network meeting

- The next meeting will be scheduled in the first half of November 2022 in Jordan
- Dr. Rainer would like to be in all communications to network meeting
- The network should be updated and extended by including new people from different partner universities.