

Launching A Comprehensive Review of MSIS 2006: Panel Discussion

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Recent Conversation Related to MSIS 2006 Revision

- Topi, Helfert, Ramesh, and Wigand. “Future of Master’s Level Education in Information Systems,” *CAIS*, 2011 (Based on an AMCIS 2010 panel)
- Baker, J. “Challenging the Traditional Information Systems Program,” *IT Professional*, 2011.
- Yang, S. C. “The Master's Program in Information Systems (IS): A Survey of Core Curriculums of U.S. Institutions,” *Journal of Education for Business*, 2012.
- Topi, Conboy, Donellan, Ramesh, Van Toorn, and Wright. “Moving Towards the Next Generation of Graduate Degree Programs in Information Systems,” accepted for publication at CAIS (based on 2011 IAIM panel)



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Formal Process To Review and Revise MSIS 2006

- Proposals to AIS (Council) and ACM (Ed Board) in Fall 2012 to start the process of reviewing the need for MSIS 2006 revision; both approved
- Task force named in late Fall 2012: Al Harris (AIS; AIS SIG-ED), Ramesh Venkataraman (AIS), Heikki Topi (ACM), Rolf Wigand (ACM); work launched in ICIS 2012
- Data collection and analysis in Spring and Summer 2013; Final report to ACM and AIS in August 2013
- Preliminary approvals from both organizations in Fall 2013 pending budget process outcomes



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Highlights of Task Force Report

- Four sources of data:
 - Survey sent to 100 MSIS program directors in the U.S.
 - Request for unstructured feedback sent to the AISWorld mailing list
 - A structured benchmark analysis of MSIS 2006 compared to 26 leading U.S. programs
 - A structured benchmark analysis of MSIS 2006 compared to 12 non-U.S. MS programs in IS



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Highlights of the Analysis

- Overwhelming support for a need for the revision by respondents
- Respondents generally had found MSIS 2006 to be a useful resource
- Several significant differences between the practices of the leading programs and MSIS 2006
 - Three major questions regarding the core:
 - Data and database management
 - Business intelligence / analytics
 - Management of the IS / IT function
 - Areas currently excluded that will need careful consideration:
 - Big data analytics / data science
 - Cloud computing and virtualization
 - IS controls and IS management frameworks
 - Social media



Highlights of the Analysis

- Curriculum analysis revealed a wide range of variation in the program structures; at the highest level, one of the major distinguishing factors was the differential focus on IS management vs. information technology
- It is difficult to identify a shared intellectual core of the leading MS programs in IS
 - Are we as a field able to communicate clearly to the prospective employers what they will be getting when they hire an MSIS graduate?
- Globally, the practices vary even more than within the U.S.
- Need for curriculum / pedagogical innovation both at course and program level



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Foundational Elements to Consider in the Revision

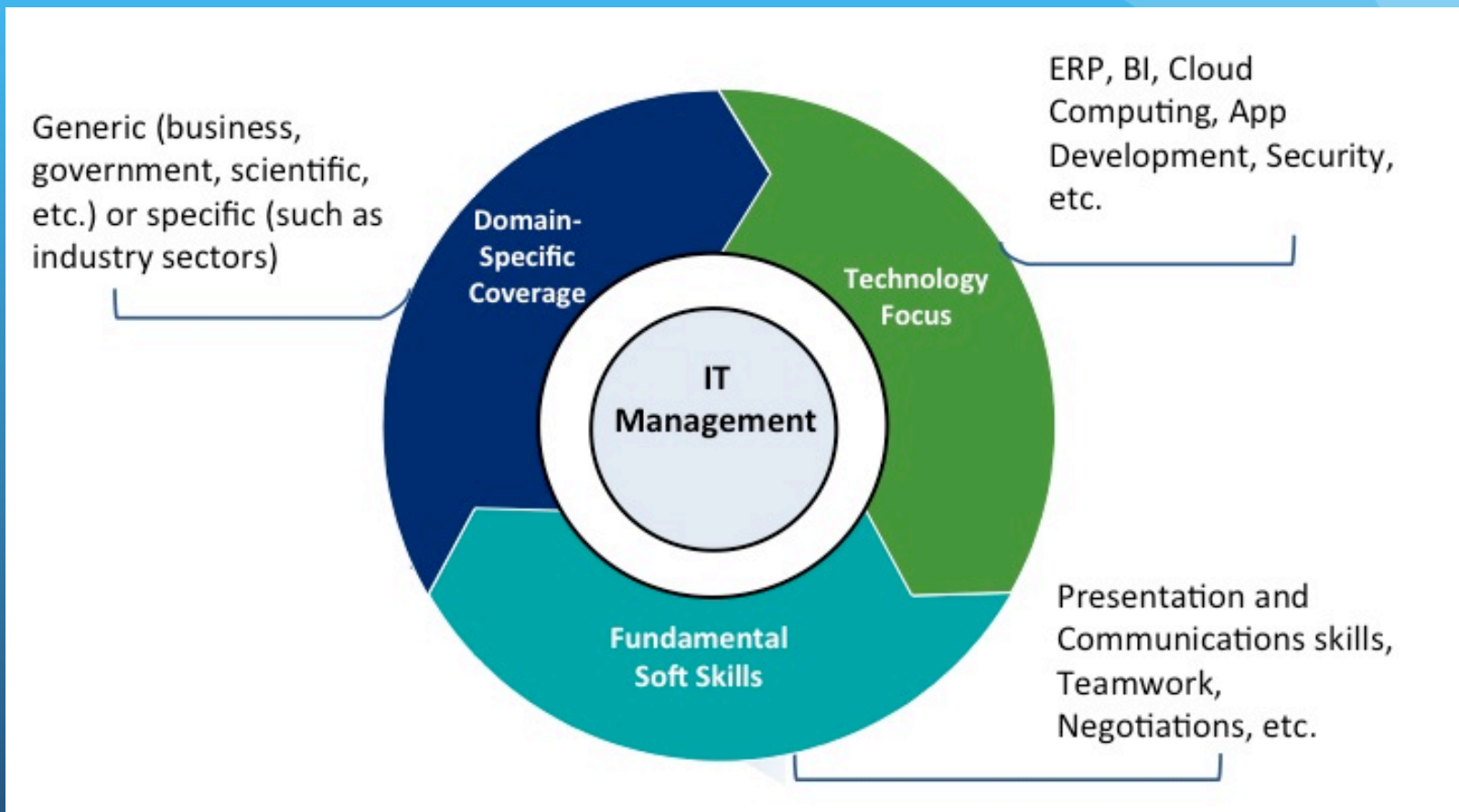
- Competency-based design
- Immersion of IT in business
- Appropriate balance between IT and business
- Continued importance of foundational skills
- Career-focused orientation
- Career tracks
- Capstone experience
- Local vs. global and national perspective

Source: Topi, Conboy, Donnellan, Ramesh, Van Toorn and Wright, *forthcoming in CAIS*



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One Possible Conceptualization



Source: Topi, Conboy, Donnellan, Ramesh, Van Toorn and Wright, *working paper*



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Steps Moving Forward

- AIS Council's final decision in December 2013
- ACM's budget process in February-March 2014
- Formation of the project steering committee within the next 2-3 months; 4 members from both ACM and AIS
- Preliminary work in Spring and Summer 2014
- Formal project launch in August 2014 (pending budgetary approvals)



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Thank You!

- Please contact Heikki Topi (htopi@bentley.edu) or Ramesh Venkataraman (venkat@indiana.edu) for any comments, questions, and expressions of interest



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Earlier Graduate Model Curricula in Information Systems

- Ashenurst, R.L. 1972. Curriculum Recommendations for Graduate Professional Programs in Information Systems. *Communications of the ACM*, 15(5), 364-398
- Nunamaker, Couger, and Davis. 1982. Information Systems Curriculum Recommendations for the 80s: Undergraduate and Graduate Programs. *Communications of the ACM*, 25(11), 781-801
- Gorgone, Gray, Feinstein, Kasper, Luftman, Stohr, Valacich and Wigand. 2000. MSIS 2000: Model Curriculum and Guidelines for Graduate Degree Programs in Information Systems, *CAIS*, 3(1).
- Gorgone, Gray, Stohr, Valacich, and Wigand: MSIS 2006: Model Curriculum and Guidelines for Graduate Degree Programs in Information Systems, *CAIS*, 17(1).



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