“Flavors” of Master’s Programs

MSIS Revision Process

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Co-chair; Joint ACM/AIS MSIS 2016 Task Force
Task Force for Revising the Model Curriculum for Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) Degree

**AIS**
- Eija Helena Karsten, Åbo Akademi, Finland (co-chair)
- Bernard C.Y. Tan, National University of Singapore
- Susan Brown, University of Arizona, USA
- João Alvaro Carvalho, Universidade do Minho, Portugal

**ACM**
- Heikki Topi, Bentley University, USA (co-chair)
- Brian Donnellan, National University of Ireland, Ireland
- Mark Thouin, University of Texas at Dallas, USA
- Jun Shen, University of Wollongong, Australia
# Task Force Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
<td>Task force F2F in Amsterdam</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>ECIS panel for feedback</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
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<td>First draft for comments (by August)</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>PACIS panel for feedback</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>AMCIS panel for feedback</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>MIS Academic Leadership Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>Survey data collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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<td>Task force F2F in Fort Worth; AIS SIG-ED panel</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb</td>
<td></td>
<td>Second draft for comments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
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<td>Conference presentations, panels</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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<td>Task force F2F – writing final draft</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
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<td>Submitting to AIS and ACM for approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
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<td>MSIS 2016 launched at ICIS Dublin</td>
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Elements of a Master’s Level Degree Program in IS

[Diagram showing the overlap of Computing/ICT, Domain of Practice, IS Management, and Generic Individual Skills, with a note: "[Not only business]".
Why a Model Curriculum?

- Means to communicate
- Branding degree concept
- Source of ideas
- End product based on well-defined competences
- Basis for comparison and benchmarking
- Providing guidance on innovation in programs
- Understanding resource requirements
- Understanding identity of the discipline
Core Assumptions Underlying the MSIS 2016 Initiative

• Global focus
• Recognition of variations due to local contingencies (e.g. governmental digitalization strategies; differences in educational systems) – curriculum flexibility is essential
• Building a profession – not just occupations
• Broadly specified continuing education and professional development not included (MBA, eMBA, certificates, short courses)
• A general MSIS degree continues to have value and can form a foundation for a specialized MS
Key Questions Being Addressed by the Task Force

• Entry requirements to the programs
• Outcome expectations for the graduates
• Structure of the curriculum
  • Program length, IS courses, domain courses, industry projects, thesis, internships, exchange periods, student work required, ...
• Body of knowledge vs. competences – focus on the latter
• Short-term realities vs. long-term needs
You Can Support the MSIS 2016 Revision Project

• Take the faculty survey (goo.gl/6f9dsN)
• Encourage your industry affiliates to take the industry survey (goo.gl/HMaaIJ)
• Give us feedback (visit msis2016.org or e-mail htopi@bentley.edu)

Thank you!