MSIS 2016: A Global Effort to Update the Masters Curriculum in Information Systems

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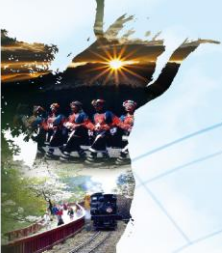National University of Singapore
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Abstract

In early 2015, ACM and AIS formed a joint task force to revise and update the masters curriculum in information systems (this effort is labelled MSIS 2016). In the past one year, the task force has sought inputs and comments from various stakeholders in academia and industry, including through panels at major information systems conferences. This effort is ongoing and the purpose of thisPACIS panel is to give the audience an update of the status of the MSIS 2016 curriculum revision effort as well as solicit their feedback on the draft document. Some members of the MSIS 2016 task force would be participating in this panel, along with invited panelists. A significant portion of the panel session would be reserved for conversation.The task force is proposing significant changes to the curriculum contents and structure. In particular, the draft document focuses on specifying desired graduate competencies instead of articulating courses or knowledge areas. These changes are in line with an increasing number of emerging documents that focus on desired graduate competencies (which tend to be more stable over time) rather than courses or knowledge areas (which tend to become obsolete quite quickly). The task force would be completing this effort by late 2016.

MSIS 2016 Task Force

HeikkiTopiis Professor of Computer Information Systems at Bentley University and Director of Bentley Data Innovation Network. He has been involved in numerous leadership roles in national and international computing curriculum development and evaluation efforts (including IS 2002, CC2005 Overview Report, and as co-chair of IS 2010 and the ongoing MSIS 2016 curriculum revision projects). He is a member of the ACM Ed Board and the CAC/CSAB criterion committee. In 2015, he received the AIS Outstanding Contribution to IS Education Award.

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Susan A. Brownis the McClelland Professor of Management Information Systems in the Eller College of the University of Arizona. Her research interests include technology implementation and impacts, virtual communication and learning, and related topics. Her work has appeared in and she has served as a SE or AEmany leading journals including *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, and many others.

João Alvaro Carvalho is Professor at the Information Systems Department at University of Minho, Portugal. He has been full Professor at University of Minho since 2003. João has coordinated BS, MS and Doctoral Programs and been head of department and deputy dean. He has led a task group to propose an integrated Master (5 years) in engineering and management of IS. He collaborates with the Portuguese national agency for the accreditation of degree programs in computing and in management.

Brian Donnellan is Professor of Information Systems Innovation at Maynooth University (www.nuim.ie), Co-Director of the Innovation Value Institute (www.ivi.ie) and Co-Principal Investigator in the Irish Centre for Software Research (www.lero.ie). Prior to becoming an academic he spent 20 years working in the ICT industry. He is an expert evaluator and reviewer for the European Union and has been guest and associate editor of several leading IS journals.

Jun Shen is Associate Professor at the School of Computing and Information Technology at University of Wollongong in Wollongong, NSW of Australia, where he has been Head of Postgraduate Studies, and Chair of School Research Committee since 2014. He has published more than 100 papers in journals and conferences in CS/IT areas. He has been Editor, PC Chair, Guest Editor, PC Member for numerous journals and conferences published by IEEE, ACM, Elsevier and Springer. Dr. Shen is also a current member of ACM/AIS Task Force on Curriculum MSIS 2016.

Bernard C.Y. Tan is Vice Provost at the National University of Singapore (NUS), where he was formerly Head of the Department of Information Systems. He is Shaw Professor of Information Systems at NUS, where he has won university awards for research and for teaching. He was the 15th President of the *Association for Information Systems*. He is a Fellow of the *Association for Information Systems*. He has served on the editorial boards of numerous top IS journals and his research has been published in a variety of leading IS journals, including*MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research,* and many others.

Mark F. Thouinis Director of Graduate Information Systems Programs at the University of Texas at Dallas where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, promotes academic programs in information systems, and founded an information systemsIndustry Advisory Board (IAB). His research interests include the study of clinical and administrative value of information technology in healthcare settings. Prior to joining UT Dallas, he worked for 13 years in a variety of management, technical, and business development positions providing IT consulting services.