

Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

Date: 1-March-2017, Time: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Meeting chair: Dr. Luay Alawneh

Attendees (Advisory Board Members):

1. Dr. Motasem Aldiab, Director Research & Training, Atypon-Wiley
2. Eng. Basheer AlGhazawi, CEO, JValley Software
3. Ayad Al-Ashram, JSSO Director, Int@j
4. Mohammad Abu Bakr, Quality Manager, ESKADENIA Software

The meeting started by discussing the following:

1. The mission and vision.
 2. The objectives and the intended learning outcomes.
- Then we discussed the different courses in the study plan. The board members were impressed by the list of courses and they have a consensus about the comprehensiveness of the study plan which should produce highly competitive software engineering graduates. The members asked about the number of students in the classroom and how it affects the quality of teaching. They recommended the following in order to improve the quality of teaching:
 1. The number of students should be reduced (25 students per classroom).
 2. The students should be motivated by getting them involved in the classroom.
 3. Some courses should involve more practical assignments and projects (or be project-oriented).
 4. The students should be exposed to the latest technologies and the new software engineering trends.
 - The content of the advanced topics' courses should be revised (where possible) in order to reflect the latest trends in the industry.
 - There were mixed opinions regarding the need for advanced mathematics courses since some highly critical systems require advanced mathematical knowledge. However, they expressed their satisfaction with the three main courses given (MATH 1 and MATH 2) and Discrete Math and that they are sufficient for the students who will work as software engineers.

Then we discussed the graduation projects and the members recommended the following:

1. The companies should be involved in the graduation projects (even in the evaluation process).
2. Int@j could provide us with the list of companies that can be involved.
3. The projects should be related to ideas that can directly help in the market or that can be seeds for startups.

- The members also recommended that experienced people from the industry should be involved in the teaching process (the concept of Industrial Professor) as they can bring the state-of-the-art from the industry to the university.
- Mr. Mohammad Abu Bakr proposed to have an orientation session for the new students about the importance of software engineering. He suggested that the department should invite a number of people from the industry to give a presentation on the software industry in Jordan and the types of skills they need to acquire in order to be competitive in the market.
- Dr. Motasem Diab suggested that the university should motivate the faculty members to have their sabbatical in the industry as that would greatly help in bringing new knowledge to the university which will result in enhancing the teaching process.
- The meeting was concluded by hearing from the members about their expectations from our graduates, and they suggested the following:
 1. The most important is to have solid understanding of the basics of programming.
 2. Excellent understanding of Object Oriented concepts.
 3. Excellent problem solving skills.
 4. The instructor needs to motivate the average student to excel.
 5. English language: all agreed that the graduates' proficiency in English is below average and that the university should work on improving this important aspect.
- They also suggested the following to the department:
 1. The department should focus on graduating students who understand the full picture; knowledge of the SDLC and the concepts of Quality Assurance.
 2. Add elective courses about Automation, Cloud Computing, Data Science, and the new trends in IT.
 3. Have programming competitions for the students that may be sponsored by the industry.