

External Advisory Board – Meeting Minutes

Date: 1-March-2017, Time: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Meeting chair: Dr. Eyad Taqieddin

Attendees:

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| 1. Eng. Ali Tamimi | CEO and Founder, Hayyan Horizons. |
| 2. Eng. Waleed Al Doulat | CITN and Wholesale Officer, Orange. |
| 3. Eng. Mohammad Al-Khudary | CEO, SecurityMatterz IT Security Solutions. |
| 4. Eng. Haytham A. Shalakhti | General Manager, Cayan International for Engineering Consultation. |
| 5. Eng. Ahmad Helal | IT Security C&T (NES Graduate). |
| 6. Mr. Moath Hassonah | NES Student Representative |
| 7. Dr. Hussein Al Zoubi | Vice Dean, Hijjawi Faculty of Engineering Technology |
| 8. Dr. Fahed Awad | Academic Staff Representative |
| 9. Dr. Moath Mowafi | Academic Staff Representative |

Absent

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| 1. Eng. Mohammad Jenini | Cisco Social Responsibility Program Manager, Levant and Bahrain |
| 2. Prof. Mohammad Al Rousan | Academic Staff Representative |

Agenda

- 1) Review the Program Educational Objectives for consistency with the institutional vision and mission.
- 2) Review the Program Educational Objectives for consistency with the department vision and mission.
- 3) Review the Program Educational Objectives for conformance with the industrial needs.
- 4) Evaluate the curriculum in terms of how it meets the industry's needs.

Meeting progress

The meeting started by a brief welcome message from the Chair. This was followed by asking the members to introduced themselves and each gave brief comments on his professional background.

The items on the agenda were then considered.

- 1) Review the Program Educational Objectives for consistency with the institutional vision and mission.
The EAB members found that the PEOs are consistent with the institutional vision and mission.
- 2) Review the Program Educational Objectives for consistency with the department vision and mission.
The EAB members found that the PEOs are consistent with the institutional vision and mission.
- 3) Review the Program Educational Objectives for conformance with the industrial needs.
The EAB members agreed that the PEOs do conform with the industrial needs. No modifications were suggested.
The Chair asked the EAB members to consider the survey provided in the portfolios and it was added as an action item to be completed after the conclusion of the meeting.

- 4) Evaluate the curriculum in terms of how it meets the industry's needs.
The board members discussed several issues related to improving the quality of the graduates and to better meet the continuously evolving market needs:
- a. The board emphasized the importance of project-based learning. The Chair and the Academic Staff Representatives gave examples of how such an approach is being taken in some courses on a minor scale.
 - b. Another item for discussion was business communication. The industry representatives emphasized that the graduates should have good presentation skills, business reporting, research writing, and general communication skills. An overview of the courses that cover these aspects was given by the Chair. Further work is always needed since these are skills that improve by practice.
 - c. With regards to the field training for 3rd and 4th year students, several ideas were discussed in order to improve the overall experience of the students. One suggestion was to increase the duration to six months instead of the current 3-month period. Another suggestions was to improve the coordination with the industry in order to create vacancies for training that fit both the curriculum and the company's needs.
 - d. The board agreed that the students should be introduced to the newest trends and technologies in network engineering and security.
 - e. The board suggested that more channels should be open with the industry in order to match senior design students with existing projects at companies. The point was made that some companies have projects that would be a perfect fit for a senior level student and may raise that chance for future employment as well as enhance his/her understanding of the business demands. This also serves in fulfilling the Students Outcomes set by ABET.
 - f. The idea of inviting people from the industry to offer elective course was discussed. This is with the goal of shedding light on the newest technology and trend in the industry and to give students insight on what to expect after graduation.

Actions to be taken

- 1) Complete the survey given by the Chair and email it back.
- 2) Suggest several projects to be offered by the companies and co-supervised by the department academic staff.