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## REVISING THE MSIS 2016 MODEL CURRICULUM: STATUS UPDATE AND PANEL DISCUSSION

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### Abstract:

This panel discussion will provide an update of the ongoing work to revise the ACM/AIS graduate level curriculum recommendation for Information Systems (MSIS). The panel will consist of the members of the task force, who will report on a) changes in the direction of the task force's work since summer 2015 position paper; b) results of the fall 2015 data collection; and c) key decisions regarding the curriculum architecture made by the time of the panel. A major part of the panel will be reserved for open discussion and participant feedback, which will directly impact the work of the task force.

**Keywords:** MSIS, IS curriculum, curriculum recommendation, IS education

### I. INTRODUCTION

A joint ACM/AIS task force was established in late 2014 and charged with the task of revising the MSIS master's level curriculum recommendation. The task force started its work in December 2014, and it is moving forward with an ambitious target schedule of releasing a new curriculum recommendation before the end of 2016. The sponsoring organizations unanimously supported the idea of launching a global process, which is now led by a task force consisting of members from Asia/Pacific, Europe, and North America. An important part of the task force's work are various mechanisms through which it reports back to the IS education community and gets feedback regarding its key decisions and major deliverables. The purpose of this panel is to serve as one of the major touch points in the MSIS 2016 development process. All panelists serve on the MSIS 2016 task force.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPIC

The panel will follow immediately after the task force's second face-to-face meeting and about a month and a half before the task force's second major deliverable to the community. The task force is planning to release the first comprehensive draft of the curriculum by the end of January 2016. Given this schedule, the panel will serve the following key goals:

- Reporting back to the community regarding the changes in the direction of the task force's work based on the feedback received in summer and early fall 2015. The task force made available a position paper for comments in June 2015 and presented its findings at ECIS 2015, PACIS 2015, and AMCIS 2015. The community provided very useful feedback, and the panel will report back regarding the way the task force responded to this feedback.
- Providing tentative results of data collection that the task force will have undertaken in fall 2015 with a focus on perspectives from key recruiter groups and corporate and academic thought leaders in Information Systems.
- Giving the members of the community a fresh update on some of the key decisions the task force will have made regarding the direction of the curriculum in fall 2015 and its December 2015 meeting. At the time of the panel, the task force will have in place key architectural elements of the curriculum, including principal target competences, fundamental structural models for the degree, and key content. The panel will give the participants an opportunity to join a conversation with the task force regarding these decisions and their impact on the curriculum.
- Provide the members of the community an opportunity to give the task force feedback regarding any aspect of its work and engage the task force members in a direct dialogue with the IS education community.

This session is particularly important for both the members of the IS community and the task force because the MSIS 2016 is introducing several significant changes to the curriculum and the curriculum development process. MSIS 2016 will be the first ACM/AIS curriculum developed through a globally oriented process and a truly international task force. It will also be the first model curriculum driven by a careful and comprehensive articulation of graduate competences (taking further the approach started in IS 2010). MSIS 2016 will also need to address very significant changes in the role and delivery models of IS/IT services in organizations. All these elements require intensive conversation among the members of the academic IS community, and this panel will provide an important opportunity for an exchange of ideas as part of this discussion.

## III. STRUCTURE OF THE SESSION

The proposed panel will start with a brief update on the progress of the work of the task force. It will be followed by four separate segments, all with the same structure: short introductory remarks, brief responses by the panelists, and open discussion among all participants of the session. The segments will cover the following topics: 1) changes to the MSIS curriculum development process and foundational elements based on summer 2015 feedback; 2) results of fall 2015 data collection; 3) status of key architectural aspects of the proposed MSIS curriculum; and 4) next steps and future direction of the development process. The process will be managed so that at least half of the session time will be used for discussion. Receiving feedback and generating new ideas are very important goals for the session, and they can only be achieved if the structure allows and encourages active participant engagement in the conversation.

#### IV. PANEL PARTICIPANTS

**Sue Brown** is Professor of Management Information Systems at University of Arizona. She is also serves as Visiting Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Her research on the adoption and diffusion of IT by organizations and individuals has been published in MIS Quarterly, ISR, JMIS, ISJ, JASIST, EJIS, and other leading journals. She has served as Senior Editor for MIS Quarterly and Associate Editor for MISQ, ISR, JAIS, and Decision Sciences.

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

**Brian Donnellan** is Professor at Maynooth University Business School and Academic Director of Innovation Value Institute. In addition to developing the curriculum for MSc in IT Management, Brian has participated in several related European Union projects, and worked on IT competency issues in the context of the Innovation Value Institute. He has also participated in panels discussing curriculum development (AIS SIG-ED IAIM 2011, AMCIS 2010 and ECIS 2008).

**Eija (Helena) Karsten** is Associate Professor in Information Systems at the Åbo Akademi University in Finland. She has MSc in Computer Science (University of Helsinki) and MA in Education (University of Minnesota). She earned her PhD in 2000, supervised by Kalle Lyytinen and Matthew Jones. During 2012-2014, she led a Ministry of Education funded project on joint curriculum development for doctoral studies between Finland and China. In 2011, she was the Finnish representative in the team evaluating 32 Information Systems degree programs in 18 universities in Sweden.

**Jun Shen** is Associate Professor at School of Computing and Information Technology at University of Wollongong in Wollongong, NSW of Australia, where he had been Head of Postgraduate Studies, and Chair of School Research Committee since 2014. He had been Director of Masters of ICT for 9 years since 2006 and is currently Director of Masters of IT. He was awarded PhD in 2001 at Southeast University, China. He served as IEEE Education Chapter Chair of NSW from 2007 to 2014. He has been Editor, PC Chair, Guest Editor, PC Member for numerous journals and conferences published by IEEE, ACM, Elsevier and Springer.

**Bernard Tan** is Professor in the Department of Information Systems at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and has served as Vice Provost (Education) at NUS since 2012. His earlier administrative roles include Associate Provost and Head of the Department of Information Systems. He has served on editorial boards of numerous leading IS journals, including MISQ (senior editor), JAIS (senior editor), JMIS, and ACM Transactions on MIS. His research has been published in a variety of leading information systems and computing journals, including MIS Quarterly, ISR, Management Science, JAIS and several IEEE and ACM Transactions. He served as President of AIS in 2009-2010 and has been Fellow of AIS since 2011.

**Mark F. Thouin** is 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 Systems Industry Advisory Board (IAB). His research interests include the study of clinical and administrative value of information technology in healthcare settings. He holds a Ph.D. from Texas Tech University, an MBA from George Mason University and a BS in Mathematics from Virginia Tech. Prior to joining UT Dallas, he worked for 13 years in a variety of management, technical, and business development positions providing IT consulting services.

**Heikki Topi** (Moderator) is Professor of Computer Information Systems at Bentley University. He has been actively involved in leadership roles in national computing curriculum development and evaluation efforts (including IS 2002, CC2005 Overview Report, and as co-chair of IS 2010 and the ongoing MSIS curriculum revision projects). He is coauthor of *Modern Database*

*Management* and co-editor of IS/IT volume of CRC/Chapman & Hall's *Computing Handbook*. He is a member of the ACM Education Board and Council, the Board of CSAB, and TUN Executive Board.