

Development dialogues programmes in the domain Facility

B Facility Management development dialogue: 7 May 2019

For the BUAs programme Facility Management a development dialogue took place on 7 May 2019. From the panel the chair and industry representative were present as well as representatives from the programme. The following topics were discussed:

Educational developments e.g. graduation thesis, learning communities, connection with the work field

The focus of the facility management programme is being redirected to the student. There are advantages but also disadvantages; it is a different way of teaching, especially when lecturers no longer only send information but together with students look at issues from different disciplines. The panel agrees with this new approach.

Regarding graduation, the question is what is the right balance in covering the research component and preparing the student as well as possible for the job market? The panel indicates that many programmes are struggling with this. The complicated thing is that there are many parties involved and students are part of it. Students find writing a thesis the safe choice because with a thesis it is clear what is expected. The panel thinks assessments need to be more holistic, should be on a more abstract level. There is also a great need from the professional field for more emphasis on technical subjects in graduation assignments e.g. how do you deal with IT security and help make an organization more sustainable. In higher professional education, the aim of research is to function well in the professional field and to make informed choices in the professional field. What is useful for the professional field must be the main focus. The step to Design thinking the FM programme makes is very good. With this it is possible to better connect to the industry. Being practical also in the final phase is very interesting for a certain group of students. Students who want to continue with a master often choose to participate in research in the fourth year. The panel agrees with choices for students. Give students an overview of different graduation options from which they can choose.

The program also asks for input on how they can deal with the learning communities. How can in light of busy schedules, good and sustainable cooperation between the professional field and education be achieved? The panel thinks that the facility management programme has already taken many steps, but indicates that the programme must be wary of only involving one specific party. Not all industry associations are busy with development. It is important to see where the developments take place and to connect with them. The panel also indicates that learning communities do not always have to be regarded with a long term perspective and also sees opportunities in creating communities across disciplines within BUAs.

As a result of the development dialogue, it was agreed that BUAs and the industry (branch organization) would jointly look at how they can make Facility Management more attractive. E.g. by mapping the success stories, these can also help the industry. This is also relevant for recruiting international students.

Discussion regarding internationalization for the FM industry and what could the panel advise BUAs regarding the curriculum

The industry representative of the panel thinks that in a few years 50% of the work will be in a different language. Everyone agrees that students learn immensely from international experience during their studies. Not all companies are ready to embrace internationalization, but it is going very fast. The panel thinks that besides the number of foreign students, the programme is already doing well in terms of internationalization. Procurement is something that Facility Management can offer other disciplines.