

**Departments Position Statement
on the
Research ex post Assessment Report
of the
Department of Information Business
(Informationswirtschaft)**

Head: Dr. Wolfgang Janko

In this position statement we will provide additional information for parts of the assessment report. Since the overall assessment report represents very accurately the situation during the assessment period 1999-2001, we will only discuss points which seem to need clarification from our department (e.g., due to developments which occurred since the end of the evaluation period).

In subsection 2a of the assessment report it is noted that a closer look at the publication list of the department shows that some of the publications were elaborated outside of the department. We agree with this observation. It is due to the fact that Mr. Stix worked prior to joining the department as a project assistant at the University of Vienna. In such a case it is only natural that Mr. Stix continued to closely work together with his former colleague researchers even after changing to our department. We like to point out, that from our point of view this side effect of hiring from other research institutions does not appear problematic to us. In fact it promotes cooperation between scientific institutions which in itself is valuable as it avoids a too incestuous view to research fields.

With reference to subsection 2b, last paragraph, where a sharp fall in the department's third party funds is mentioned, we want to point out that it is due to the fact that Prof. Dr. Geyer-Schulz was hired by the Technical University of Karlsruhe in the year 2001. As he was at that time one of the primary researchers of the department and the originator of several projects (e.g., the virtual university-project) there was no immediate surrogate for him.

In general, in the current situation it seems questionable to us if taking part in as many third party funded projects as possible is reasonable. For example, the third party funded project "Adaptive Information Systems and Modeling in Economics and Management Science (SFB)", ended in isolated contributions with little cooperation between the contributing parties – as there was no coordinating infrastructure financed – and almost no support from university itself. There was no special support by marketing and PR activities from the participating universities and departments. Especially the organizing department harvested only an increased administrative burden. From the initial founding meeting to the approval of the SFB it took more than two years, a valuable time where competing institutions could already advance their research considerably.

With reference to subsection 5b, first paragraph, where the assessment report mentioned that the mission statement of the department should be clarified and more

focussed to reflect current and future research activities, we want to emphasise that in the new concept for the profile of the department we already tried to clarify the broad mission statement by stating the main areas of research:

1. Information systems development, introduction and marketing
 - Reuse of software patterns
 - Development models and effort estimation in open source projects
 - Selection and introduction of ERP-Systems
 - Success factors of the software industry
2. IT-Controlling and infrastructure-management
 - Decision support in IT-Industry
 - Search and test procedures with applications
3. Knowledge processing and management
 - Recommender-Systems
 - Digital goods and electronic markets

We are grateful to the reviewers for pointing out that the department should promote PhD student involvement in research projects in subsection 5c of the report. We will adapt the homepage of the department to support PhD students in finding funds and grants to finance their PhD studies.

Subsection 5d: As the authors of the assessment report mentioned in their recommendations the workplace PCs, notebooks, servers and some other equipment (e.g. beamers) have definitely reached the end of the life-cycle. The department submitted in 2003 a request to the management of the university to renew the outdated equipment. From the requested sum of 136.000€ for the exchange of the equipment, only 38.000€ were approved. Only laptops (indispensable for teaching) and some auxiliary equipment could be modernised. A large part of the equipment could not be renewed with the approved funds. Therefore, recommendation 5d currently cannot be fulfilled due to financial bottle-necks.

In subsection 5e in the report a high teaching load is mentioned. The introduction of new lines of study definitely leads to an even increased teaching load for the department's researchers. To reduce the teaching load, it was recommended in the report to hire more tutors and external lecturers. Also here the financial bottle-necks seem to inhibit us from fulfilling this recommendation. The department therefore recommends to increase cooperation on the university level between the University of Economics and Business Administration and other universities at the Vienna location such that the teaching load can be split. We are uncertain if this requirement can be fulfilled as up to now to our knowledge there are no cooperation activities in teaching. As mentioned in the department's profile report we see a lack of ability to support several types of study at the same time given the current personnel. Therefore, we will only be able to support one line of study. It might be the business informatics-line or the information business-line within a greater context of management education.