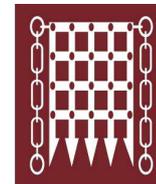


Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for computer sciences in Higher Education

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11th February 2016

Venue: The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR



WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Carol Monaghan MP, Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education)
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The Shadbolt Review: key findings and next steps**
Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt, Principal and Professorial Research Fellow in Computer Science, Jesus College, University of Oxford and Lead, *The Shadbolt Review of Computer Science Degree Accreditation and Graduate Employability*
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.15 **Accrediting computer science degrees: supporting innovation and regulating new forms of provision**
What are the key benchmarks that should be included in the accreditation of computer science degrees, and how should the sector contribute to deciding these? How should new forms of higher education provision be regulated and accredited with regard to computer science courses? In a fast evolving sector, how can regulators ensure that degrees and the accreditation system remain up to date with the latest innovations and processes? How appropriate is the current balance between ensuring the inclusion of key information in computer science curriculums and supporting the development of creative course design and delivery? How can originality in course design be better supported within the accreditation system?
Professor Susan Eisenbach, Head of Department of Computing, Imperial College London
Dr Bill Mitchell, Director of Education, BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
Dr Adrian Davis, Managing Director, EMEA, (ISC)²
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.45 **Computer science degree accreditation: the system now and thoughts on the future**
Simon Bullock, Development Officer, Standards, Quality and Enhancement, Quality Assurance Agency
Professor Sally Fincher, Professor of Computing Education, University of Kent and Co-Chair, Computing Subject Benchmark Statement
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Carol Monaghan MP, Shadow SNP Westminster Group Leader (Public Services and Education)
- 10.50 - 11.20 Coffee
- 11.20 - 11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Professor Susan Eisenbach, Head of Department of Computing, Imperial College London
- 11.25 - 11.45 **Trends in the employability of computer science students**
Dr Steve Pettifer, Reader and Director of Teaching Strategy, School of Computer Science, University of Manchester
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 - 12.05 **What do employers want? The view from the sector**
Hugh Cox, Co-Founder and Chief Data Officer, Rosslyn Analytics
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Strategies for promoting employability: soft skills, work experience and industry relevance**
In light of perceptions by some employers that computer science graduates lack the 'soft skills' needed to succeed in recruitment processes and professional environments, what steps can universities take to embed these skills within their degrees? How can universities address concerns that the Teaching Excellence Framework will discourage the involvement of individuals with industry experience in the delivery of degrees? How can greater opportunities for industry experience be integrated into degrees and do employers need to better engage with universities in order to provide work experience opportunities? What are the causes of the higher unemployment rate of black and minority ethnic computer science graduates in comparison to white graduates and what steps can be taken to tackle this disparity? To what extent do Higher Apprenticeships provide an opportunity for universities to deliver high quality industry specific programmes, or do they represent a threat to the university led model of computer science provision? How can universities contribute to CPD provision in the industry?
Professor Jon Whittle, Head of Computing and Communications, Lancaster University
Philip Donnelly, Managing Director, Step Enterprise
Sally Smith, Dean of School of Computing, Edinburgh Napier University and Chair, Council of Professors and Heads of Computing
Paul Swaddle, Chief Executive Officer, Pocket App
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Professor Susan Eisenbach, Head of Department of Computing, Imperial College London
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum